



Our Father's Will

Matthew 6:10

Big Idea for the Series:

Prayerless praying is an empty, meaningless religious ritual unless it is done in the heart and will of God.

A prayerful heart and spirit ensure the communion necessary to know and discern the will and heart of God.

“Prayer is not trying to get God to agree with us or to provide for our selfish desires. Prayer is affirming God’s sovereignty, righteousness, and majesty and seeking to conform our desires and our purposes to His will and glory.”

– John MacArthur

Bottom Line: The real business of prayer is not getting what I want; it’s getting what God wants in Heaven done on earth.

The real tension in our study today is between God’s sovereignty and man’s will. If God is sovereign, then won’t His will inevitably be done anyway? And if so, why pray at all?

This leads us to prayerless praying or prayer avoidance. We either think praying is useless and offer superficial, faithless prayers, or we treat God like a cosmic vending machine in the sky.

All this goes away when we understand God’s kingdom and will. When we have this understanding, we can pray with efficient confidence as Jesus taught us.

Matthew 6:9-10, “This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name, **your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**”

Cheap Prayerless Praying

If you don't know God's will, don't pray. First, find out what God wants.

“On earth as it is in heaven” is a clue.

What about Timothy? (1 Timothy 5:23)

What about Paul? (2 Corinthians 12:7-8)

*“My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness.”
-- 2 Corinthians 12:9*

If God delays answering, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what's going on, and don't be passive.

Romans 8:26-27, “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.”

- Search your heart for idols.
- Search your heart for unresolved conflict and bitterness.
- Search your life for unconfessed sin.
- Search the Scripture.

Next Steps

- Memorize Matthew 6:10**
- Know God's Will Before You Pray**
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to Reveal God's Will**
- Search Your Heart & Search Scripture**
- Join Us Next Week for Part 3 – *The Lord's Prayer: Our Father Cares***