

Thy Will Be Done Թու Կամքդ Ըլլայ

Romans 7:15-18

John 6:38-40

In Alexander Solzhenitsyn's "A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich," Ivan endures all the horrors of a Soviet prison camp. One day he is praying with his eyes closed when a fellow prisoner notices him and says with ridicule, "Prayers won't help you get out of here any faster." Opening his eyes, Ivan answers, "I do not pray to get out of prison but to do the will of God."¹

We are studying the Lord's Prayer. We move on to third petition:

"Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10 ESV)

Are we really asking God for His will be done in our lives? We sing "*Hyer Mer*" over and over, and I sometimes wonder, "Are we really seeking God's will to be done in our lives? Are we just trying to get out of the 'prison' as fast as we can, or we are trying to seek and obey His WILL?"

"Your will be done". The Greek text (*will be done*) is in the aorist tense. In my words: "Oh Daddy, Abba, I urge you to do your will right now in us." Notice, not my will but His will to be urgently implemented in us right now.

Why is it so urgent to ask His will to be done in our lives?

The petitions have a sequence.

We are praying to our Father, Daddy who in heaven, a Father who is sovereign and in control, a Daddy who is all over us, not away from us, a God, a Daddy who has authority and is in charge, a Father who loves us personally in an intimate way, a Dad who knows our name. We are asking His name to be holy in the midst of us. We are praying for His presence in the midst of us. Then we are praying that His Kingdom to be fully present on this earth. I hope you did pray during the last week asking God's kingdom over you, over your neighbors, over our world.

After these two petitions, “God, teach me how to do your will. God bring down you will. God, I don’t know my priorities. I would love to learn the right priorities. Teach me how to do your will.”

Here is the problem. Sometimes we know His will, but we disagree with it. Sometimes we know His will, but it is tough to obey. Sometimes we don’t know His will and we wonder what to do.

Do we know our needs? Seriously, do we know what our priorities are?

In his book on the Lord’s Prayer, Helmut Thielicke says:

We know very little about our real needs, about what we lack and what we need. So we often pray for foolish things, when what we need is something totally different. We are naked, and instead of praying for clothing we pray for bonbons. We are imprisoned by certain passions... and instead of praying for freedom we pray for a Persian rug for our cell. So often we pray for senseless things that have no relation to our needs. And the reason is that **we do not know the deepest wants and necessities of our life at all.**²

Strange! **Paul** who looks into his own heart and into his deepest desires and necessities, confesses that he makes the wrong choices. He does what he hates:

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. (Romans 7:15-18 ESV)

Paul is struggling with his own will, with making the right choices. This is our situation, too. Sin blocks our vision from knowing the will of God. We often know His will but find an easy way to escape from it thinking we will be happier or more content. We will not.

Knowing, obeying and doing God's will are very essential in our Christian growth.

Paul who admits making the wrong choices, also tells us how important it is to make the right choices:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2 ESV)

God's will is good, acceptable and perfect.

There are two ways God reveals His will to us. His will is expressed in His Word. That is the **revealed will of God.** We need to know God's Word. I keep encouraging you to read it daily and be in a Bible study group.

Secondly, God likes to have a **personal relationship with you** where He reveals His will to you **personally.** It is not magic. It not fortune telling. God loves you to know Him personally and be in a daily relationship with Him.

Then you will get to know His will for your personal life.

Having said that, **here are some observations about God's will. Knowing and obeying His will nourishes our soul.**

1. Jesus himself said he came to do his Father's will

- When he was 12, his parents were seeking him. They found him in the Temple. And he said to them, **"Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house? (or my father's business)"** (Luke 2:49 ESV)

-When Jesus grew up, his disciples one day brought food to eat. And Jesus replied to them saying: **"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."** (John 4:34 ESV)

-One day people said, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." And his answer was: **"My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."** (Luke 8:21 ESV)

-On the night of his betrayal, Jesus in agony says these words: **“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”** (Luke 22:42 ESV)

In summary, it was Jesus’ priority to obey His Father’s will.

2. We should obey God’s will with pleasure.

Obeying God’s will is not punishment. God’s will is good, acceptable and perfect. I trust Him. He is my God, my Daddy, my Father, and He knows the best for me, even if I do not see it the same way.

