

GOD'S GOOD WILL

The Lord's Prayer, Summer 2023: Matthew 6:10

July 23, 2023

*This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'*

Matthew 6:9-10

God's will

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven

"This, then is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ *your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

¹¹ *Give us today our daily bread.*

¹² *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

¹³ *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'*

Matthew 6

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12

1. The verb here is again a passive imperative, but praying for God's will to be done is entirely active – it is to “reject our own wills and to obey [God's] will without any back talk.” (see Lord's Day 49)
2. God's will has these parts
 1. what he decrees (Genesis 1:3)
 2. what he commands, both positive and negative (see the example in Romans 13:8-14)
 3. what he allows (for an example, see Job 1:6-8)
3. Praying this prayer means we believe that God's will is _____

Heidelberg Catechism, Part III: Gratitude

Lord's Day 49

Q 124. What does the third petition mean?

A. “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” means: Help us and all people to reject our own wills and to obey your will without any back talk. Your will alone is good.¹

Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to,² as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.³

¹ [Matt. 7:21](#); [16:24-26](#); [Luke 22:42](#); [Rom. 12:1-2](#); [Tit. 2:11-12](#)

² [1 Cor. 7:17-24](#); [Eph. 6:5-9](#) ³ [Ps. 103:20-21](#)

God's will for me

¹⁵ *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

²¹ *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Ephesians 5

⁹ *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

2 Peter 3

⁴⁰ *For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

John 6

1. God's will for me begins with repentance

2. God desires that I really know his will (see Romans 12-13 for a summary of God's will)

Yes, we have an example of how “on earth as it is in heaven” works

³⁶ *Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”*

³⁹ *Going a little farther, he fell 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.”*

Matthew 26

1. Jesus understood the cost on earth of God's will in heaven
2. "If it is possible" is how Jesus submits to the Father's will

The "highest charity"

The fourth sentence is *a petition concerning God's will*--"May your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth." We here pray that God's laws may be obeyed by men as perfectly, readily, and unceasingly, as they are by angels in heaven. We ask that those who now obey not His laws, may be taught to obey them, and that those who do obey them, may obey them better. Our truest happiness is perfect submission to God's will, and it is the highest charity to pray that all mankind may know it, obey it, and submit to it.

J. C. Ryle

1. Living into what is good (and ultimately for the common good) when the will of God is painful

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 2

For another thing, let us each lay ourselves out more heartily to do some good in the world. It is a melancholy fact, that the increase of almsgiving in England of late bears no proportion whatever to the increase of wealth. The trade and commerce of the country have probably doubled within the last twenty-five years. Yet the incomes of most of our large religious societies are almost at a standstill. If English people will not remember that their gold and silver is only a loan from God, and intended to be used for Him — they cannot be surprised if God reminds them of it by such visitations as the cattle plague. The hand that gives a nation wealth — is the hand that can take it away!

J. C. Ryle, "This Is the Finger of God" during the Great Cattle Plague, 1865-1867

2. When the will of God is the pathway to blessing

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1 (see Romans 8:28-39 for a longer discussion of God's plan)

Resources for further study

The poster for Matthew does a good job of showing the 5 Parts of the gospel, reflecting a “new Torah”, can be found at <https://bibleproject.com/downloads/posters/>

Ryle has a commentary of Matthew 6 at <https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/m06.htm>

J. C. Ryle also has a wonderful study of how believers should respond to the disciplining work of God at <https://www.monergism.com/finger-god>

Here are some of our growing number of prayer resources:

I appreciated this perspective on praying “if it be your will” at <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/should-we-qualify-our-prayers-if-it-be-your-will>

The CRCNA’s Prayer Guide illustrates how to use the Lord’s Prayer as a guide to corporate prayer at https://www.crcna.org/files/the_lords_prayer

Kevin DeYoung’s article at <https://www.crossway.org/articles/what-does-it-mean-to-pray-your-kingdom-come/>

Lora Copely’s “Extraordinary Prayer” article at <https://www.abideproject.org/articles/extraordinary-prayer>

Becket Cook’s story of his mother’s prayer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFWI9eWkmWg>

Sproul has a helpful and short discussion of God’s will at <https://www.monergism.com/discerning-god%E2%80%99s-will-three-wills-god>

Jonathan Edwards has a short response concerning the two elements of the will of God at <http://edwards.yale.edu/archive?path=aHR0cDovL2Vkd2FyZHMueWFsZS5lZHUvY2dpLWJpbi9uZXdw aGlsby9nZXRvYmplY3QucGw/Yy4xMjo0OjE6NTQud2plbw==>

Dissenter John Gill has an extensive study at <https://www.monergism.com/will-god-and-sovereignty-it>

