

When You Pray - God's Will

"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that - it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth."
~ Charles Spurgeon

We've been digging into the Lord's Prayer, the example that Jesus laid out for us. The template for an effective and powerful prayer life.

Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV)

9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

As I've said in previous weeks, the goal is not to memorize this prayer and repeat it daily but to allow this prayer to shape your prayer life by understanding the depths of who God is in relation to us and our situation.

You will never have the perfect prayer life, but the hope is that this series helps you to have the right mindset when you pray!

"If in prayer I come before a throne of grace, the faults of my prayer will be overlooked." ~ Charles Spurgeon

Last week the focus was "Your kingdom come", which speaks of the reign of Jesus when He comes upon this earth in His physical return, but also Jesus reigning IN you and THROUGH you. It was all about His authority and Lordship.

Matthew 6:10b (NKJV)

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Today is about the will of God. This is His plan and desire. It's closely related to His reign but there's a reason His reign comes before his desire....I don't need to know God's desire before I ask for Him to reign.

His reign is not dependant upon my approval of His desire. I first accept Jesus as Lord, then out of that Lordship, accepting His reign in my life, I need His plan and desire for me.....

There is power in praying "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven". In this you are asking for God's plans and God's desires to be done perfectly on this earth.

First, do you realize how big of a thing you are asking?

Second, do you realize it's not too big of a thing for you to ask?

In heaven there is nothing but obedience to the will of God. Any kind of disobedience would not be able to remain there. We see this with satan when he was cast out of heaven, 1/3 of the angels with him.....but even when we have seen satan return, when he asks God to test someone (ultimately Job), satan obeyed the guidelines God gave him.....

What a sucker.....he disobeyed, got kicked out, goes back, asks permission, and obeys.....yet he thinks he won? satan has never had a hand up on God, even in his rebellion, he approaches God and leaves in obedience.....(defeated)

When you pray "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven", you ask to carry out God's plan and desire for your life as the angels in heaven do, in complete obedience, with fervency, with undivided devotion.

If you are asking for God's will on earth in the same way it is in heaven, you are asking for more than His plans and desires to be here but you are also saying what ISN'T His plans or desires to be cast out!

You are asking for a sinless earth! I'm going to come back to that.....keep that little seed planted in the back of your mind.....

Before I get into the rest, I've gotta state here that **ALL of God's Word contains God's will.** This includes what He desires for us TO DO and also what He desires for us NOT TO DO!

But today we're going to look at 3 things we are asking God to help us do when we pray "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven".....

1. ACCEPT GOD'S WILL

This involves accepting that God has specific plans and desires for your life, for the choices you make, for the values and standards you adopt, and even for the plans and desires you hold on to.

You are acknowledging that God's will for your life is in your best interests and is meant for your benefit.

Salvation is a part of this....

1 Timothy 2:3-4 (NKJV)

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Accepting God's will comes from the knowledge of the truth....that we are all created in the image of God but we all have sinned. Sin separates us from a holy God but because of His great love for us, Jesus came and died on a cross as the payment for our sin. Then He rose from the grave defeating death and offering us new life through Him!

It's God's will that ALL MEN know that, and accept it, being saved!

The second thing we are asking when we pray "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"....

2. SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL

This involves self-sacrifice. It's stepping far beyond just accepting God's will. Now only God knows a person's heart and whether they are saved or not but I see this step as the one that separates true followers of Jesus from the pretenders.

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Submitting to God's will comes by giving everything you are over to His plan and desires. It's self-sacrifice. It's you presenting your life to Him, body, soul, spirit, and saying I want your plan for all of this. I want your desires for this vessel and this mind to be carried out!

This involves being prepared to deny myself in seeking to do God's will regardless of the change or effect it has on my life, even if it doesn't make sense to me!

Matthew 26:39 (NKJV)

He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

See Jesus in His flesh was faced with the reality of what He was getting ready to endure. Don't ever for a second think it was all easy for Him because He is God. He still looked toward the probable outcome and asked the Father if there just might be another way. He could have said no but instead He submitted to the Father's will.

When we submit to His will, it's not a step of perfection but one of willingness. If you accept His will, are you then willing to give yourself to it?

The third thing we are asking when we pray "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"....

3. CONFORM TO GOD'S WILL

OK, this is the biggie.....this is the one I'm pumped up about!

I know most of you bible vets just went back to Romans 12 that I shared for submit to God's will, because it says conform in it.

To conform is to act in accordance or harmony. So if you are going to act in harmony with God's will, you are going to act in agreement and become similar in form.

That is NOT something you can do on your own. It's NOT something you can just force your way into by learned behavior. It goes beyond the mind. The mind was back under submission to God's will. Part of that is you making the choices.

Conforming in this sense is completely supernatural. It's the working of the Holy Spirit in your life.

This is sanctification.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NKJV)

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

This text goes on to give some instruction for keeping oneself set apart from sexual impurity but I'm holding right here.

The will of God for your life, is salvation, and it is self-sacrifice, and it is sanctification.

What is sanctification? Most of you know it as the process of the Holy Spirit working in you to rid your life of sin.

And that's certainly a big, important part of it. It's HUGE!

I want you to know today, that it IS possible for the Holy Spirit to work so mightily and powerfully in you that you are completely free from sin. But it would take you being completely, perfectly submitted to the will of God and 100% of the time walking in the Spirit.

It's possible. But man would it be hard. I haven't even been 100% walking in the Spirit today! I had some coffee, I used the restroom....all flesh....

Sanctification is purification. It is the Holy Spirit putting His finger on issues in your life so you can recognize them and submit them to God, therefore purifying your life.....making you holy. Making you look more and more like Jesus!

God's will for you is to be free from sin!

John 8:36 (NKJV)

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV)

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

To be free from sin means that you have given your life to Jesus, making Him Lord (Your kingdom come), and your life is no longer enslaved by sin. But you have the power through the Holy Spirit to live victoriously over sin!

If you are born again, you received a new nature. The nature of an overcomer, the nature of a victor, the nature of a child of God.

What if I told you this morning that sanctification, this purification we speak of.....it is much more than getting rid of the "ordinary sin" that we think of? You know the things that we do....

We've got to get this because if we don't then it's just behavior modification and that's not what we need. We need Spirit transformation!

I'm talking about the Holy Spirit conforming you to God's will to the point that your life comes in harmony with the Spirit and you become similar to Jesus in form!

Ephesians 5:17 (NKJV)

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Today you can receive freedom from sin.

But sanctification also means you can have:

- Freedom from mental illness
- Healing from hurts of your past
- Chains of bondage can be broken
 - (addictions, mindsets, self image, unforgiveness, soul ties, curses)

Anything that does not conform to the image of Jesus can be burned out of your life by the sanctifying Spirit of God.

These are all the will of God for you! He desires that you grab hold of these.

His kingdom brings the authority but His will brings transformation

When You Pray.....know your Father is near, know that He is unlike any other, know that His reign and authority can come upon the earth, in you, through you, and know that He has great and mighty plans and desires for you.....

Plans and desires for you to be saved, for you to give of yourself to His perfect plan, and for you to be conformed to the image of Christ by the miracle working power of the Holy Spirit, Who is able to free you from EVERY SINGLE THING that is not of God.

Whatever your needs are today....When You Pray....have these things in mind and I believe that God will hear from heaven and today will touch your life here on earth!