

## Lord Teach Us to Pray (Part 4)

*Thy will be done...(Mt. 6:10b)*

**Introduction:** Isn't everything that happens God's will? Apparently not because Jesus taught that we should pray for God's will to be done. What Jesus is teaching here is our prayer ought to be, literally, "God do what You want. Do what is on Your heart to be done." This is the same kind of prayer David prayed in Ps. 40:8 "*I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart.*" or Jesus prayed the night of His betrayal Mt.26:39,42 – "*...with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."* And a ...second time [He] prayed, "*My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.*"

So, what are we really praying when we pray, "God let Your will be done?"

### I. Notice the attitude of this prayer –

**1. A wrong attitude of this prayer -** *Some take a very negative and unbiblical view of what Jesus is teaching here:*

**A. Some people pray this not because it is their desire;** but rather because *God is just too big and strong to fight.*

**B. Some people pray this out of lack of faith** that prayers are going to make any difference – (Ac 12:5-17) *This is the result of a real lack of understanding of the power of prayer and faith.*

We have biblical example after biblical examples of the power of prayer, the difference our prayers make and the effectiveness of prayer – *but if you don't know the Word of God, you aren't familiar with this truth "Prayer works!" (Js. 5:16)*

(Gen. 24:12-17; Gen. 32; Gen. 17; Josh. 7; 1 Sam. 1; 2 Sam. 15:31; 17:23; 2 Chor. 14: 11-12; 20:6-27; Isa. 37:15-38; Dan. 6; Esther 4:15-16, 17:10; Ez.8:21-23; Neh. 1, 2; 1 Kg. 17; 2 Kg. 4:33-34)

**C. Some will pray as if they are just having a conversation with God** – we are to pray believing our prayers matter, have power, and can make a difference.

**D. Some are just praying believing that** everything that happens is God's will... They think, "Well, if it's God's will, it will happen..." *God's will is always done in heaven, but it is not always done on earth?*

**"Thy will" Literally means "Strong desire."**

God will allow sin to run its full course, and in the end, He will deal with it and do away with it. *This is why it is important for us to understand...*

**2. The right attitude of our prayer life** is as important as the activity of our prayer life.

**A. What was David praying in (ps. 40:8)** He was looking to walk in God's will (this was his delight or joy) When David and Jesus prayed (Mt. 26:39, 42), they put God's will (to know it and to do it) first.

**B. Often times our prayers begin with our minds and hearts full of our own concerns and our own agendas...** Jesus teaches us to come to prayer first seeking the Father's will (*God has a will about everything!*)

**C. Jesus is teaching us to come to prayer knowing** *God has a will in everything and we want to know it and walk in it together with Him...*

### II. Notice the application of this prayer –

Is Jesus actually teaching that I can pray "Thy will be done" and still have a choice in the matter? Yes, Jesus is teaching us to pray for God's will to be done because we do have a choice.

**A. The role I play...** I always have a choice in the matter of praying for God's will to be done and I can play a role in making it happen:

**a. The purpose of all prayer is to glorify God's name,** and to ask for His help to accomplish His will on earth.

**b. This kind of praying begins with God's interests, not ours:** God's name, God's kingdom, and God's will.

**Robert Law has said,** "*Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man's will done in heaven, but for getting God's will done in earth.*"

But the truth is, as we have already said, God's will is not always being done here on earth....

**B. The rebellion I should pray for** (Luke 18:1-8) (Mt.26:39,42) Jesus was actually praying against His situation, but ultimately, for the Father's will to be done in it). If Jesus prayed this way...

**1. I also have a right to refuse to accept certain things the way they are in this world and to pray against them:**

**2. I have an absolute right to not accept the status quo** – 3 times Jesus prayed for the cup to pass; He didn't just say (oh well, I guess I'll just go... but He did pray specifically *if there was another way (of accomplishing God's will...)* Nevertheless, if not, let the already established will take place.

**C. The results I am looking for** - I don't have to just sit back and accept things as they are...

**1.** I can pray against certain things and for other things –

**2.** I am to persist in prayer not for personal gain, but so that I may be on track with God's will and ultimately, He will be glorified.

### III. Notice the action of this prayer –

**1. What is the purpose of this prayer?** It is to draw me nearer to God's person for the purpose of my conformity (Rom. 8:28-29).

**2. Do I pray to change my circumstances?** Not so much, really prayer is to help me change how I relate to my circumstances more than to change them.

**3. How does (James 5:16) fit into this prayer?** As I draw nearer to God, and am transformed by Him, I begin to see, think, feel, and pray like Him...

Some terms we need to understand: (first is...)

**A. God's will of purpose** – This is the all-inclusive will of God's purpose universally, and eternally, (Jer. 51:29; Isa. 14:24,26-27; Rom. 8:28) Eph. 1:9-11 *tells us of some of God's revealed purpose:*

**B. God's will of desire** – This is narrower than His overall purpose; this is what God desires. But what God desires doesn't always happen. (Lk13:34; Jn. 5:40) (2 Pe. 3:9; Jn. 8:24) (1 Tim. 2:4; Mt. 7:13,14) tells us few will.

**C. God's will of command** – That relates to believers. This is God's will concerning us: (Rom. 12:1-2; Acts 5:29; Rom. 6:16; Js. 4:1-3; 2 Pe. 3:9; 2 Thes. 4:3; Jn 17:7; Rom 8:3-4; Eph. 5:18; 1 Thes. 5:18; 1 Pe. 3:17; Prov. 3:5-6; 1 Pe. 2:15) When **we pray**, we know God has a will about everything – let's be sure we are praying for His will and not our own.