

# Thy Will Be Done

Sermon Series on the Lord's Prayer

Psalm 13 Romans 8:31-39 Matthew 6:25-34

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The **Lord's Prayer** is **Jesus' prayer** that He shares with us. It's a *model* prayer: it's a structure, format, and content for us to use in our own prayers to Our Father In Heaven. Today we are looking at the phrase, *Thy Will Be Done*.

But what is *God's Will*?

The Bible talks about God's Will in two different ways, and if you understand these two ways, then you will have a solid, Christ-centered, Scriptural based handle on "God's Will" in your life<sup>1</sup>.

The first is "*God's Revealed Will*". God's revealed Will is found in Holy Scripture, and is summed up quite nicely in these passages:

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 3:9

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. John 3:16-17

*God's Revealed Will* is **SALVATION IN CHRIST**. God sent His Son Jesus to be the Savior of the world.

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<sup>1</sup> It is important to remember that we can only teach and put our trust in what God's Word teaches us. When thinking about God's Will, be sure that speculation, wishful thinking, optimism or pessimism, or someone's opinion does not cloud the picture. Many people are left disillusioned when they think something was God's Will and it didn't turn out the way they had hoped. The two ways that we will discuss "God's Will" today will help you keep a solid, Scriptural perspective on this topic.

- ⇒ **In His life**, Jesus always **Hallowed God's Name** and glorified it in all He did. Jesus brought **God's Kingdom** into the world through His life, teaching and miracles.
- ⇒ **In His death** on the cross, Jesus suffered for you and for me. God unleashed the full fury of His wrath against sin --- including your sin --- on Jesus. God's Only-Begotten Son suffered and died on the cross for all people. He was there for you, in your place. On the Third Day, Jesus rose from the dead, and God announced the forgiveness of sins to all people.

**God's Revealed Will** is that all people believe in Jesus as their Savior, and live with Him forever in the Kingdom of Heaven. **God does not want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

**God's Revealed Will** for you is that you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in His name.

**God's Revealed Will** is 100% clear: **God does not want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

The harder part of understanding “**God's Will**” is to understand “**God's Hidden Will**”. **In short, God doesn't tell us everything we want to know...** especially why we have to suffer the various things that happen to us. **God works in mysterious ways**, His ways are beyond our understanding.

I am sure you have wondered why ‘this or that’ happened in your life? We have all prayed, “Why is this happening?” God doesn't answer those “why” questions for us; it's part of His **Hidden Will**. What we do know though is that for the Christian, suffering is **not a bad thing**; it is part of God's good and gracious Will for you.

When you consider **God's Hidden Will**, including those times when you are going through pain and suffering, including all the twists and turns in your life, God wants you to trust Him; He is your Father in Heaven who loves and cares about you; He is using His power and authority for good in your life. Each day, **remain faithful**. No matter what happens, **remain faithful**. The Bible teaches us to **patiently endure** trials and burdens in our lives, knowing that our lives are in the Our Father's hands.

Jesus in the **Garden of Gethsemane** is the prime example of this. Three times Jesus prayed *“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.”* God’s Will was that Jesus was to be rejected, to suffer, and to die --- on the cross, for the sins of the world. Jesus **remained faithful**. He **patiently endured**. **HE TRUSTED HIS FATHER IN HEAVEN**, and on the Third Day, He rose from the dead! God the Father was at work for good in Jesus’ suffering and death.

**When you consider God’s Hidden Will in your life, simply trust your Father in Heaven is at work for good in your pain and suffering.**

**That’s it! Go no further! Trust your Father in Heaven!  
Cling to His Promises! Remain faithful! Patiently endure!<sup>2</sup>**

We live in a broken world that brings all sorts of trouble, pain and suffering. As Christians, we are not exempt from the pain, suffering or trials. Some of it is severe, some of it is long term, some of it includes people we are very close to. The reason why we suffer is not revealed to us ... it is “hidden” from us. *We learn from Jesus though that in times of suffering, we trust our Father in Heaven to work all things for good and that He will to guide, strengthen, and comfort us.*

**THE THIRD PETITION** Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

*What does this mean?*

The good and gracious will of God is certainly done without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done also among us.

*How is God’s will done?*

God’s will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will, which would not let us hallow His name nor let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world and our own flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith until our end. This is His good and gracious will.

Look at the end part one more time:

God’s Will is done when He ...  
strengthens and keeps us steadfast  
in His Word and in faith until our end.  
This is His good and gracious Will.

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<sup>2</sup> These are called “Gospel Imperatives” – on your own, you cannot do these things; but in Christ, through His Word, and with the power of the Spirit, you can do these things as you live as a disciple of Christ! They are motivated and driven by the Gospel.

No matter what happens in your life, know, believe, and pray **“Thy Will Be Done”** -  
- It is a bold and confident confession of faith in the Father’s care for you.

