



From Him All My Labor

As St. Paul said to the Colossians 1:9-12, *And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.*

We share in that inheritance because of Jesus' death and resurrection. In thankfulness to this gift of salvation, we commit ourselves to following His will. However, sometimes it is difficult to know what God intends for us to do. For example, when I retired from teaching after 33 years of teaching high school English, I prayed to God, asking Him what He would have me do with the rest of my life.

I was lost in a rain of urgent decision,
Wandering amidst the pain of confused thoughts,
So I sat and folded my hands.

I searched through the clouds in my mind,
Looking for a revelation from the Spirit divine,
While I kneeled and prayed to understand
My part in the Almighty's plan.

I reflected upon my life –
Remembering my dreams,
Quelling my fears,
Tasting the tears shed over many years.

Then I resolved to simply stand
To do God's will,
To follow His command.

With that resolution came acceptance, and a new phase of my life began. I recalled that Jesus said, *"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you"* (John 15:7). Then I remembered having told a friend about my prayer concerning what God wanted me to do. Her comment was, "You are doing it. You are doing just what God wants you to do." At the time I was volunteering with the Youth Ministry, preparing and coordinating church programs, writing poetry and doing some speaking at various church events. I realized that the Lord had already answered my prayer through my sister in Christ. I did not have to be in the classroom to labor for the Lord. I could use my talents to do God's will outside of the classroom instead.

So with new found time on my hands
I attended Bible studies, conventions, and convocations,
And my soul was nurtured according to God's plan.

I sang, spoke, and wrote,
I listened to the message and spread the Word
That I heard.

I testified, I witnessed, and I felt blessed,
To leave worry and hurry behind
As I immersed myself in prayer
And Jesus ended my despair.

I began to savor the days and nights of my life,
While I gave thanks for God's favor
And used my talents to labor for the Savior.

What does God want you to do with your life? In what ways can you labor for the Savior?

Prayer: Thank You, dear Heavenly Father, for the talents and abilities You have given us. Please continue to strengthen and guide us in using them to do Your will. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

All Scripture is from the ESV.

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