

Your Will Be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven

Jason A. Graham: The Disciples' Prayer Series

Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV) ⁹In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

This prayer, taught to the Disciples by Jesus, can lead us into revelation about God and about ourselves.

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Your Will Be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven

- Reveals God's Mind
- Reveals God's Desire for Earth

On Earth as it is in Heaven

How is God's will done in Heaven? What is Heaven?

If you remember from the lesson on "In Heaven," Heaven is God's throne. It is the center of His government and authority. Everything In Heaven operates perfectly under the laws of God's Kingdom.

In Heaven there is:

- No Sickness
- No Pain
- No Sin
- No Fear
- No Darkness
- No Evil, etc.
- Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control

So ultimately, God's Will being done on earth as it is in heaven is the same as His Kingdom being established on the earth—His authority having free reign. I also want to share with you a few more ideas about God's Will by answering 3 questions:

1. Why should we Know God's Will?
2. How can we Know God's Will?
3. What are some major points of God's Revealed Will?
 - I would not pretend to be able to reveal to you the fullness of God's Will.
 - It is His job to teach us all that, and we will learn how to obtain it under question #2.

Why Should We Know God's Will?

Here are 5 Good Reasons:

1. We were Chosen for it:

Acts 22:14 (NIV)

"Then he said: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth.'"

- Just like Paul, in this Scripture, I believe that We were Chosen for the Purpose of:
 - Knowing His Will
 - Seeing Christ—the Righteous One
 - Hearing Words from His Mouth

2. For Spiritual Formation:

Colossians 1:9-12 (NIV)

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

- This Apostolic Prayer shows that we need to Know God's Will:
 - Through (or by the way of):
 - Spiritual wisdom
 - Understanding
 - Which is why we also pray:

Ephesians 1:17-19 (NKJV)

¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

- In order that:
 - We may live a life worthy of the Lord
 - We may please Him in every way
 - We please Him in every way By:
 - Bearing fruit in every good work
 - Growing in the Knowledge of God

- Being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might
 - So That:
 - You may have great endurance
 - Great patience
 - And Joyfully give thanks to the Father
- So, by knowing His Will We are led through this progression of Spiritual Formation:
 - We live a life worthy of the Lord
 - We please Him in every way
 - We bear fruit in every good work
 - We grow in the Knowledge of God
 - And to Know Him is Eternal Life (John 17:3, I John 5:20)
 - We are strengthened with all power according to His glorious might
 - We develop great endurance
 - And He who endures to the end shall be saved (Matthew 10:22, Matthew 24:13, Mark 13:13)
 - We develop great patience
 - Which makes us Complete in God (James 1:2-4)
 - We develop a Joyful Thankfulness to God
 - Which keeps us in His presence (Psalm 100)

3. Because We Establish His Will Through Prayer:

Many people assume that if it is God's will, then it will automatically happen. However, according to scripture this is not the case. In the Bible, there are times that God desired to do something or desired not to do something that justice demanded, but couldn't act according to His own will unless a man on earth would agree with Him through prayer and intercession. God's will was even changed in the Bible through the prayers of men, but always (to my knowledge) when it was an appeal toward mercy—not if men asked God to act unjustly or unmercifully. I will not spend a lot of time on this subject now because I will cover it in depth in the lesson on the final word of The Disciples' Prayer: Amen.

a. For now, in short:

As described by Richard Foster in his book The Celebration of Discipline, one of the major misconceptions that defeat the work of prayer is the idea that we live in a closed universe. We do not.

- i. Everything that happens is NOT because it is God's will; otherwise, there would be no sin.
- ii. Everything that God desires to happen does NOT happen:

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV) 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.
- iii. Our prayers can and do change things because God views us as his "fellow workers":

1 Corinthians 3:9 (NIV) For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.
- iv. God looks for men to intercede so that he can perform His own will:

Ezekiel 22:30 (NIV) "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.

4. Because it is how Jesus counts us as part of His family.

Mark 3:35 (NIV)

Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.

5. Because All People are expected by God to Know and Do His Will.

Luke 12:40-48 (NIV)

⁴⁰You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." ⁴¹Peter asked, "Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?" ⁴²The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? ⁴³It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. ⁴⁴I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁵But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. ⁴⁶The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷"That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. ⁴⁸But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

- Those who know His will and do not follow it will be assigned a place with the unbelievers—or those who chose not to know His will.
- Both will be punished because they are expected to Know and Do HIS WILL.
- God will not wink at (or overlook) ignorance in the day of judgment.
 - **Acts 17:30-31 (NIV)**
³⁰In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."
- If we don't know His will, then how can we do it?
- If we don't do His will, then we will not receive the promise of Jesus finding pleasure in us when He returns because we will be drawing back from Him as the day approaches.
 - **Hebrews 10:35-39 (NKJV)**
³⁵Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ³⁷"For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. ³⁸Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." ³⁹But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.
- If we draw back, then God will have no pleasure in us and we will be destroyed (to perdition means to destruction).
 - **1 John 2:17 (NIV)**
 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

How Do We Know God's Will?

