

Thy Will Be Done

Good morning, church family. Would you bow with me, oh, Father? Our Father, we have, as 2 Corinthians 8 says, given ourselves to you because you have willed it to be so. It's amazing, Father, that we are in Christ because you have willed it to be so. You have blessed us in Him, chosen us, predestined us, adopted us, blotted out our sins, given us grace upon grace in Christ, according to the good, pleasure your will.

So, Father, it is safe for us to pray. Our Father who is in heaven, your will be done. We ask it now in Christ. Amen. Amen.

All right. Well, we are in Matthew's gospel, chapter six, looking specifically at verse 10. We will be giving attention to verses nine and 10 this morning, as you might remember the context for the Lord's Prayer. He's been telling us that our Father, who is in heaven, our Father, who sees us in secret, knows what we need before we even ask Him. We have this wonderful comfort and joy to come seek an audience with our King, with our Father in private and say, oh, you already knew.

And this prayer that Jesus gives us to pray, it's a liberating prayer. It's a freeing prayer. It's. It's a prayer that we could just throw before the Lord, carefree almost, because He already knows everything we need.

Isaiah 65 says, My chosen ones will not toil in vain. My chosen ones will not toil in prayer in vain. Before they call, I will answer while they're still speaking. You think of examples of this from Scripture. The ram was stuck in the thicket as Abraham raised His blade.

Gabriel was sent. The instant Daniel prayed far away from home, was still the prodigal when the Father tackled Him. Peter cannot pay the temple tax, and the coin is already there in the fish's mouth, ready to be caught. They pray for Peter's release from prison. He's already out the door.

They think He's a ghost. The disciples catch nothing all night. And Jesus already has breakfast on the shore. Why? Because your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

I'll never, ever forget the day as long as I live. I'm in seminary. I owe \$1,200 for tuition. It may as well be \$12 trillion. I'm 22 years old.

I'm so poor, I can't even pay attention. Okay, so I walk to my office, which was way, way back in the church property, and I prayed. It was a simple prayer, but it was heartfelt. I was at a crisis. I prayed.

Father, I was certain that you had called me to ministry. I was certain that you wanted me to go be trained at seminary, but I know enough of you by now in your word to know that if something

is in fact your will, you will provide for it, and if not, you won't. And it was really hard for me to choke these words out, but I said them and I meant them. I said, your will be done.

I immediately. Some of you might think I'm exaggerating. I'm not. I immediately walked out of my office and then walked to the main office at the front of the church property, had a meeting or something. And on my way to that meeting, I just by force of habit, pulled out all my mail from my mailbox that was there at the front desk.

Just sort of mindlessly thumbing through the mail. Usually it was not stuff that I really had to pay attention to, but one envelope was addressed from Evelyn Reimer, a sweet, quaint saint in the church. I never had so much as a conversation with her that I can remember. I don't know that anyone had. She was so meek and so sweet and so quiet.

But this note, she informed me that her aunt had just passed away and had given her just a small amount of money. And she said, I asked God how I should use this money, and you just kept coming to mind. I hope this helps. And it was a check for \$1,300, \$100 more than I needed. That check, with everything I needed for tuition and books, was sitting in my box while I was praying in my office.

I'll never forget that now, not all the time is it. Sparkles and fireworks. God does that at times to minister in unique ways to our heart, maybe to secure something that we're doubting. Usually the most amazing thing that we get to enjoy is just God's ongoing, second by second providence. He's doing that all the time.

The fireworks and the sparklers are going off all the time. If we just had eyes to see them. But occasionally one just pops and we notice it and don't forget it. Why was that check in my box while I was praying? Because my Father loves me.

My Father knows what I need before I ask Him. I love Him because He hears my voice and He hears my supplications. And if you are in Christ this morning, your Father is my father. My Father is your father. He knows you.

Consequently, Jesus says, because of this, because your Father knows you. Verses 9 and 10. Pray then in this way. Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. Now, something stunned me in the Greek this week.

I just had a few words. So I got a look at each of the Greek words and it blew my mind. I'm. I'm not going to bore you by being a geek up here, but I do want you to understand something. Those words in this way, pray in this way.

