

J. N. Sept. 12, 76 A.M.
(Lord's Supper) —

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"THY WILL BE DONE"

Matt. 6:10

We are speaking about a prayer this morning that many of you know by heart or my memory. You can repeat it without any awareness or any distinct meaning. You can use it in a formal way.

I was in a service the other day in which this prayer was used twice. But *worship yesterday*
was! this prayer has sentence by sentence some very specific directions that will help us in worship.

Often we wonder why Jesus did not give more specific instruction. But this was (one thing) that the Disciples asked him to give them instruction in. "After this manner, therefore, pray ye." It makes us understand that this prayer is not just a formula but it is a pattern. It is a record of the exact words in the New Testament - that if men could learn to pray - then this is the way that they will learn to pray in secret as well as in public.

It is very brief - this model prayer. Nine sentences - 69 words in the English translation, and yet it includes many and much in the way of petitions. We could learn from this in the prayer life which we experience. Many times people offer elaborate prayers - long prayers - *longer longer prayers* - feeling these are to an advantage. But remember Jesus in teaching and instructing here, appealed to that which was clear and direct. And if we would be wise, we would follow this pattern.

Many do not know the answers because they do not follow this pattern. I understand (a Freshman) in college English the other day was given a certain quotation from Browning, on his test. Now not knowing the answer to the question - but he did not want to leave the blank. So he wrote "the roast was in the oven, browning."

Many times much of our prayer life is like that. We get off something quickly - but 100 years from today, most of the things that I have worked for and striven for will pass into nothing. But it will matter throughout all eternity, the place I have given God - that he wanted me to do, and the way he wanted it done. But all the other goals and attainments will pass on.

One mother, paid a wonderful tribute to her son - shortly before her death she wrote -- "I leave all my estate to my beloved son to do with as he pleases -- because he always pleases to do right."

So it is, when we come to God's will - Thy Will Be Done on Earth as It is In Heaven.

Certainly this petition expresses the underlying purpose and spirit of all true Christian prayer.

Clement of Alexander one day wrote - as the sailors pulling at the anchor rope do not drag the anchor to them - but drag themselves up to the anchor. " So those who are offering this petition do not drag God's will down to the level of their own desire. But drag themselves up to the holy will of God.

This is true. This prayer is a pattern for all true Christian prayer. Not that we are going to over persuade God who is reluctant to do this or to do that. But rather we are going to come so close to God that we will understand what his purpose is and we'll offer our lives as the dedicated instruments through which his divine will may be accomplished.

This will give our prayer life greater depth and greater truth when we are aware that God has a will. He must have a will and a purpose that includes each of us, this nation, this universe, and the things that happen in this world.

I. THE FIRST FACT - THERE IS A WILL OF GOD

Now this is something that even the universe - God had a will. There are some Bible scholars that believe the correct translation of this text - "Thy Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven". If that be so, there is little wonder when we think of the stars and the sky in perfect harmony.

Amos and Isaiah had called on men to lift up their eyes and to look at the stars if they would see the glory of God. It brings a new meaning into this ancient petition. When we offer it in this form. We look up into the sky with emotion. And we see all of these worlds moving in majestic obedience to the unvarying laws in Heaven - there is the will of God.

On the earth we feel the pressure of the purpose of the divine will. That there must be co-operation in our own lives because it is God's plan. And our religion is made more vital when we catch again the confidence that God has a purpose and a will. Not only for the universe and the nation. But for every individual.

II. WE NOTE SOME THINGS THAT ARE NOT THE WILL OF GOD

There are some people who seem to be confused about what is the will of God.

1/ First, they consider fatalism - but this is not religion - this is the absence of religion. This is the attitude of any animal man. Who is made up of fear and self-deception, and superstition. But this is not the will of God.

2/ Pious acceptance of anything that is evil is not the will of God either. Quite often we hear individuals say - this is the will of God. We'll have to yield to it. Let me illustrate this.

Dr. Studdert Kennedy ministered to the slums of London. Once told about sitting by the bedside of a little child who was dying of rickets. The mother stood by weeping, shedding tears, and crying - it is God's will. But said the preacher, I never knew anything that was less God's will than that. The whole business was smothered in sin and denial of God's will. The cottage in which the child lay was a shameful place in which no decent animal ought to have been asked to live. The whole district was an outrage on humanity. The father of the child was sypilitic and he said, I knew the mother had sucked the child in drink. It was typical modern poverty. And that is not God's will. It is the Devil's will.

Now God's will is not to be found in pious acceptance of anything that is evil. That is anything that is against which in our best moments we know we ought to fight.

Dr. Spear one day said that he was in the forest talking to a boy in the Army who had just received word that his brother in another regiment had just been blown to bits by a shell. He asked the chaplain "if it was God's will". He said, I told him that it was not - it was the result of the concentration of all the evils in Hell.

No, that was no more God's will than the cross. We need to make a distinction between Christ and the cross. The spirit of Christ that kept him loyal to the way of love. And kept him both true and courageous and able to ask the forgiveness of others in the midst of his agony. All of that was God's will. But the cross itself was the will of evil. Indeed, we come nearest the truth in answer to the question what is God's will. We reply, Jesus.

