

Matthew 6:10: Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Intro: Martyn Lloyd-Jones: Prayer is beyond any question the highest activity of the human soul. Man is at his greatest and highest when upon his knees he comes face to face with God.

J. I. Packer: I believe that prayer is the measure of the man, spiritually, in a way that nothing else is, so that how we pray is as important a question as we can ever face.

How you pray and what you pray for reveals a lot about your heart and who you are.

1 Kings 3:9-14: “Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

Psalms 106:14-15: In the desert they gave in to their craving; in the wasteland they put God to the test. ¹⁵ So he gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease upon them. [He put leanness into their soul]

Pray the Bible! And pray like the Bible prays! The first 3 petitions of the Lord's Prayer: They're Godward!

1. What Is The Will Of Our Father?

a. What is God's will for my life? This is not a hard question! God's commandments or God's revealed will:

The Most Important Commandment: John 6:37-40: All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, **not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.** ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ **For this is the will of my Father,** that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. **GOSPEL!**

- **Romans 12:2:** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:3-5:** For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God

- **1 Thessalonians 5:18:** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- **1 Peter 2:15:** this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

What is doing good? Doing what God commands: trusting & obeying God's Word from the heart & for His glory!

- **Matthew 7:21-23:** Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

- **Matthew 12:50:** For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.

- **1 John 2:17:** the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

What is God's will for my life? Word of God; Pray; Seek godly counsel; Do what you delight to do!

b. God's will of decree/sovereign will: The Bible speaks of God's will in different ways. We've been talking about God's moral will/God's will of command. But the Bible also speaks of God's sovereign will/will of decree.

WCF Chap 3: God from all eternity did, by the most wise & holy counsel of His own will, freely, & unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass: yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.

- **Psalm 139:16:** your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

- **Proverbs 16:33:** The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

- **Isaiah 46:9-10:** I am God, & there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning & from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, & I will accomplish all my purpose,'

- **Matthew 10:29-30:** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

- **Eph. 1:11:** predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will

The primary focus of this prayer is that God's revealed will be done – that we and everyone would obey the Father! But I think implicit in this prayer is a request that we also be content with God's decreed or sovereign will.

2. What Does It Mean To Pray: “Your Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven”?

WLC 192: What do we pray for in the third petition? **A.** In the third petition (which is, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven), acknowledging, that by nature we and all men are not only utterly unable and unwilling to know and do the will of God, but prone to rebel against his word, to repine [reject] and murmur against his providence, and wholly inclined to do the will of the flesh, and of the devil: we pray, that God would by his Spirit take away from ourselves and others all blindness, weakness, indisposedness [unwillingness], and perverseness of heart; and by his grace make us able and willing to know, do, and submit to his will in all things, with the like humility, cheerfulness, faithfulness, diligence, zeal, sincerity, and constancy, as the angels do in heaven.

a. Acknowledging, that by nature we and all men are not only utterly unable and unwilling to know and do the will of God, but prone to rebel against his word, to repine [reject] and murmur against his providence, and wholly inclined to do the will of the flesh, and of the devil: We are born hating God's will: my will be done!

- **Romans 3:10-12:** None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.

- **Romans 8:7-8:** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- **Ephesians 2:1-3:** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

a. We're praying that the will of God will be known, joyfully accepted, and obeyed: We want ourselves and everyone in the world to know God's will (evangelism and discipleship!), joyfully accepted, and obeyed!

God's will – His commands – are always what is best for us and what will bring us greatest joy and satisfaction.

1) Sexual Immorality: You may think, “No God's command here is not making me happy! Sex would make me happy!” There is a fleeting pleasure of sin. But for the Christian, there is more joy in the presence of God, in obedience to God, in not fleeing from the presence of God, in purity – Matthew 5:8: Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God!

- Plus, it will better for you to wait for marriage!

2) Telling The Truth: You may make great sacrifices for telling the truth. But you will enjoy God's presence and a clear conscience before Him! God is better to you than all the sacrifices you might make!

3) Paying Taxes: You may not have as much money to do with it what you want. But you pay! And this give you assurance and evidence that you love God more than money! You enjoy His presence and a clear conscience!

b. We're praying for a universal contentment by all people in the sovereign will of God: We don't want to reject and murmur or complain about God's providence.

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven: No one rejects or murmurs against anything that comes to pass in heaven! Everyone is perfectly happy, joyful, content, and satisfied in everything God ordains!

Hymn: Whate'er my God ordains is right, His holy will abideth;
I will be still whate'er He does, And follow where He guideth.
He is my God, though dark my road; He holds me that I shall not fall;
And so to Him I leave it all, And so to Him I leave it all.

- **1 Timothy 6:6:** Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment

- **Philippians 2:14** Do all things without grumbling or questioning

- **Job 1:20-22:** Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

c. We're praying that we would resist the will of our sinful flesh and of the devil: "Oh Father, conquer me!"

1 Corinthians 9:25-27: Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Betty Scott Stam: (She was a missionary and died as a martyr for Christ in China at age 28). Lord, I give up my own plans and purposes, all my own desires, hopes and ambitions, and I accept Thy will for my life. I give up myself, my life, my all, utterly to Thee, to be Thine forever. I hand over to Thy keeping all of my friendships; all the people whom I love are to take second place in my heart. Fill me now and seal me with Thy Spirit. Work out Thy whole will in my life at any cost, for to me to live is Christ. Amen.

John Wesley: I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you; Praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing, I freely & fully surrender all things to your glory & service. & now, O glorious & holy God, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit you are mine, & I am yours. So be it. & the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

James 4:7: Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

d. We're praying, that God would by his Spirit take away from ourselves and others all blindness, weakness, indisposedness [unwillingness], and perverseness of heart: We want to trust and obey our Father from the heart.

e. We're praying that by his grace our Father would make us able & willing to know, do, & submit to His will in all things, with the like humility, cheerfulness, faithfulness, diligence, zeal, sincerity, & constancy, as the angels do in heaven: The angels in heaven perfectly know, do, and submit to the will of the Father. We want that! The angels in heaven do the Father's will in humility, with joy, faithfully, diligently, zealously, sincerely, and constantly! We want that and fight for that and strive for that – by His grace and for His glory!

f. We're praying for absolute and universal obedience to the good, perfect, and pleasing will of God in all things by all people through the whole earth: We are praying for the return of the King and His ushering in the new heavens and new earth where the glory and righteousness of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea!

Pastor: There are no unsafe places in the will of God and no safe places outside it. If you're doing God's will, you can walk through a war zone without flinching. If you're outside God's will, the most carefully guarded fortress will not keep you safe.

What or Who makes it possible for us to do the will of God? Jesus!

Luke 22:42: Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.

Christ Jesus Did God's Perfect Will
He's Heaven Come To Earth Yet Still
They'd Mock And Spit And Beat Until
He's Crucified On Calvary's Hill
Where God's Wrath And Curse Did Kill
But Then He Rose Salvation's Seal
By Faith Alone We're His With Zeal
So Now By Grace We Do God's Will
Obey His Word And To Him Kneel
He'll Heal Pleasures We'll Feel Surreal
For Every Joy He Shall Fulfill
In Christ We Find Our Greatest Thrill!