Those are the first words in the Greek manuscript. And it's just one word in Greek, okay? And that one word in Greek always attaches to another word in Greek, which we find in the last line of verse 10, where it says, not on earth as it is in heaven, but technically as in heaven, so also on

earth, or as in heaven, also upon earth. So the attachment blew my mind. I had never noticed this before, and it drew my attention to something.

First of all, the word it isn't there. We're doing our best to translate from Greek to English. You have to do that. Any translation is an interpretation, but the word it referring to God's will is not there in verse 10. So it doesn't seem like Jesus is specifically saying, your will be done on earth as it your will is done in heaven.

It seems maybe more likely that Jesus refers to the entirety of the prayer as being the way that we pray in heaven. We should also pray on earth. In other words, Jesus is saying this in this way. You all should keep praying on earth in this way. What way?

The way people pray in heaven. The way you'll pray in heaven. You should pray heavenly prayers here on earth. If you were right there in front of my Father, this is how you ought to pray. And that's not just metaphorical.

That's not just an as if hypothetical. That's the reality. As we read Ephesians 1 and 2 and Colossians 3 where it says, you are in Christ, you are alive in Christ, you are raised in Christ, you are enthroned in Christ in the heavenly places. Keep seeking the things above where Christ is at this moment in seated at the right hand of God. Where you find Him, you find yourself.

So keep praying in Christ at the right hand of God. Keep praying as one enthroned just to the right of the Father.

Do you pray that way? Do you think that way? Does your mind. Do the thoughts of your heart go past the clouds into the throne room to hear God's desires to become immediate decrees carried out in the heavenlies? Is that how you pray?

That you could just lean over to your Father and just whisper, and He would lean and incline His ear and hear do you pray this way? This is the way that Jesus is presenting to us, to pray. He's saying, pray in this way.

Our Father.

I had another thought as I was preparing this week. Do only adult Christians glorify Christ? Do only adult Christians, us who have kind of learned manners and etiquette, do only we imitate Christ? Or is there something, is there something in saved children that uniquely demonstrates something about Jesus that maybe us adults grow out of over time? I couldn't help but read Jesus prayer in John 17, and it made me think of how stoked children are for show and tell.

Could be in our minds as adults, the silliest thing in the world that they want to share. But boy, they want people to notice their begging. You can so and so come over tonight to stay the night. I want them to see this new thing or whatever, think that children may reflect Jesus a little bit more in what I'm about to Read here. John 12, 14, 17.

Jesus says, Where I am, there my servant will be also.

If anyone serves me, the Father will honor Him. I will come again and take you to myself, so you will be where I am now.

He prays father, glorify me with yourself. I have revealed your name to the men you gave me. They are yours. I have been glorified in them. You in me, I in you.

They in us, perfect in unity. The whole world will know. You love them as you love me. Father, I want the ones you've given me to be with me, to see my glory as the one you've loved, loved before time began. You hear the.

The sweet childlikeness, the enthusiasm. Oh, Father, I want them to be at my place to see how much you love me. To see how much you love them. To see the glory of it all.

Now, I always put that out in the future, and I fail to appreciate what Paul says. You have died and your life has been hidden with Christ in God. I'm with Him where He is. There's something now that I experience of His glory that I did not experience before His ascension. Now I pray your kingdom come your will.

Do it as if I'm in the throne room, as if I'm at the Father's right hand in Christ. Don't stop praying that way. Look for Christ. Where is He? There you are.

Pray. Pray as if you're at the Father's right hand. Pray and keep praying as if you're just to the right of the Father. Pray boldly. Pray freely.

Pray whatever you want in God's will, whatever you want in Jesus. Name. You there, Father, High King of Heaven, your name. Let it be as holy on earth as it is holy, holy, holy. Shouted aloud by the seraphim around your throne.

And here in heaven, your kingdom, O Father. Bring your kingdom of heaven to earth. Your will, O Father. Do it like heaven, like earth. Like father, like son.