Stephen asked told of a tribe in Africa yrs ago - old chief died, then one had to be appointed - Dr. King - stood & said that was it. Reminded him Time Village in danger Tiger came out. He went off it & crushed its head but not part of arm - see My Wounds, by these & Jesus is the living picture of God's will. On earth, and you will see one wonder who is perfect fulfill the will of God. That he lives in relationship of absolute truth, loving obedience of God the Father. So what is the will of God. It is Jesus.

made sacrifice

Therefore, the will of God is not many things. Is it what you want is that the will of God. Do you want the Lord to give you a dozen new dresses. Or to hand you over something else. Or do you want the Lord to destroy your enemies. Is this to harmonize God's will.

III. SOME WAYS TO DISCOVER GOD'S WILL

I have said that Jesus is the will of God. Now let us come to some particular decisions and discoveries, that may be most difficult sometimes and sometimes they are agonizing. When we are going to find out what God's will is.

Many people are about as confused as the absent-minded professor. Going down the steps. And he met a student that he remembered seeing 20 minutes before, on the same steps. He asked the student if he was going up the steps or down the steps when they met a few minutes before. The student said when we met before on the steps - you were going up. Good, then said the professor - "I have had my dinner. And he went on.

I heard the other day about this professor at school whose wife had given him a little piece of paper when he had left home. And she told John - don't come back here. We will have moved this evening and the address of the new home is on the little piece of paper. Oh, he says, you don't think I would forget that - do you? That we are moving? On to school he went as for 20 years he had done. That afternoon he returned to the same house, he found the place empty. His wife and children gone. I've been ruined. He said - well, I'll have to find out what happened. He saw three boys playing down the street. So he went over and he asked one of them, if he knew where his family was. He said, I've been living here for 20 years. One of the boys said, say Daddy, come on - let's go home. Mama's said you wouldn't know where to go.

When it comes to the will of God, there are many, many people who do not know where to go. How to find out - how to discover.

Isaac Newton once said, with a telescope I can see millions of stars miles away. But he says I can go to my room, bend my knees, and lift my prayers to almighty God and see the Heavens more than if you put all the telescopes at my disposal.

The will of God may ^{BE} difficult for some. It may be agonizing for others. To try to discover just what is the Jesus like thing to do. In my business, as a Disciple of the Lord. For my children, neighbors. Sometimes these may be the hardest things in the world to do.

Remember that I said, the will of God is Jesus. Now it means making yourself receptive to any thought that God may wish to put in your mind. It is your whole spirit and your whole being.

Now it is no need for us to know the whole plan of God for our lives in a single moment. It is just enough if we know day by day.

In the same prayer, Jesus taught them to pray day by day for bread. Why should they not do the same thing in respect to guidance.

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One great man wrote, keep thou my feet - I do not ask to see. The distance seemed one step - enough for me. //

Now we can find God's will on the basis of step by step and day by day procedure. This is the way to do it.

ALL of us know that if leaves one thing in our lives that is not right. If it is Jordan both forth - hand for revival - 10 Things R. Charles Finney - First of something against some one

make right - remembered Miss - not do it - on - no results
on right convicted - went Miss - Knoll - thought right, came down then -
Wine make right - changed his life -

not right according to the standards of Jesus, it is not God's will. Unless we are willing to make right the one thing that we know is wrong - then it is useless for us to expect to find the next step in God's purpose for us.

But if we do conform to God's will in the one little respect in which we know, it may be giving up of a personal habit. Of a harmful or wasteful thing in our lives. It may be changing some of our business practices. It may be our willingness to confess our sin. It may be our willingness to make restitution for some harm we have done somebody else or some other person. Whatever it is, if we do the little thing that we know is God's will, then the still small voice of God within us will tell us the next thing that we should do.

It may be to right some other wrong. It may be to undertake some piece of unselfish service. It may be a wise thought in regard to our work. It may be an unpride approach in some personal relationship. It may be a flash of new truth. Do the thing that is next to you. Right the wrong that you recognize is wrong. Perform the duty that you know about. Take the first step, God will make the next step very clear.

I John 5:14-15 - And this is the boldness which we have toward him - that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us. And if we know that he heareth us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him. //

This passage teaches us plainly to pray aright. That we must pray according to God's will. But maybe still there are some who are pondering, how am I going to discover God's will. How am I going to discover what Jesus' way is.

Let me make a couple more suggestions - first, by the word. God has revealed his will in his word. When anything is definitely promised in the Bible, we know that God will give it. If then, when I pray, I can find some definite promise of God's

Word - and lay that promise before God, I know that he hears me. And I know that I have the petition that I have asked for.

For example, when I pray for wisdom, I know that it is the will of God to give me wisdom. James 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom - let him ask God. That giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth none. And it shall be given him." I ask for wisdom - I know that that prayer is heard. In the same manner, when I pray for the Holy Spirit, I know from Luke 11:13 that it is the will of God that my prayer is heard. If ye then being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask them.

