

## The Lord's Prayer

### Lesson 3

#### "Thy Will Be Done"

#### Introduction.

I. Today we are ready for another petition in what is commonly called, "The Lord's Prayer."

A. Matthew only records this petition.

MAT 6:10 Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.
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It is omitted in Luke's account of this prayer spoken on another occasion. (Lk. 11:2-4).
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B. This petition deserves our careful consideration.

II. Luke records these words about Jesus. (Lk. 22:39-46).

**39 And He came out and proceeded as was His custom to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples also followed Him. 40 And when He arrived at the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." 41 And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, 42 saying, "Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done." 43 Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. 44 And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground. 45 And when He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow, 46 and said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."**

III. In this very moving scene, near the end of Jesus' life, He prayed that God's will be done. (Lk. 22:42).

A. He prayed that God's will be done even if it meant He must suffer great physical suffering and humiliation.

B. He prayed that God's will be done even if it meant that He must die a horrible, shameful death on the cross.

IV. As we study the will of God, I plan to ask a question and then have us turn to the word of God for the answer.

#### I. Question 1 - Is God's Will Done In Heaven?

A. The answer is "yes."

1. Jesus indicates this in this petition "as it is in heaven."

2. Psalms 103:20, 21 shows God's will is done in heaven.

PSA 103:20 Bless the Lord, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, Obeying the voice of His word!

PSA 103:21 Bless the Lord, all you His hosts [angels], You who serve Him, doing His will.

B. Satan nor his angels nor sin exist in heaven.

1. Satan is free and is a fierce enemy of Christians. (1 Pet. 5:8).
2. Some of his angels are in Tartarus. (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 1:6).
3. Evidently some of the devil's angels are still free. (Eph. 6:12).

EPH 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

C. Evil cannot have fellowship with God.

1. God is absolutely pure. (Jas. 1:13).
2. Only those washed in the blood of Jesus are reconciled to God and can have fellowship with Him.

## II. Question 2 - Should we seek the will of God?

- A. The answer is an emphatic "yes."
- B. The Bible says of human will. (Prov. 14:12; Isa. 55:8).
- C. The Bible says of seeking God's will.

**Psalm 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.**

**Psalm 143:10 Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.**

**John 4:34 My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**

**John 5:30 I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.**

D. We have learned that the will of God should be foremost in our lives.

1. It should be in our hearts and we should pray that God will teach us His will.
2. The will of God should be our food and like Jesus we should constantly seek God's will.
3. God's will is found only in the holy scriptures. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:3).
  - a. It is not found in human creeds or in the vote of the majority.
  - b. It is not found in what feels good or what is expedient or in human reasoning.

c. It is not found in nature or in dreams.

4. The church is not governed by the will of man or of men, but by the sovereign will of God.

### III. **Question 3.** Is everything the will of God?

A. Many hold to this opinion.

1. No matter what happens in this world, good or bad, they always think or say, "It is the will of God."
2. Many follow the motto, "Whatever will be, will be."
3. They use such expressions seeking to convey that everything that happens, good or bad, is God's will.
4. This makes every bad thing the will of God.

B **Jesus did not hold to this view.**

1. Jesus taught us to pray. (Matt. 6:10).
  - a. This petition sets forth that God's will is always done in heaven.
  - b. This petition certainly teaches that everything is not the will of God on earth.
2. Every day there are thousands of murders. There are thousands of thefts. There are thousands of accidents. There are thousands who commit adultery and do other awful things.

4. **I emphatically state that none of these things are the will of God.**

C. These things and all the evil in this world are the will of Satan.

1. The Bible calls him "the god of this world." (2 Cor. 4:4).
2. He is called a murderer and "the father of lies." (Jn. 8:44).
3. He is the source of evil, and all evil is the will of Satan.
4. He devours men by seducing them to do his will. (1 Pet. 5:8).

### IV. **Question 4** - Should we seek the will of God even if it means suffering?

A. Matt. 26:42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

B. Jesus said. (Matt. 5:10).

1. Those who suffer "righteousness" are pleasing to God and will be in heaven.
2. "Righteousness" is doing what God commands.

