

The Model Prayer – Thy Will Be Done¹
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC
Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.
June 27, 2021

Text: Matthew 6:10b, 26:36-44

Purpose: Jesus has given a Model Prayer to His disciples. For us to really pray, it involves acknowledging God as our Father, seeing God as Holy and righteous, it is inviting the Kingdom of God into our life, AND acknowledging the will of God in our lives as Heaven's best for us. For God's will to be manifested in our lives, we need to yield our will to His will. We need to seek Him first, and His kingdom, then all these things (the blessings of Heaven) shall be added unto us.

I came across another list of Children's Prayers² that I wanted to share with you this morning.

1. Dear God, please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. Amanda



2. Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. Joyce

¹ Outline from *God's Psychiatry*, by Charles Allen

² http://www.jimmyakin.org/2005/07/childrens_alleg.html (accessed 6/17/21)

3. Dear Mr. God, I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart I had to have 3 stitches and a shot.
Janet

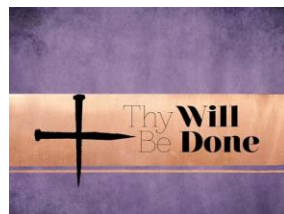
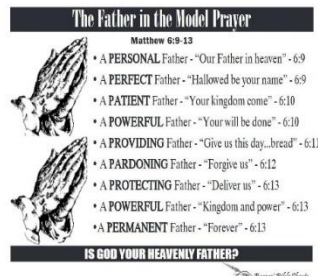
4. God, I read the bible. What does beget mean? Nobody will tell me. Love Alison

5. Dear God, how did you know you were God? Who told you? Charlene

6. Dear God, is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his golf words in the house? Anita

7. Dear God, I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. Nancy

Over the past few weeks, we have been examining the Model Prayer that Jesus gave His disciples when they asked Him to teach them how to pray. We learned that we need to come to God as our Heavenly Father. We have come to understand that there is none Holy except God and only God can hallow His name. We saw last week that we are to invite the Kingdom of God to come to us first before we are able to go and make a difference in our world. Today we come to the part in the Model Prayer that says, *“Thy will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven.”* The phrase *“Thy Will Be Done”* is our confession which acknowledges our submission and acceptance of God’s sovereignty over our life.



Have you noticed how this Model Prayer is getting much harder in some ways if you resist what it is really telling us? If you resist God as Father, you surely cannot pray, “Thy will be done.” If you consider God less than Holy, then there is no way you can submit to the sovereignty of God and allow God’s will to overrule or supplant your will.

Or are you one that has noticed how it is becoming much easier as it draws us closer to God? As you allow this prayer to form the framework in your relationship with God, yielding to God does become easier and the burden we think it is, actually is light.

Have you ever played one of those word association games? One person will give you a word and you tell them the first thing that comes to your mind.

For example: If I give you the word **“Christmas,”** you may think about Santa Clause, Baby Jesus, Christmas decorations, and frantic gift giving.

If I give you the words, **“9-11”** you may remember the day America was attacked and the sheer panic that occurred that day.

If I mentioned the word **COVID** or coronavirus, we could spend hours discussing this topic and how it has, and continues to impact your life.



But if I were to give you the phrase, **“Will of God,”** what images come to your mind? Maybe you have had a loved one die and someone came up to you and said, *“It must*

have been the will of God.” Maybe someone has an awful disease or illness and some unthinking person feels it’s their duty to remind you, *“It is the will of God.”* There is a kind of dark picture that emerges sometimes as we think on the phrase *“Thy Will Be Done.”*

Over the past year, many people have asked if COVID or the coronavirus is the “will of God?” After September 11, 2001, many were asking if this was the “will of God.” Maybe the answer is both a “NO” and a “YES.” I don’t believe God was the originator of this evil. If God is seeking to reconcile the whole world to Himself, I cannot fathom a God that would purposefully kill so many with such an evil plot. Yet, I do believe God is still sovereign over His creation and for some reason unknown to us, allowed it to happen. God gave us free will and with that we can will to do good or will to do evil.

