

Sunday, October 04, 2020

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Your Will Be Done, on Earth as It Is on Heaven

Matthew 6:5-15

Jesus told us to pray 'Your Will Be Done,' and one excruciating night He prayed it also.

Review from last week: "Your Kingdom Come."

- Is "Your Will Be Done" saying the same thing? No.

From the Westminster Shorter Catechism:

Q. 103. What do we pray for in the third petition [of the Lord's Prayer]?

A. In the third petition, which is, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven, we pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

God's Will Be Done? Here are examples of what the "will of God" is in the New Testament:

- "For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother." (Mark 3:35)
- "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality..." (1 Thessalonians 4:3)
- "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- "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)
- See also 1 Peter 2:15, 1 Peter 4:2, and Eph 6:6

These are examples of the ethical/preceptive will of God—what God would have us do/be!

How we appropriately say: "Your will be done"

(1) Passively

- Submitting to the Lord's will – even if that involves suffering.
 - Gethsemane!
- *What keeps you from doing this?*

(2) Actively

- Marching to the Lord's orders – even if that involves setting our priorities aside.
 - Again, Gethsemane!
- *What keeps you from doing this?*

Question: is there really a difference between passively and actively doing God's will?

Final thoughts

Questions for Reflection/Application

Give an example of how you can say "Your will be done" with your life:

1. A passive example: Do you need to accept a calling you would not have chosen? Or circumstances beyond your control?
2. An active example: Do you need to pursue His will or choose to actively obey? Or do you need to flee temptation?