



Grace Snap Shot

"Viewing life through the lens of God's grace!"



Playing Fetch With God

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Bernard the Labrador Retriever ran as fast as he could, to fetch the stick which his master had thrown. I had been sitting on a park bench watching this scenario go on for fifteen minutes. Every time the stick was thrown, Bernard would enthusiastically hunt it down and proudly trot back to his master, stick in mouth.

Why was Bernard so endlessly willing to do this? It was just a stick! Perhaps it was the thrill of the hunt, a sense of accomplishment or the need to please his master. Whatever it was, this four legged canine was committed.

As I watched the interaction of dog and master, I noticed Bernard's master never offered to help him find the stick. Once released in the air, it was up to Bernard to find the prize. He was on his own. Sometimes he would locate it quickly and other times a great amount of sniffing and frantic footwork had to take place before the treasured stick was located.

As I continued watching, I couldn't help but think that there are many religious people who approach living out the will of God, much like Bernard's excessive pursuit of the stick. They view God as this un-relational deity who effortlessly tosses out commands, and then stands back to watch the performance. Driven to please their Master, these well intended but sadly misguided people, frantically run back and forth trying to find God's will, as if it's hidden in the grass. However, the only thing they do find is themselves, worn out with fatigue.

It has never been the Heavenly Father's intention to play fetch with you. His will for you is not some allusive target that you have to hunt down. His will for you is actually not a 'something' but rather a 'someone' and that someone is Jesus. God's will for you is that through salvation you would know everlasting freedom from sin and experience the joy of Christ living His life in and through you. He's not looking to you for performance. His desire for you is relationship.