PSA 119:172 Let my tongue sing of Thy word, **For all Thy commandments are righteousness.**

C. We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29).

1. We should obey man's law unless it means we cannot obey God's law.
2. God's law must always be first and foremost in our hearts.
3. If there is a way to obey both God and man's law, we should pursue it.
4. We do not have an option of preaching the gospel to every nation. (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 28:19, 20).

V. **Question 5** - Was there a special advantage to being a member of Christ's physical family?

A. Most people would think so.

1. They reason, "Wouldn't it be great to be the father, or mother, or brothers, or sisters of Jesus!"
2. They think it means they would have special favor with the Lord.

B. Jesus refuted this idea.

**46 While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. 47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. 48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? 49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! 50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.**

C. **Some of Christ's physical family are listed among the faithful.**

1. See Acts 1:14; Gal. 1:19

**ACT 1:14** These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and **Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.**

**GAL 1:19** But I did not see any other of the apostles **except James, the Lord's brother.**

2. Most conservative scholars believe James, the Lord's brother was the author of the Book of James, and Jude [Judas], his brother, wrote the Book of Jude. (Jude 1:1).
3. These were among the saved because they accepted Christ by faith.

VI. **Question 6** - Does God hear all of our prayers?

A. Solomon wrote. (Prov. 15:29; 28:9).

**PRO 15:29** The Lord is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

**PRO 28:9** He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

- B. 1 John 5:14 “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:”
  - 1. This was a promise to Christians.
  - 2. The words “he heareth us” are used with the meaning that God hears and answers our prayers.
- C. That our prayers might be heard is one reason why Jesus taught we must pray according to the will of God.
- D. Prayers, to be answered favorably, must be according to the will of God and prayers must not be selfish. (Jas. 4:3).

VII. **Question 7** - Can we understand the will of God?

- A. More and more people state (affirm, contend) that God is a God of confusion and His will cannot be understood.
- B. This affirmation is saying God is not intelligent enough to make Himself clear or man is too stupid to understand God or both.
- C. God has always communicated His will to man and believed man was capable of understanding it.
- D. Men have always been held accountable for not doing the will of God.
  - 1. No man has ever been without law.
  - 2. God has had law in every age for all men - Jews and Gentiles.
  - 3. Sin is the violation of God’s will.
- E These exhortations are found in the New Testament. (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 5:17).

ROM 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.

EPH 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

VIII. **Question 8** - Is it the will of God that some be lost?

- A. Men all through the ages some have answered "Yes."
  - 1. They affirm that God is a respecter of persons.
  - 2. They affirm that God has predestined some to be saved and some to be lost.
  - 3. This may be based on.

Wealth	Race	Appearance	Disabilities
Education	Nationality	Character	Age or gender

B. The Bible does not teach such. (Jn. 3:16, 6:40; Acts 10:34, 35; Rom. 10:12; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).

**IX. Question 9 - Who will live with God forever?**

A. The Bible gives a simple answer to this question.

B. Solomon taught that those who do God’s will will go to their long or eternal home. (Eccles. 12:5b, 13).

C. The apostle John wrote. (1 Jn. 2:15-17).

**1JO 2:15 Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.17 And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.**

D. Jesus said. (Matt. 7:21).

**X. Question 10 - Should we think before we pray God’s will be done in our lives?**

A. Certainly all Christians should want to do the will of God and desire that His will be done in our lives.

B. This might mean, however, that big changes be made in our lives.

Jobs	What we read , watch and listen to.	How we treat others
Time spent with children	Time spend doing God’s work	Time spent reading the scriptures and worshipping God.
Kind of Recreation	Where we live	Marriages & friendships
Our giving	General attitude	God and His kingdom being really first. (Matt. 6:23).

**Conclusion.**

I. May we always pray as Jesus instructed.

II. May we always seek to please God rather than men.

III. May we carefully study God’s word to learn the will of God.

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