The word “will”, *Thelema* in Greek, has two meanings:

A. purpose:

what one wishes or has determined shall be done

- a. of the purpose of God to bless mankind through Christ
- b. of what God wishes to be done by us

B. pleasure:

will, choice, inclination, desire, pleasure

When Jesus prayed: “Your will be done” means **“Your purpose and pleasure be done”; “Your design and delight be done.”³**

In the book of Psalms, David says about God’s will:

In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said,

“Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

I delight to do your will, O my God;

your law is within my heart.”(Psalms 40:6-8 ESV)

I delight to do your will.

-The key is knowing that God’s will is the best, and obeying and implementing His will is pleasure, because it is the best.

3. God’s Will is to KNOW HIM personally.

If you want to know the will of God, read the Bible. His will is revealed in His Word. I will stress this over and over. So many of us in the US admit that we believe in God. But few know His Word, and few spend time to know God's will personally.

Knowing God in the Bible means to have an intimate relationship with HIM. In Jeremiah, the prophet declares how God loves us and His presence will be known to us, and we will know Him:

I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 31:33-34 ESV)

"**They shall all know me,**" is the same word used for a husband and wife knowing each other in marital intimacy. That is the will of God—that we know him in such intimacy! That we know the Father as Jesus knows him. That we know Jesus as the Father knows him. That we love the Father the way Jesus loves him. That we love Jesus the way the Father loves him.⁵

4. Obeying God's will could mean getting out of our comfort zone.

If the request is wrong, God says, "No."

If the timing is wrong, God says, "Slow."

If you are wrong, God says, "Grow."

But if the request is right, the timing is right and you are right, God says, "Go!"⁵

The classic example is **Jonah**. He did everything possible to not go to **Nineveh**. He went the opposite direction, literally.

Or **Abraham**, "Take your family and **go to a new place.**"

When my family and I came here, we did not know where exactly we are coming. Also when Sevan and I got married and left to Beirut, we did not know where exactly God was taking us. Lebanon was in civil war. When we went to Ainjar to serve there, I did not know that I would be a school

principal. I was puzzled and thought I will not use my musical gift anymore. God opened the doors to start Nor Yerik Ministry, both in creating Armenian contemporary Christian band, recordings of CDs, and producing Hymnals. This ministry spread all over the world. I did not know that this was coming. I just obeyed God and went to Ainjar where no one could imagine that I could use my musical talent. Glory to God...
I read this saying:

The will of God will never take you,
Where the Grace of God cannot keep you,
Where the Arms of God cannot support you. (John Hamby)

Waltke says: "My following of God is based upon my relationship with Him rather than on a special 'sign'. Rather than looking for some sort of wrapped spiritual package from the Almighty, I want to rely upon my closeness to Him. So when I wonder about which job offer to take, I don't go through a divination process to discover the hidden message of God. Instead I examine how God has called me to live my life, what my motives are, what He has given me a heart for, where I am in my walk with Christ, and what God is saying to me through His word and His people." ⁶

Application:

Do you want to know the will of God for your life? It is to rejoice, pray, give thanks, and seek after that which is good for men....God wants you to be a mature man or woman of God – that His will for your life! He wants to see your develop." ⁷

Ask yourself this week?

1. God, I want to spend time with you in reading your Word and knowing your will as revealed in your Word (please find a small group where you can grow).
2. God, in my walk with you in an intimate way, please help me daily to know your will and discern your will in my life. May your will rule over my will.

Jesus said it best:

For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:38-40 ESV)

“God, we know you do your will and you are in control. May I know your will and in obedience implement it in your kingdom.”

Amen

1. Our Daily Bread, Dec 29, 1993
2. Helmut Thielicke, *Prayer That Spans the World: Sermons on the Lord's Prayer*. P33
3. Darrel Johnson, *Fifty Seven Words Changed the World*. p46
4. *ibid* p51
5. Bill Hybels, *Too Busy Not To Pray*, IVP, p. 74.
6. Bruce Waltke, *Finding the Will of God*, P16
7. *ibid*, p62