Ephesians 5 helps us because as soon as God's will comes up, everyone gets in this weird mess. Christians just get paralyzed. What's God's will for my life? I don't know. How do I know God's will?

Oh, my goodness. We waste so much time, energy and emotion on things that we should never pay any mind. Listen to this. Ephesians 5. Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Okay, foolish. Understand the will of the Lord. You mean I can understand the will of the Lord? Yep. You mean I should understand the will of the Lord?

Yep. You mean if I don't understand the will of the Lord, I'm a fool? Yep. How do I understand the will of the Lord? Well, many Christians sadly go in the wrong direction here.

And we're going to hopefully let the Lord correct that for us. Scripture is our portal into glory. God's word is like a mirror that we lay here on the table in front of us, and it reflects the heavens to us. We hear God's desires issued in decrees.

Clearly, Psalm 115 says, not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory. Because of your loving kindness, because of your faithfulness, because of your truth. Our God is in the heavens. He does whatever He pleases. Whatever the Lord pleases, He does in heaven and on earth and in the seas and in all deeps.

So why in the world would we pray your will be done? He's doing it anyway. You see, we need to look at God's will from two vantage. God's and then our own. Look at the will of God from God's vantage point.

We just heard it. God does all that pleases God all the time, everywhere. Look at God's will from our vantage point. We do not.

You see.

You see, Providence is like a grandfather clock. Providence is just a fancy word, means God's sovereignty, that He's in control of every little detail of the universe, that He's working all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. Providence is how that works out in history. We actually are watching Providence this very instant. This is God's sovereignty, writing time.

We're watching every second of Our life, we're watching God's providence work itself out. And God's providence is like a grandfather clock. Have you ever seen a grandfather clock or a tower clock? And all the mechanisms working inside, the gears rotating, some clockwise, some counterclockwise, the hammer swinging and banging, the sounds and everything working together this fine machine. Well, the hidden will of God, click, click, click, appears to be rotating one direction like a gear.

And the revealed will of God, click, click, click, appears oftentimes to be rotating in the opposite direction. And we, and we say those things are contrary. How can those things both be true? But if you're looking at a clock, no one would be questioning that. It's all clearly contributing to the end goal.

It's all clearly within God's total sovereign supreme will. The problem is that Christians occupy themselves wasting their life praying over God's secret will, when what they should be praying is completely consumed with God's revealed will in His Word. You see things like this. God desires that no one ever murder. And yet He decrees that Christ be murdered for the salvation of sinners.

Only fools would look at that and conclude that God therefore delights in murder. So we should sin it up. Because God's sovereign, He's sovereign over it. You know, there's even, I think there's born again really blood bought Christians who fall into that kind of hyper sovereignty thinking where they remove responsibility from themselves. Well, God's sovereign over this.

He's not helping me with this. He's not removing the temptation. So here I sit to the glory of God's sovereignty.

Deuteronomy 29 says the secret things. The secret things belong to Yahweh, our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever. That we may do all the words of this law. You hear that you are not supposed to know God's secret will. That's why it's called a secret.

But the things that He has revealed in His Word is so that you could carry out His will by doing what's written in His Word. That's where it's revealed. You think of Job. Job suffers unimaginably at Satan's hand. And He's totally ignorant of all the heavenly secret will of God, all the heavenly drama.

Yet Job one and two says in all this, Job did not sin, not even with His lips.

I pray that the same testimony would be said of us, that we wouldn't justify disobedience here on earth. Wondering what God's secret will is in heaven. It's amazing. All the time and the energy we waste praying for God's secret will and ignoring God's stated will. God has never told us we're going to know His secret will and yet we sit there and go, oh God, what's your will?

What's your will like? Stop it. For crying out loud. It's secret and I want to know today. I want to bring it home into our lives because we do this so much, Christians and our contentment, our gladness, our joy in the Lord, our usefulness to the Lord, our blessing to one another, our own enjoyment of the Lord is going to boom if we get this.

Where are you currently justifying sin? Let's just call it what it is. Disobeying God's clear will in His word while blaming God's concealed will. That you don't know.

Let me illustrate this.