I hold on to the truthfulness of the verse found in Romans 8:28, *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”*

Some way, somehow, God in His eternal plan is working this out for good. Over and over, God has worked out evil for a better and higher purpose.

Do you remember what Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane? He prayed, knowing what was going to transpire in just a few hours, *“Nevertheless, not my will, but Thine be done.”* (Luke 22:42) We know the rest of the story. Jesus was arrested, tried illegally, beaten, mocked, humiliated, stripped naked, and nailed to an old rugged cross between two thieves. Yet through that awful process,



God brought about our salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Do you remember the man named Job? Job was a righteous man who worshipped God and honored God in every way possible. God allowed Satan to attack all that was good in Job’s life and in doing so, Job lost his children, his wealth, his health, most of his friends, and even his wife recommended that he curse God and die. In the midst of living out God’s will for his life he said, *“The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.”* (Job 1:21)

We may see yielding to the will of God like going to the dentist. We know we need to go, but we put it off as long as possible. Maybe we say inwardly, “For the time being I will back my own judgments and follow my own will.”



We need to be reminded that Jesus rose from the grave. His death on Calvary was not the final story. We need to be reminded Job was restored double what he lost. (Job 42:10) His losses at the hand of Satan were not the final chapter for Job. We need to be reminded that God is still working out the coronavirus that has shaken the entire world for good – even if we cannot see it yet or fully understand it.

I guess we need to be reminded that it is the will of God that the sun rises each morning. We need to be reminded that the seasons of summer, fall, winter, and spring come around. Each sunrise and season is a part of the will of God – the hot days of summer and the cold days of winter. We

readily accept the sunrises and the changing seasons, but we do not want those dark, drearier days or the hurricanes when they blow through. If we examine our lives honestly, we can say we have had more sunrises than hurricanes!

Jesus taught us to say, “*Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven.*” When you think of Heaven, what thoughts come to your mind? A place of peace, perfect joy, an absence of pain and suffering, no more sorrow and no more tears? I believe all of that is true and exactly what Jesus wanted us to understand what Heaven is like.



Before you can pray, “*Thy will be done*” you need to actually believe it is true and that the will of God is the best for your life. We are tempted to surrender to the immediate demands around us and operate out of our will, while God considers our life as a whole and desires His will, His best, for our lives.

Let me give you two examples. There are two boys that are in school together. They both are taking the same classes. They both have the same homework assignments. But one young man decides that homework is boring and not worth doing. The other decides to buckle down and do as his teacher instructed him to do. While one is rebelling from the discipline of schoolwork, the other is hard at work.



The one that rebels is free to do as he pleases after school, the one that is disciplined hardly has time to go and hang out with his friends. Eventually the one that refuses to do his school work fails his grade and does not graduate. The carefree young man is now locked into his ignorance and his prospect for success and employment is limited.

The young man that decided to do his school work and submit to the leadership of his teachers can graduate from high school. This can open another door of opportunity and will allow him to go on to college and financially benefit himself and his future family because of having a better education.

One is prepared for life, and the other is not.

A second example of someone that endured hardship on the front end of life was Joseph. Joseph was the darling child of Jacob and his story can be found in Genesis. He was the one that received the beautiful “coat of many colors.” Joseph’s older brothers were jealous of all the attention he got from his father. One day they had had enough and they decided to get rid of this favorite son and put him in a well and were planning to kill him. Just then, a caravan of merchants came by and instead of killing him, they sold him into slavery for twenty shekles of silver. During those years as a slave and servant, Joseph stood for truth and did not compromise in any area. One day, his integrity and refusal to compromise, cost him his job and he was put in jail.



