

they are not the will of God, they are not only pleasing to Him, but hateful and deserve punishment. If a master had two servants, one of whom toiled through the day without ceasing, but would do everything in his own way; the other toiled less, but was obedient to his master, assuredly the master would love the second rather than the first. How can our actions promote the glory of God, when they are not according to His good pleasure? The Lord, said Samuel to Saul, desires not sacrifices, but obedience to His wishes: «Doth the Lord desire holocausts and victims, and not rather that the voice of the Lord should be obeyed?... It is like the crime of idolatry, to refuse to obey.» (1 Kings 15-22.)

The greatest glory, then, that we can give God, is to fulfil His will in all things. Our Redeemer, who came on earth to promote the divine glory, accomplished His will. Hear now St Paul introduces Him as speaking to His Eternal Father: «Sacrifice and oblation Thou wouldst not: but a body thou hast fitted to me... Then said I: Behold, I come... that I should do Thy will, O God.» (Heb. 10-5.) And He frequently declared that He came down from heaven, «not to do my own will, but the will of Him that sent me.» (Jo. 6-38.) And in this He wished that the world should know the love which He had for His Father, in obeying His will; and that those who would do likewise, He recognizes for His brothers: «whosoever shall do the will of my Father, who is in heaven, he is My brother.» (Matt. 12-50.)—This has ever been the end which all the saints have had constantly in view, well knowing that in it consisted all the perfection of the soul. St Teresa says: All that should be sought for in the exercise of prayer is conformity of our will with the divine will; assuredly in this consists the highest perfection. He who excels most in this practice will receive the greatest gifts from God, and will make the most progress in perfection.

God called David a «man according to my own heart, who shall do all my wills.» (Acts 13-22.) David was always prepared to embrace the will of God, as he declares: «My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready.» (Ps. 56.) And all that he asked of the Lord was to teach him to do His will: «teach