This is how we talk when we're disobeying God's clear will and blaming it on God's concealed will. Yeah, I know, I was really mean to that person. But maybe God wanted to give them a wake up call. See, it's ignoring what God commands of me and then saying, but maybe God's secret will is that He wanted to use that.

I know, I know that this guy, this girl, they're not challenging me to grow in Christ. They're not going to challenge me to grow in Christ. But maybe, maybe God will use me in their life, in their relationship, in the dating relationship.

That's a common one.

I know, I know this job is unethical, but look how much God's financially blessing our home. Isn't that a sign of His favor? I know, I know I'm not serving the church, but maybe God wants me to work on myself right now. I know, I know, I know, I know this habit is sinful. But maybe God wants to teach me more through the struggle with it than the victory over it.

I know, I know God commands me to forgive, but maybe God is helping me form boundaries in my life.

I know, I know, I know. But maybe, maybe, maybe this is not what scripture teaches. Romans 12 comes right up against that and says, do not be conformed to this age. Or how the people on your little phone and speak and coach you to think. Do not be conformed to this age and how worldly.

Think, but be transformed. Be transformed. Let God transform you by the renewing of your mind so that you may recognize and approve and applaud what the will of God is, what is good and pleasing and perfect. Do you want to know God's will? Know God's word, period.

It's so simple. And what is our Father's will? What does our Father want? What does He desire? What will He do?

What does He want us to pray? Well, I found 10 here in the Lord's Prayer. First, our Father wills. He wants that we know that He is our Father. Your Father's will is that you know that He is your Father.

So pray in this heavenly way. Our Father, the King of heaven, the King of all creation, longs for you to know that He is your Father and that your Father loves you. Jesus is going to say, Matthew 7. He only gives what is good to His asking children, and all to His asking children. Matthew 21.

Would the father of a repenting prostitute refuse you?

Matthew 23. He is so proud to be your father. He's so proud that you are His child that Jesus literally says, you know what? Stop calling men on earth your Father. Don't call any man on earth your father.

You have only one Father, and He's in heaven. I mean, it's as if. It's as if the Father so loves you, is so committed to your good. His affections abound to you so much, not out of a neediness, but out of an overflow. He's like, you know, I'm kind of jealous of your earthly father.

Call me your father. That guy, He stinks. All of them stink. I love Him. I love Him.

They stink. I'm a good father.

Isaiah 63 and 64 says, you are our Father. You, O Yahweh, are our Father now. O Yahweh, you are our Father. Listen to how Jesus prays. They are yours, Father.

I have been glorified in them. I am glorified in them.

You love them just like you love me.

I just. I love that.

If right now this roof were torn off and we had an audience in the Heavenly Throne room, what would Jesus be saying to the Father? What would the Father be saying to Jesus about us?

You get this secret conversation between them.

We would hear Jesus Christ say of you, it doesn't matter how well you've been doing in the Lord this week. Doesn't matter how good a performance.

You would hear Jesus Christ say, oh, Father, yeah, this week, I've been glorified in them. I've been glorified in Him. I've been glorified in her. And the Father say, I'm so proud that they are my child.

Aren't you proud that they're your brothers? Yes, Father. So proud. They're my brothers. You listen out the grave.

Go get my brothers. I'm going to my God and their God. I'm going to my Father and their Father. I'm not ashamed to call them brothers, which is to say I am proud to call them my brothers because my Father is proud to call them His sons. Why did Jesus die?

Galatians 1 the will of our God and Father. Our God and Father wanted Him to die for us. What does the Spirit cry in Galatians 4 Abba Father, the Father's proud of us. The Son's proud of us. The Spirit's proud of us.

Father, Father, our Father. That's His will. 2nd Our Father wills that we be with our Father in heaven. He is the one in the heavens. And so we pray to Him who wants you, who wants us in heaven.

Matthew 7 He who does the will of my Father in heaven will enter. Matthew 8 It is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

John 1 Sons of God are born by no other will than the will of God. God is the reason why you are in Christ. God is the reason why your sins are forgiven. God is the reason why you love Jesus. God is the reason why you're here today enjoying being with the people of God.