Because he was faithful, God later rewarded Joseph and he became the second in command in Egypt directly under the Pharaoh. When a great famine came, Joseph was in a position to help his family. When his brothers found out who they were receiving help from, they were greatly afraid of what their brother Joseph would do to them. Joseph said to his brothers who intended evil towards him, *“Do not be grieved or angry with yourselves that you sold me into slavery. For God sent me before you to preserve life.”* (Gen. 45:5)

Joseph could have yielded to the temptations put before him and never become the person God desired. But Joseph put God’s will and teachings above his will. Joseph’s way was hard. Job’s way was hard. But both kept their faith and never gave up. In the end they could look back over their life and see the hand of God working it all out for good.

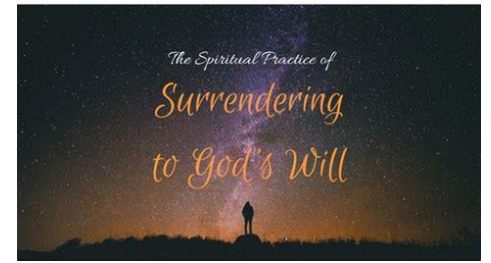
We need to remember that because Jesus Christ endured Calvary, there was an empty tomb and redemption available today to all that call upon the name of the Lord. We have a better understanding of God’s will for our life when we look backwards. Maybe you have seen some dark valleys and dark hours in your life. We are called to trust the Lord in the midst of the trials.



I guess we need to be reminded it is not God who forces us into those dark places in life. Sometimes it is our ignorance or foolishness that causes events to occur in our life. Sometimes, as in Job’s case, Satan is allowed for a season to attack us. In all of those situations, God can make something beautiful out of something tragic. If you would

only give God the broken pieces of your heart or situation, He can make something wonderful.

Surrendering our will to God’s will is the prayer we are given to pray. Many people shrink away from this total surrender. We may be like the



servant that was given one talent by his master. The servant was afraid so he went and buried it in the ground so it could be returned upon the masters’ return. He said, *“Lord, I knew you were a hard man and I was afraid. So I went and hid the talent in the earth.”* (Matt. 25:24-25) He was afraid of his master and felt whatever he asked would be unreasonable. So out of fear, he hid his talent.

Admittedly, there are some things we cannot do. You may not be a great artist, you may not be able to sing in the choir, you may not be able to play the piano or organ, you may not be able to teach a Sunday school class, you may not be able to pray with the sick, you may not be able to preach a sermon, ***but there is something you can do! Use that one talent for the Lord.***

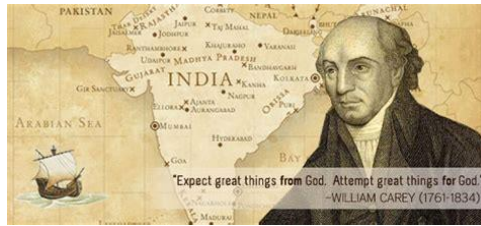
If you remember, when the master returned, he rebuked the fearful talent hiding servant and took away that one talent and gave it to another. If you are faithful with what God has given to you, He will reward you with more. If you are not faithful with what has given you, he will take it all away!



We are called upon to do the will of God. When God called Moses, he was given the task of leading the children of Israel out of Egypt. Moses sincerely felt he was unqualified for the task. But God gave him Aaron and the power to accomplish the will of God. When God called Jeremiah, he felt he was too young to do anything big for God. But God called him and equipped him to stand before the people and call them to repentance.

God sees our life from beginning to the end. It is His will for us to finish well. We can if we yield our lives and will to the will of God – if we take our talent and put it to use. To sincerely pray, “*Thy will be done*” is a call to action.

