

The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13

Week 5 – Thy Will Be Done

May 3, 2020

1. Introduction

Today is the 5th week in our in-depth look at the Lord's Prayer. We are analyzing the structure and content of the prayer in order to improve our prayer lives. We are considering the following structure of the Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6:9-13:

- An address – Our Father who art in heaven
- 3 requests of God for God – Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
- 3 requests of God for Us – Daily bread, Forgiveness of sin, deliverance from evil
- Praise and Adoration – For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory

In our first 2 sessions we saw that we pray to our Father in Heaven who has expressed that incredible love by adopting us. We saw that that adoption made possible through Jesus Christ. Through faith in Jesus as God's only Son, His birth, life, death, burial and resurrection.

In session 3 we considered the request "Hallowed be Thy Name". We found we are asking God cause Himself to be seen, understood, valued, revered, and worshipped as holy above all things.

Last week we looked at the second of the first three requests – "Thy kingdom come." And we considered that this request had three facets: 1) let Your forever kingdom be established now; 2) grow the rule of your kingdom in my heart; and 3) increase your kingdom by adding more people to it.

Today we look at the last of the first three requests – "Thy will be done."

2. What is the Will?

We consider the mind to have three major faculties:

Thinking – to reason, deduce, imagine, compute, judge, perceive

Feeling – our emotions: happiness, sadness, joy, despair, etc.

Willing – our want to do things, driven by our desires

It has been proposed that we make our decisions base on the most pressing desire at the moment.

3. Can We Know the Will of God?

It should not come as a surprise that the mind of God, as we have had it revealed to us in Scripture, presents these three faculties – thinking, feeling and willing. The difference is that He executes these faculties without flaw.

But can we come to know it?

Romans 11:33,34 - Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?

Yet, consider the following verses:

Psalms 143:10 – Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God; Let Thy good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Romans 12:2 – And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Colossians 1:9 - For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

1 John 5:14 - This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

So, we turn to scripture for guidance. For there we see the revealed will of God. Consider these examples:

Revelation 4:11 - It is God's will to be the Creator of all things.

"Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."

1 Timothy 2:3-4 - It is God's will that all are saved.

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

Hebrews 10:8-10 - It was God's will that Jesus sacrifice Himself to make us holy.

After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast not desired, nor Hast Thou taken pleasure in them" (which were offered according to the Law), then he said, "Behold, I have come to do Thy will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second. By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

John 6:40 - It is God's Will that He Keeps Those He Saves

"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

A problem arises in the human mind, however, in looking at just these four examples – three seem to be definitive, and one looks like it doesn't always happen. How do we make sense of this?

4. Categories of the Will of God

I have been told that it is the prerogative of theologians to make distinctions. And to get a better hold on the will of God that is just what we need.

Categories of God's will

His will of Decree – or His sovereign will. Definitive. No questions asked. Often these are secret to us, known only after the fact. Sometimes they are yet to come, but we are given privy to know them. Sometimes we are not.

His will of Command – His moral will. Can be resisted. But not without punitive ramifications

A nuance of God's will is the permissiveness will. His allowing things to happen. Which include both the good and sinful acts of corrupt humanity. To achieve a greater end.

Joseph Genesis 50:20

Jesus Acts 2:22:23

This aspect of His will is very difficult to understand, and we should be very careful when we discuss it.

5. So bring this home – so what? What are we praying for?

So, what are we praying for? All of it, that His sovereign will of decree be done, that His moral commands and precepts be done, and that He permits what He will in order to achieve that which is best for us.

To do that with sincerity, however, we need to acknowledge the a few things:

1. His right to have His will rule
2. A dedication to seeing that His will be accomplished
3. That His will is the best for us
4. Trusting in His will as the best for us is not a passive action of submission but an active and engaging faith