

BIBLE STUDIES ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6 vs 9 to 13

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Part 6.

THE WILL OF GOD

“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”. This latter part of verse 10 is what we shall be considering next in this series on the ‘Lords Prayer’. In the last study we looked at the words “Thy Kingdom come”. In continuing to observe the petitions set forth in this prayer there is a natural progression that takes place as it is studied. For God’s Kingdom to come and be established on the earth, His will has to be done.

The implementation of God’s will on earth is the most important matter we shall ever be faced with. To pray “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” is requesting that the ultimate goal of God, which is achieved and done absolutely in heaven, will also be done on earth. For this to be done necessitates a complete and total surrender to all that God decrees. Therefore, before these words are prayed, consideration should be given to what is actually being requested, for unless there is a willingness to submit to what God’s will is, it is far better to refrain from a petition which contains anything relating to the will of God.

There are a number of verses in the Bible which contain the word ‘Will’ and the word ‘Will’ in scripture is related to God; to Jesus; to the Holy Spirit; and also to ourselves. A brief look at the O.T. and the N.T. will highlight some of the verses in relation to the statement I have made in this paragraph.

‘**THE WILL OF GOD**’ is referred to in the following verses.

Mark 3 v 35: “For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother”.

Romans 8 v 27: And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Acts 13:36: For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

Rom 1:10: Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

Rom 12:2: And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Rom 15:32: That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with

you be refreshed.

The Words 'Will of God' occurs 23 times in the N.T.

'WILL OF MY FATHER' is referred to in

Matt 7 v 21: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matt 12 v 50: For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

'THY WILL' is to be found in the following verses

Ps 40:8: I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Ps 143:10: Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

Mat 6:10: Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Mat 26:42: He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if

this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

Heb 10:7: Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Heb 10:9: Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

'HIS WILL' is mentioned in

Jn 7:17: If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

Jn 9:31: Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

Acts 22:14: And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just

One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

Eph 1:5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.

Eph 1:9: Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself

Col 1:9: For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

Heb 13:21: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will,

working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1Jn 5:14: And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.

When reference is made to 'Thy Will' in the K.J. you will find that in the N.I.V. the words are 'Your Will'

To pray as we do that the will of God be done on earth, is making a request concerning something we know, which is already being carried out in heaven. Heaven is the place where the perfect will of God is being done. Earth is the place, which was designed for it to be carried out. To pray 'Thy will be done on earth as in heaven' shows there is a place where the will of God is being done, and a place where it is not.

The scriptures contain many references to the word 'Will'. We shall consider some of these as follows. There is:

1. THE WILL OF GOD PREDESTINATED

Romans 8 vs 28-30: says

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified”.

It has to be stated very clearly that God knows all things, and is never taken by surprise when something happens which intervenes and disrupts His plans. Because of His foreknowledge God can see an event or an occurrence before it takes place. Eph 1 v 4: says “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love”. The fall of man did not take God by surprise, He was already aware of what man would do and so predestined His purpose so that His will would ultimately be carried out on earth as in heaven.

2. THE WILL OF GOD PROMISED

Titus 2 v 1: “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus”. In a number of Paul’s letters he refers to the will of God. Writing to the Galatians he states that he is an apostle not through the instrumentality of any man, but by the will of God, similar references to this are made at the beginning of some of his other letters.

3. THE WILL OF GOD PERFECT

Romans 12 v 2: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”.

There are quite a number of people who are always seeking to find out what the will of God is for their lives. It can be stated quite clearly from scripture that the will of God for every believer is seen in these verses from Romans 12 vs 1 & 2. It is possible to live a life, knowing that it meets with the approval of God, this is what Paul’s message is conveying to us in these verses. There are blessings that are experienced by knowing you are doing God’s will. If the command stated by Paul is carried out, then the automatic sequence to it is that individuals will experience the ‘Peace of God’ which will result in a life of godliness, and then by living a life of godliness there is great gain in all areas of one’s life.

4. THE WILL OF GOD PIN-POINTED

Col 1 v 9 & 10: “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. That you might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God”.

The words ‘filled with the knowledge of His will’ are important because of the Greek word used here for ‘Knowledge’. Two words can be used to express knowledge in Greek, one is Gnosis. The other is Epignosis. Both relate to knowledge, but to knowledge with a different scope.

Gnosis is used in relation to ‘General knowledge’. Epignosis to ‘Specific knowledge’. Paul says that it is possible to have specific knowledge of God’s Will. It means that there can be recognition of and full discernment regarding the will of God. Further, Paul writes in 1 Thess 5 v 14 to 23:

14 “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

We are without excuse for not fulfilling God’s will on earth when it is set out so clearly for us.

5. THE WILL OF GOD PURPOSED

Eph 1 v 9 & 10: “Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself. That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him”.

6. THE WILL OF GOD A PLEASURE

Eph 1 v 3 to 5: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love. Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will”.