In 1792, William Carey preached a sermon in a church Sharon and I had the privilege of visiting in Olney



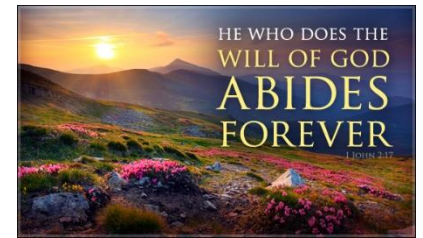
England while we were on our honeymoon in 2006. In that famous sermon, he said, “*Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes.*” (Isaiah 54:2) This became one of the most influential sermons because it gave birth to the Baptist Missionary Society. The people heard him say, “***Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.***” Not only did William Carey preach it, he lived it. He dedicated his life to answering his own prayer. William Carey left that hamlet in England and headed to India as a missionary. He gave his life and family for the cause of Christ in India.

The will of God is already at work in earth. The will of God is operating in your life and you may not even realize

it. You did not decide what century you would be born in. You did not decide who your parents would be. You did not decide the color your skin, your sex, your physical appearance – all of it was decided by God. God’s will is active and operating in our lives.

No person is an accident. Each person, black or white, rich or poor, healthy or weak, tall or short, is uniquely formed and made by God. We need to see others in that way and we need to see ourselves in that way. (Psalm 139:13-14)

The unique aspect of this thing called “*will*” is that God gave it to us so we can either choose to yield our lives to God or reject His will for our life. You may rebel against God, but you will be defeated. You can endure life as it comes and find no joy in living, or you can choose to make His will, your will.



Alfred Lloyd Tennyson wrote:

Our wills are ours, we know not how;
Our wills are ours, to make them thine.

How can you know the will of God for your life? Charles Allen in the book, *God’s Psychiatry*, said,

“Many will never know, because God does not reveal Himself to triflers. No one can walk into His holy presence on hurrying feet. If you merely pray, ‘Lord this is my will. I hope you approve.’ You are wasting your breath. Only those that sincerely want God’s will, and have faith enough in Him to dedicate themselves to His will, can ever know it.”

Some people believe that God's will is an optional activity. They want to say, "Lord show me your will and if I like it I will accept it." We must come accepting that God knows a better path for our lives than we can ever have directing it under our own will.

For those that sincerely seek God's will He will reveal it to you. It may take you down several paths you may have never planned for. I have often found that God gives us enough light for the path just in front of us. He may not light the entire path for us to see it from beginning to end, but He does give us enough light to take the next step, trusting Him along the way.



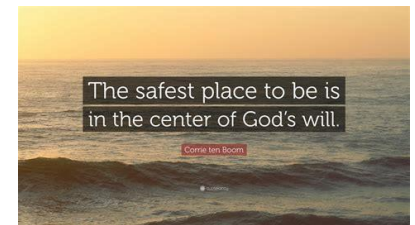
God reveals Himself in His word. Study His word and hide His words in your heart. It will be light for your path. Listen to His guidance through the advice of Godly advisors. Listen with one ear while testing that against scripture. Not all advice, even from well-meaning people, is from God. Spend time in prayer with God. Nothing can substitute for alone time with God in determining the will of God.



You may be sitting here saying, "I have no idea what God's will for my life is." Are you tuned into God? Have you ever noticed as you travel how a radio station signal will be strong in one place and then begin to fade as you get further away from where it originated. The further away you get from the home station, the worse the reception.

Maybe our reception for God's guidance is diminished because we have moved further away from God. Maybe God is silent because we have moved away from God?

If we stay close to the word, continue in prayer, constantly readjusting our lives to the leading of the Holy Spirit, we can have confidence we are in the will of God. If we surrender our todays to God, we can be assured our tomorrows will be in accordance to His will. Psalms 37:25 says, *"I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging for bread."* Charles Allen asserts, "Obedience to His will today means that God assumes the responsibilities for our tomorrow."



Jesus teaches us in these first three petitions, we must keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus. Yes we can take our petitions and needs to Him. He wants to hear our needs. But we first need to get our mind fully focused upon God – His sovereignty, His Holiness, His will – before we can align our needs and petitions with His perfect will for our lives.

Let Him who has ears to hear, what the Lord is teaching us in this prayer. Amen.

LET US PRAY