

Growing in Prayer by Learning from the Model Prayer: *Praying for God's will to be done in Your Life!*

Introduction:

Read **James 4:13-17**

1. An old Scottish women traveled about the countryside selling house wares. *The Speaker's Quote Book*, p. 409-410
 1. Whenever she came to a fork in the road, she would throw up a straw into the air; when it dropped to the ground, she would proceed in the direction it indicated.
 2. The residents of the area knew her strange custom, but one day, a friend saw her tossing the straw several times before choosing the path she would take.
 3. He inquired, "Why did you do that more than once?"
 4. "Oh, it kept pointing to the road on the left," she replied, "and I wanted to go the other way because it looks so much smoother."
 5. She continued casting her straw to the wind until it fell in the direction she wanted.
2. How many of us have done that as we have prayed to God about seeking His will in our lives? (PAUSE)
3. Read **Matthew 6:9-10**:
"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"
4. There are three mighty forces in the universe that we must understand: they have existed since the creation of man in the Garden of Eden and are as powerful today as ever.
 1. First, there is the God of the Bible: God is the ultimate power and force in the universe.
 - a. He has proven this throughout time & will remove all doubt as promised in Revelation 19-22.
 - b. God is holding back right now, but that is going to change, I believe very soon. **Maranatha!**
 2. Second, there is Satan, the antithesis of God; all that is evil is under his influence and control.
 - a. His goal is to destroy all that is good, for he knows his own end is destruction.
 3. Then there is the third force in the universe (Are you ready for this?): our free choice!
 - a. We have the power to choose whether we will follow the will of God or that of the devil.
 - b. Will we exercise this God-given power for the glory of God or the purposes of Satan?
5. That brings us back to the part of the model prayer we are going to visit today: *your will be done*
6. **Prop. : "A true measure of our devotion to God is the degree by which we pray and mean 'your will be done' in OUR lives."**
7. Do we REALLY want to do God's will?
8. I love this quote from William L. Pettingill: "Most people don't want to know the will of God in order to do it; they seem to want to know it just in order to consider it!" *The Speaker's Quote Book*, p. 409
9. **Trans.:** As we utter these words from our lips, *your will be done*, there are four consequences for us to consider that we will uncover this morning.

I. We start by becoming Born-again conjoining our will with God's

1. Read **Matthew 6:9b-10**: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed..., your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"
2. How can you pray this prayer if you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
 1. Our eternal salvation is the result of two wills coming together in complete agreement
 2. It is God's will that every soul on earth come to Jesus – **II Peter 3:9**
 3. What remains is for us to open our heart to Jesus and join our will to God by conscious decision
3. This conjoining of our will and God's brings about some wonderful changes in us
 1. Once we believe and confess in Jesus as the Christ, place our faith in Him, repent and are born-again of the water and the Spirit something incredible happens – **II Corinthians 5:17**
 2. This is because our status has been changed as to whose eternal child we are – **John 1:12-13**
 3. The very words of Jesus make all this very clear – **John 3:3-6**
4. If you have never accepted Jesus, then you need to start here, but don't stop here, for:

II. Praying this points to our need for deliverance from our sinful nature

1. Read **Matthew 6:9b-10**: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed..., your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

2. God's will is for us to become more like Jesus in the way we live in this life right now
 1. We don't have to face this alone as we have the Bible and the Holy Spirit to assist us
 2. The Apostle Paul put it best – **Ephesians 4:22-24**
 3. Our Heavenly Father wants us to like Him as seen in Jesus: *Like Father like Son, us like them*
e.g. **Recount the old anti-smoking from the 70's: It ended with, "Like father, like son (as dad lit up). Think about it."**
3. Our holy, Heavenly Father sent His Son to save us all because He loves us! Let's become like Him!
4. So, change is a part of praying this prayer, but there is another consequence for us to uncover

III. We are agreeing to obedience to God just like the Angels

1. Read **Matthew 6:9b-10**: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed..., **your will be done on earth as it is in heaven**"
2. We need to get a feel for just how the angels respond to the Almighty God of the universe
 1. Read these scriptures with me – **Psalms 103:20** (angels obey), **Hebrews 1:14** (they go when sent)
 2. When angels act, things happen in this realm – **Daniel 6:21-22a**
 3. We know that angels have choice, for Satan choose to disobey
3. **On earth as it is in heaven** shows that the angels carry out the commands of God without question
 1. Clarke in his commentary (p. 778) says angels do this "with all zeal, diligence, love, delight & perseverance"
 2. As servants of the King of kings, we should seek nothing less than complete obedience
 3. Only our sinful nature and selfish desires stand in the way of doing this, so we must change!
4. The first three consequences point us to one that needs also to be made plain:

IV. Praying and living this out may bring a price in this life

1. Read **Matthew 6:9b-10**: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed..., **your will be done on earth as it is in heaven**"
2. If you are like me, as long as God does not want too much out of us, we don't mind doing His will
 1. But what about doing God's will when it hurts, when it might cost us something we enjoy now
 2. We only need to look at Jesus, the one we are to be like, for what we should do – **Luke 22:42-44**
 3. The will of God was about to lead Jesus to the cross and take on the sin of the world
3. **I have a good friend and brother in the Lord named Bill who had it all, including four beautiful daughters**
 1. He had a four bedroom home in an affluent area of St. Louis, a thriving cutting edge computer business
 2. Bill owned two airplanes & was a partner in two more: his one twin engine sat eight people plus luggage
 3. New cars ever couple of years, dream vacations, a great reputation: The American Dream
4. **The problems began when he began to pray this very prayer in his life: everything changed!**
 1. He sold the business, the planes, everything but his girls and wife; paid off the house and cars
 2. Bill then enrolled in a seminary as a freshmen in his mid-forties and now preaches in Indiana
5. Praying that prayer brought us to church planting in the Central Valley of California & Patterson

Conclusion:

1. Question: How are you doing at allowing God's will to be done in your life? I am getting better and feel the blessing of my Heavenly Father as a result even more.
2. Please join me at praying and seeking God like never before. Through the Holy Spirit, you will see new visions for how you can accomplish greater things for the Kingdom.
3. If you are not sure if you are a born-again Christian, you need to start by giving your life over to Jesus. It is simple and I would love to share God's plan with you. We can set up a time to meet.
4. If you are beyond that, then it is time for you to surrender more of your life to the King of kings.
5. That will be hard at first, but it gets easier with practice as you learn to say "NO" to your old nature.
6. Please come forward so we can pray together. Come forward now as we stand and sing.