God did that. God wants that. It's by God's will.

Heaven is in you before you are in heaven. And so you pray in this heavenly way, Father, you want me there, so do your will. Do it. Do what you want.

Third Our Father wills that His name, Our Father in Heaven, be holy.

Specifically, we're told to pray to Him as our Father. Yes, there are many names of God in scripture, and it's never struck me. I don't know, you might call me stupid, but it's never struck me that Jesus just might be saying your name. Our Father be sanctified.

May your Fatherhood be first in my thoughts of you. That I wouldn't see a judge. That I wouldn't just see a holy creator.

That I wouldn't just see anything else except my Father first. You're my Father. Sanctify your name. Set it apart. Lift it up high in my thoughts and in my heart.

You are our Father. That's got to govern everything. It's got to govern the way we think, the way we speak, everything. It characterizes our whole life. Fatherhood of God.

Sanctify your name, Father.

This is His will. He wants to be famous as our Father. He wants us to be so obnoxiously convinced that He loves us that people almost can't stand us. You're so certain that God loves you? Yes.

He wants me to call Him His Father. He wants me to call Him my Father. He sent His son to die for me.

Jesus prays Father, this is eternal life. That they know you. I revealed your name to them. They are yours, Holy Father. Keep them in your name, Father.

I told them your name. In them I'll keep crying out your name, Father. Sanctify your fatherly name. Fourth, our Father wills to bring the kingdom that He's so eager to give us. And He is eager to give it, we pray.

Your kingdom come. That's their commands. Your kingdom come, your will do it. That's the way that it reads in the original. And we read Isaiah 9.

Of the increase of His government. There will be no end. The government will rest on His shoulders of the end of peace. There will be no end on the throne of David from this time on and until forever. The zeal of Yahweh, of armies will do this.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. We're now moving from will of God. What He wants to zeal that He bubbles over that. He's excited about this. He's excited to bring about His Son's kingdom on planet earth.

Jesus says, my Father's good pleasure, His zeal, His will is to give you the kingdom. Do not be afraid, little flock.

What would you have to be afraid of? I'm gonna come back and I'm going to dress myself like a slave and like a waiter at a table. I'm gonna have you sit at my royal table and dine with me like

royal, as royalty, as my brothers, the royal family. He just gives and He gives and He gives. What other relationship can you and I, needy people, have with an all sufficient Christ?

The relationship is one direction. He just gives and He loves this. He gives His life. He comes and He occupies the womb of a virgin. He grows up and He gives and He gives and He gives.

He gives His whole ministry. He gives in His death, He gives in His resurrection, He gives in His ascension. He's been giving and giving and giving and He can't wait to come back and give and give and give.

I will grant. Listen, what excites Jesus? Hey, listen you overcomers. You people bought with my blood. You better have my throne ready when I come back.

You better get it all worked out. What does He say? I will grant you. I will give you to sit with me on my throne. Just as I have sat down with my Father on His throne.

Your kingdom Come, Come now. Come in the future. Come. Just bring it and keep bringing it.

Fifth, our Father wills that His will be done in us right now on earth, as He will perfect His will in us in heaven. Yes, Father. Do whatever you want. I mean, if at this point we're not overwhelmingly convinced like this God is so good. This God's got everything taken care of for us.

He knows all we need before we need to ask Him. It's so easy to come to Him and say, glorify your name. Bring your kingdom. Do what you want. Do whatever you want.

You're so much wiser than I am. You're so much better. I mean, I don't trust anything that's coming to my mind right now to pray you do what you want here in my life. Work all things together for my good. Conform me to the image of the Son of your love, whose food, whose meat was to do your will.

Yes. James says, if the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that. That's aside the point. I want you to conform me to the image of my King.

Forgive me, Lord, for thinking so much about living and doing this or that. I want to be like Christ.

Sixth, Our Father wills to give us this very day everything we need and more to carry out His will. Yes, Father. Our Father, do as you please. Proverbs 30 says, Give me neither poverty nor riches, just feed me my daily portion. It is liberating, dear Christian, to just say, you know what I need today.