R. A. Torey was teaching a Bible class. And some man came up and said, you produced in those young men that they can ask for definite things - and get the very things that they asked for. He said, I don't know that I left that impression, but certainly I desired to produce that. But he replied - that's not right. We cannot be sure what God's will is. Then he turned to James 1:5 - and read to him. Is it not God's will to give us wisdom. And if you ask for wisdom - do you not know that you are going to get it.

He said, we don't know what wisdom is. No, if we did, we would not need to ask said Torey. Whatever wisdom may be - don't you know that you will get it. Certainly it is our privilege. That if we doubt that God will do the thing that we ask, then we make him false. This is one of the great ways I think of discovering the will of God. To look in the Bible.

One other suggestion - you can find the will of God by allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you. There are many things that we need from God. Rom. 8:26-27 And in like manner the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity - for we know not how to pray as we ought. The Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searches the heart knoweth what is the mind of the spirit.

Because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Here we are told that the Spirit draws out of our prayer and brings it in line with God's will. When we are thus led by the Holy Spirit in the direction of prayer, God lays the burden of prayer upon our hearts. And he leads us.

I John 5:14-15 This is the confidence that we have in him - that if we have anything according to his will, he heareth us. And if we know that he heareth us, whatsoever we ask we know that we have the petitions that we desire of him. ' /

Doubtless there are times that we do not know God's will. But in prayer and submission - to the excellent will of God - we come in confidence knowing that we have deep dependence upon the Spirit, in prayer. The Disciples did not know how to pray as they ought. So they came to Jesus and said, Lord, teach us. We do not know how to pray as we ought - but we have another teacher and guide right at hand to help us. The Spirit helps our infirmities. He teaches us how to pray. True prayer, His prayer, in the Spirit - that he guides and he directs us.

IV. WHO IS TO DO THE WILL OF GOD AND IN WHAT SPIRIT IS IT TO BE DONE

This is the last part of this text that I would like to place upon your hearts. We offer this petition of our Master, that he taught us, 'Thy Will Be Done.' And the question immediately comes - by whom?

How do we expect that God's will will be done on earth. Are we expecting God to perform His own will. That is a foolish and unnecessary prayer. There are some things in God's plan that never can be done unless he finds men and women to do it.

It is God's will that your home should be built on love and mutual understanding

and helpfulness.

But that part of God's will must wait until he finds men and women, and children in your home who will do it.

The devastating competition today for personal gain in the world - is not God's will in business.

When we pray, Thy Will Be Done On Earth how do we expect that prayer to be answered. Do we have a vague hope that someone, somewhere, will do the will of God.

That is a poor and worthless request also.

When we offer this petition rightly, it is a pledge as well as a request. We pray that God's will may be done on earth, and at the same time, we pledge ourself to the doing of just as much of it as we possibly can.

We pray that God's will may be done far beyond our own poor powers. But so far as we can, we pledge ourselves to do it. God's will must eventually be done. By everybody.

But the only place to begin is with you and me.

Thy will be done on earth.

On bended knee we pray.

Then leave our prayer before the throne.

And rise and go our way.

And earth is filled with woe

And war and evil still

For lack of men whose prayer is lo

I come to do thy will.

Thy will be done on earth

Lord grant me grace to see

That if thy will is to be done

It must be done by me.

Then it is no light thing that we pray this prayer and mean it. It involves absolute dedication of ourselves to God. The giving of ourselves completely in loyalty and love unto him.

Richard Baxter said, Lord, what thou wilt - where thou wilt - when thou wilt.

It means a dedication that we see in this petition - that as a pledge we shall wake up every morning saying how much of God's will can I do this day.

Sometimes this prayer involves resignation as one grand old Christian in the face of painful illness said - I must bear this affliction inevitably, and by God's grace I shall try to bear it nobly.

Think what a transformation there would be in the world's attitude toward death if every one of us Christians in the presence of the loss of some loved one said - those same words. I must bear this affliction inevitably, and by God's grace, I shall try to bear it nobly.

But as often as we offer this prayer - let us do so in active co-operation.
God's will is not simply to be accepted but to be done.

Look at the example of Jesus in the Garden. Everything human is urging him to escape, the agony - and discovering it was God's will to go ahead, He took hold of the purpose and there was the attitude of co-operation and he went on and accomplished it. And even on that occasion - Thy will, not mine, be done.

Always, this is a prayer against the sinfulness and the laziness of this world - that we might turn and say, thy will be done. Not with bowed head alone, in meek submission would we say the words. Not only in the Garden's agony - may this be our prayer as it was our Lord's. But through the smoke and turmoil of our life, we catch a glimpse of glory to the one, our Captain calls and we plunge into the flight and shout our battle cry. Thy Will Be Done!

Jesus Dies - Eyes not on lions - by - Pickford

*Pracher visited Lady - See art what do see -
down in Boxes - Ray of sun light etc -
Lady taught lesson - Note Daniel's eyes - looking up - ~~not in~~*