At least 3 Major Ways:

1. Through the teachings of the Word

John 7:16-18 (NIV)

¹⁶Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. ¹⁷If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. ¹⁸He who

speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

- If we will do God’s Will, then we will learn what Jesus taught and do it.
- Therefore, the best way to know His will is to read His word.
 - What He said personally and what He said through others in scripture.

2. By Being Living Sacrifices:

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- As we lay our lives before Him in Self-Sacrifice
 - Dying to our own Desires, Motives, Ambitions, Lusts, Plans, etc.
 - Becoming servants to others
 - Putting God before everything
- Then we are able to be transformed by Renewing our minds
- Then we are able to distinguish what God’s will is, because He will reveal it to us.
 - His will is good, acceptable, and perfect.
 - He does not have three different Wills.
 - There is no such thing as His “permissive will”
 - We are either in His Will or Not.
 - We may be out of His Will while He is still extending grace and mercy to us in patience as we learn, change, and grow in Him, but we are still out of His will.
 - God doesn’t have more than One will.
 - He never needs a Plan B.
 - I think what confuses a lot of people about this, and leads to the belief that God has a “permissive will,” is because of the fact that God always still “works for the good of those who love him” in all circumstances.

Romans 8:26-30 (NIV) ²⁶In 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. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. ²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

3. By Being Friends of Jesus

Jesus calls us friends because he has made God’s will known to us, and doing His will makes us His friends.

John 15:12-17 (NIV) ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you

and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

So, we find God's will primarily by reading His Words, finding the Voice of Jesus, presenting ourselves as sacrifices to Him so that He can reveal His Will even deeper to us, and ultimately by being His friends.

What are some major points of God's Revealed Will?

Here are 5 Major Points of God's Revealed Will through the Bible:

1. To Reconcile Men to God

Citizens in Heaven...Ambassadors on Earth

Ephesians 2:6-13 (NIV)

⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. ¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)--¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

Philippians 3:20 (NIV)

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ

- We are asking for His will to be done Here, where we are, as it is in Heaven where He is.
 - However, we are also in Heaven
 - We are seated in Heaven in Christ
 - We are Citizens of Heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (NIV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- We are Christ's Ambassadors—ambassadors of the Kingdom that we Represent IN HEAVEN
 - An ambassador is someone who acts and speaks on behalf of another
 - We are Citizens of Heaven
 - We live on earth
 - We represent Jesus here
 - We have been made ambassadors for the purpose of Reconciling Men to God.

2. That None Should Perish

This point goes hand in hand with reconciling men to God.

John 3:16-18 (NIV)

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- What is God's Will? That no one would perish
- Why? Because He loves the world so much.

3. Our Sanctification

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (NIV)

¹Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ²For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. ³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; ⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. ⁷For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

- This scripture teaches us that God's will does not cease at salvation.
 - He desires our Sanctification
 - This means that He desires us to be Set Apart and Different from the rest of the world.
 - This is a process—we should be growing toward being more and more like Jesus every day through the refining process that God takes us through.
 - If we are unrepentant and are choosing to make an unholy life our practice, then we will have no inheritance in the Kingdom of God.

4. The Restoration and Oneness of All Things

Acts 3:21 (NIV)

²¹He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

- God's ultimate plan leads to the restoration of ALL THINGS (even nature—Romans 8:18-22).

Ephesians 1:3-12 (NIV)

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in

his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ [OR INTO ONE IN CHRIST]. ¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

- At the time of the Restoration of All Things God will fulfill His GOOD PLEASURE AND WILL by making everything come together in One in Christ Jesus.

5. That we develop Thankful Hearts

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

- This ensures that we stay in God's presence (Psalm 100)
 - What better place to sit at His feet and learn what his will is by hearing his voice?
- It allows us to display God's Character more and more
- It also allows us to fight against the temptation to be grumblers and complainers, which is evil and develops a bitter spirit.

Philippians 2:14-15 (NIV) ¹⁴ Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe

In Summary

- The phrase "on earth as it is in Heaven" reveals that God wants Earth to be fully ruled by His Kingdom Authority just like Heaven is. Heaven is His Throne—or the center of His Government.
- Why Should We Know God's Will?
 - We were chosen for it.
 - For Spiritual Formation
 - Because we establish His will through prayer
 - Because it is how Jesus counts us as part of His family
 - Because all people are expected by God to know and do His will.
- How do we Know God's Will?
 - Through the teachings of the Word
 - Through becoming Living Sacrifices
- What are some major points of God's Revealed Will?
 - To Reconcile Men to God
 - That None Should Perish
 - Our Sanctification
 - The Restoration and Oneness of All Things
 - That we develop Thankful Hearts