Reformation Theology has a good study of God’s will at <https://www.monergism.com/reformation-theology/blog/gods-desire-all-be-saved-1-timothy-24-ezekiel-1823>

Kim Riddlebarger has a good study, even if it is a bit harsh on those who disagree with him, at <https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/thykingdom.html>

Larry Stockstill has a good summary of the pattern of the Lord’s Prayer at <https://larrystockstill.com/blog/prayer-template>

Keller has a good listen at <https://gospelinlife.com/downloads/the-upside-down-kingdom-5106/> or the .pdf version at <https://www.scribd.com/document/258555474/Upside-Down-Kingdom-Tim-Keller>

Keller also has an 8-part series on the Lord’s Prayer on .mp3 at <https://www.monergism.com/lords-prayer-8-part-mp3-sermon-series>

[Monergism.com](https://www.monergism.com) has many resources on the Sermon on the Mount at <https://www.monergism.com/topics/sermon-manuscripts-mp3s-scripture/matthew/sermon-mount-ch-5-7>

Bob Deffinbaugh has a sermon on this passage at <https://bible.org/seriespage/fatal-failures-religion-3-externalism-matthew-61-18>

Spurgeon has an interesting prayer take is at <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-secret-of-power-in-prayer/#flipbook/>

AUTHOR: ?



30-40 YEARS OF ORAL TRADITION

EARLIEST TRADITION Matthew (see 9:18, 10:3)

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Things to look for

#1 ? LOOK UP OLD TESTAMENT QUOTATIONS (THERE ARE A LOT)

#2 LOOK CLOSELY AT THE PEOPLE WHO ACCEPT JESUS
IRRELEVANT + **FAITH** = **TRANSFORMATION**

1. MESSIAH FROM THE LINE OF DAVID

2. NEW MOSES

3. GOD WITH US



MOSES | JESUS
- OUT OF EGYPT
- CROSS THE RED SEA
- WILDERNESS FOR 40 YEARS
- RECEIVES LAW FROM MOUNTAIN
- DELIVER FROM SLAVERY
- GIVE NEW DIVINE TEACHING
- SAVE FROM SIN
- INITIATE A NEW COVENANT

1-3 ABRAHAM DAVID JESUS
CONNECT JESUS TO OLD TESTAMENT

FULFILL OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETIC PROMISES

Immanuel = GOD WITH US

4-7 ANNOUNCE GOD'S KINGDOM
SERMON IN THE MOUNT (10:5-7)
- RESTORE GOD'S REIGN
- CREATE A NEW FAMILY
- HOW TO LIVE IN GOD'S KINGDOM
- FULFILL THE TORAH: HEARTS IN LOVE

8-10 JESUS BRINGS KINGDOM INTO PEOPLE'S LIVES
SENDING THE 12 (10:1-5)
- EFFECT: ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION

11-13 RESPONSES TO JESUS
PARABLES ABOUT THE KINGDOM (10:13-23)
- POSITIVE: "JESUS IS THE MESSIAH!"
- NEUTRAL: "IS HE THE MESSIAH?"
- NEGATIVE: "HE IS NOT THE MESSIAH!"

14-20 DIFFERENT EXPECTATIONS ABOUT THE MESSIAH
THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM (10:10, 17:20)
- THINK OF JESUS: KING OF JUDAH, SON OF DAVID, BY LIVING IT OUT
- SUPPLEMENTARY SERVANT (10:23)
- VICTORIOUS! DEFEATS PAGANS!

21-25 CLASH OF KINGDOMS
CRITIQUE OF "YOU THINKERS" HYPOCRITES! (23:23)
- BELIEVING AUTHORITY
- SAY THINGS AS COMPROMISED RESULTS OF HYPOCRISY
- OFFENDED - DECIDE TO KILL JESUS

26-28 PASSOVER MEAL
RECALLS THE STORY OF...
- RESCUE FROM SLAVERY
- SEARCH OF RESCUER LAMB

NEW MEANING
RESCUE FROM...
- EVIL & SIN
- DEATH OF JESUS

THEY'RE NOT THE MESSIAH!
YOU HAVE BLASPHEMED GOD!
SANHEDRIN (JEWISH LEADERS)
PILATE
HE'S INNOCENT!
LET HIM BE CRUCIFIED!

INSTEAD OF JUDGING THEM, HE IS JUDGED ON THEIR BEHALF
FULFILL OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETIC PROMISES
SUPPLEMENTARY SERVANT (10:23)

GREAT COMMISSION
JESUS IS KING OF THE WORLD
TELL ALL NATIONS THE GOOD NEWS
ALL PEOPLE CAN JOIN THE KINGDOM
BAPTIZED
YEASERWON
GIVE LIFE TO Immanuel!

- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
- BOOKS OF MOSES (TORAH)

created by the Bible Project