Take care. Give me everything I need to carry out your will. I trust you, Lord.

Seventh, Our Father wills to forgive us all our debts from each and every sin.

That's His will. That's His desire, that's His longing. We've got this sick mentality that it's our thought, it's our idea to come to God and say, God, I need a lot of forgiveness.

I know you're busy, but is there any way, any way that I could possibly convince you to maybe forgive a thing or two?

It is your Father's will to forgive all your debts. It's His idea. It's His design. He's the one saying, I want to forgive it all. What do you want?

Sounds pretty good to me. Blot it all out. He has bound himself by His promises, His very great and wonderful promises that He will blot out all our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. And He is faithful to those promises. He is right to forgive us every time.

Because Christ died in our place and rose for our justification. And Ascended to plead His blood for us in the heavenlies. They're always right to forgive us. They're always wrong to withhold forgiveness from us. If we come saying, I am a sinner, I need your mercy, your grace, and they're good to give it.

It's their idea, it's their will. Any desire we have to be forgiven on earth is merely an echo of their great longings to forgive us in heaven.

8 Our Father wills not only to forgive our debts, but to flood us with such surplus mercy that we forgive all debts of sin committed against us by others.

How can we possibly listen to Christ in the garden of Gethsemane becoming our sin bearer? Groaning Father, not my will, but yours. Abba. Not my will. Yours be done.

Father. Not my will, yours be done. I don't want to become the sin bearer. I don't want to have any association with sin. Mind you.

The only conflict there is Jesus will for good. I'm holy, I'm perfect. I don't want any rupture in my relationship with my Father. I don't want to be treated as a sinner. I don't want to be associated with sin, Father, but not my will.

Yours be done. We look at that and we see the hero. That Christ is the champion of the gospel. That Christ is that He died for us. How much He loves us.

He's wonderful. But do you ever recognize the other side of that? What is Jesus submitting to? What is He reclining into? Where is He resting?

That it is the faith Father's will that we be forgiven. Not my will. Your will be done. And the Father says, I want you to die for your brothers.

Aren't you proud to call them your brothers? Yes, I'm proud to call them my children. Yes, we're proud to blot out their sins. Yes.

Not my will. Yours be done. And here we are.

And yet we would listen to Jesus groan in the garden. Not my will, but yours be done. Forgive them. And we would say in return, no, not your will. Mine be done.

You don't know how much they hurt me.

This precious little grudge. I want to keep it. My will be done.

The Father's will is that we forgive every sin committed against us. 9th Our Father wills to guard us against any and all temptation. Father, thank you for the promise that I have never suffered any temptation that isn't common to every person on the planet. That if ever I have any struggle, you offer a way out every time. Thank you for each and every way out.

Father. This is 1st Thessalonians 4 this is the will of God. This is what God wants, your sanctification. God wants you to become what God wants you to become like His precious Son that we love. This is His will, your sanctification.

And so we pray in response. Lord, if this thing that I want won't sanctify me, crush it. If this will not draw me closer to you Son, make me more like you Son. Make me love Him, trust Him, obey Him more. Remove it.

Give me the strength to remove it myself.

And finally our Father wills, desires, longs to rescue us from the evil one. We do have an enemy. He has His own army. And praise God for the promises. Praise our Father who forbids that Satan touch us.

The promise is that we will be saved from every evil and saved into His heavenly kingdom. That is the promise. That's our life. You will be saved from every evil and then you will be saved into His heavenly kingdom. And so we can just comfortably pray your will do it.

Keep us in your name, Our Father, your your will do it. Let's do that now. Father, we come to you in the name of Christ.

Father, we have desires, but our chief desire is to do your will.

Give grace to do your will from the heart. To stand fully assured in all the will of God. To endure in the will of God and receive the promise of to silence the ignorance of foolish men by doing your will. To suffer only for your will. Entrusting our souls to our faithful Creator and Father.

Your will, Our Father. Do it in us here on earth. Just as your will is done in heaven. We ask it in Jesus name. Amen.