- God's Will is not to torment you or hurt you
- God's Will isn't to plague you with doubt or despair.
- God’s Will is not to punish you for your sins – Jesus was already punished for you on the cross.
- God's Will is not that you live in fear and worry

God’s Will is to strengthen you  
and keep you firm in His Word and faithful to Him  
one day at a time.

Remember, in the Lord’s Prayer, you are talking to your Father in Heaven; and you know Who your **Heavenly Father** is: you **hallow His Name**, you pray for **His Kingdom to come**, you know Him as a **loving and kind**; You know that He is your **refuge and strength**, an ever present help in times of trouble. You know that **He watches over your life**; You know that Your Father in Heaven **knows and cares** about the smallest detail of your life<sup>3</sup>.

So when you pray, **“THY WILL BE DONE!”**, you **are committing yourself, your body and soul and all things, into your Heavenly Father’s hands**. When you pray, **“THY WILL BE DONE!”**, you are saying, *“O Lord, strengthen me and keep me steadfast in Your Word and faith until I die.”* No matter what your cross may be --- health issues, family trouble, financial worries, work problems, or the fear of the unknown --- whatever your cross might be, **trust in your Heavenly Father’s care for you! That’s faith!** That is **“THY WILL BE DONE!”**

You can view God's will in two ways: His Revealed Will is that **He does not want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance**. His Hidden Will is mysterious and unknown. We don’t always know why things happen in our lives. Rather than revealing those things to us, the Lord strengthens us to trust Him and remain faithful to Him no matter what happens. For His Revealed Will; and His Hidden Will, we pray, **Thy Will Be Done!** Amen!

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<sup>3</sup> This paragraph is a summary of many comforting and powerful Bible verses, such as: Psalm 46, Psalm 121, Matthew 6:25ff. See the separate sheet “Promises of God's Care” for more verses and promises to help you remain faithful and patiently endure anything that might happen in your life.



# A Catena of Gods Care

The LORD is good, He is a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him    Nahum 1:7

Cast all your cares on the Lord, because He cares for you.    1 Peter 5:7

The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.    Psalm 121:7-8

Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.”    Psalm 16:1-2

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.    Philippians 4:6-7

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and heals those crushed in spirit.    Psalm 34:18

The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?    Psalm 27:1

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.    Psalm 121:1-2

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.    Romans 8:28

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”    Matthew 11:28

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”    Psalm 50:15

## Catena Of God’s Care

**Watch over your life**

Psalm 121

**Defend you from all evil**

Psalm 97:10

**Provide your daily bread**

Matthew 6:11

**Make all things work for good in your life**

Romans 8:28

**Listen to and answer your prayers**

Psalm 5:3

**Strengthen you when you are weak**

Isaiah 41:10

**Comfort you when you mourn**

Psalm 34:18

**Guide and direct every step of your life**

Proverbs 3:5-6

**Give you His Holy Spirit**

Luke 11:13

**Empower you for godly living**

Romans 8:11

**Assure you of His love and forgiveness**

Hebrews 10:22

**Give you hope, peace and security each day**

Psalm 62:1-2

**God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever present help in times of trouble!**

Psalm 46:1

# Catena on Peace

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:27

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philipians 4:6-7

“I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.” Psalm 4:8

Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Isaiah 26:3

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all

creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans

8:38-39

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul;  
your best, your heav'nly Friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

**Be Still, My Soul**

Author: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel, 1697-1752  
Translator: Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-97  
Tune: FINLANDIA

# Thoughts on Peace

This is Sanctification: Peace in daily Christian living  
Peace with God is guaranteed! (Romans 5:1)

**Not the absence of problems, pain or suffering, but . . .**

Trust in God's Promises

Confidence in God's Care  
(God has allowed troubles to come to you)

Conviction of God's work in your life

Assurance of Father's love

Certainty of the Lord's watchfulness

Living with a Calm Spirit

Having stability in mind, spirit, and life  
(combating fear, worry, panic)

Patiently Enduring all things

Prayer brings Peace

Knowledge of God's Presence and Power

Hope in Resurrection of dead  
and the life everlasting

Peace is a Fruit of the Holy Spirit  
and not a feeling you create

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God the Father in Heaven we thank you for your love and care for us. Send your Holy Spirit so that we may rightly pray, “Thy Will be done.” Deepen our faith in your Son Jesus as our Savior, so that we may always rejoice in the forgiveness of our sins. Teach us to trust in You and to rely on Your promises as we live each day. Strengthen us through Your Word so that we may patiently endure and remain faithful to You in difficult times. Lord we are dependent on You for all good things, and we turn to you in times of trouble as we pray “Thy Will be done.” We pray these things in Jesus’ Name Amen.

## Psalm 13

- 1 How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts  
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?  
How long will my enemy triumph over me?
- 3 Look on me and answer, Lord my God.  
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
- 4 and my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,”  
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.
- 5 But I trust in your unfailing love;  
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
- 6 I will sing the Lord’s praise,  
for he has been good to me.



## **Romans 8:31-39**

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Matthew 6:25-34**

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? 28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.