

Praying In The Will Of God

Jesus Prayed the Will of God

Jesus always prayed for God's will to be done. Even in the crucible of Gethsemane he prayed in agony with great cries, but he prayed for the will of God, not for his own will. It is amazing how in our self-centered culture and our me-centered generation we want to make prayer a way to wrestle God into subjection to us. We want God to do our will. How different that is to the prayers of Jesus. He prayed always, "*Not my will but your will be done.*"

The Lord's Prayer - (Matthew 6:9-13) reflects that same "will of God" mentality of Jesus as he prayed. Prayer is not trying to twist the arm of God. It is getting into the stream of His will. It is us bending to His will, not our bending his will.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Pray the Revealed Will of God

Some things you don't need to worry about being or not being the will of God. It has already been clearly revealed what God's will is concerning trusting Christ and dealing with sin.

?? *John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

?? *1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*

Pray the Secret or Mysterious Will of God

"We know..." says the apostle Paul in Romans 8:28, "*We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*" The word "work together" is one word in the Greek - *sunergeo*, which literally means to co-labor. God is co-working everything that touches your life to accomplish His will. There are no accidents. Therefore we can give thanks for everything, the good, the bad, and the ugly. *1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

Other Revealed Mysteries

There are perhaps hundreds of clearly revealed issues regarding the will of God. If we were to pray them we would clearly be praying in the will of God.

?? *1 John 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:*

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

?? *2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, ... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

All of our prayers are not to be Gethsemane prayers of "*nevertheless not my will but thy will be done.*" Too often that is for us a cop out for a lack of faith and assurance that God hears and will answer our prayer. Praying in the will of God is praying God's revealed will back to Him. The following list represents a few absolutes of the revealed will of God.

Praying God's Purpose for the Church

God has already revealed to us what his heart is. We should seek to pray what is on the heart of God, and what we know is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us. If we pray anything according to his will he hears us. The following is a compilation of purposes for the church that I have gleaned from the Word over the years. I trust it is helpful to you as you pray for your church.

1. That we pursue lost people as Jesus did. (Luke 19:10)
2. That we evangelize our circles of influence. (Acts 1:18)
3. That we worship God in Spirit and Truth. (John 4:22-24)
4. That we love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, strength. (Deut 6:5/Lk 10:27)
5. That we all become more like Jesus (I Peter 2:21)
6. That we all be radical followers of Jesus (Luke 9:23-26, 57-62)
7. That we grow strong in faith believing God for great things. (Romans 4:20-21)
8. That we be teach all things that Jesus taught. (Mt 28:19-20)
9. That we learn to pray, fervently and effectively. (Heb 4:16, I Th 5:17, I Tim 2:1-2)
10. That we preach "the Word." (2 Tim. 4:2)
11. That we "admonish" one another daily. (Heb 10:25)
12. That we surrender our bodies as living sacrifices. (Romans 12:1-2)
13. That we henceforth be no longer children but grow up. (Heb 5:12-14)
14. That we henceforth live no longer unto ourselves but for Jesus. (2 Cor. 5:15)
15. That we cease loving the world. (I John 2:15-17)
16. That we be a glorious church w/o spot or wrinkle. (Eph 5:27)
17. That we be holy. (Mt 5:48, I Thes 4:3,7; I Peter 1:16)
18. That we be sexually pure. (I Cor 6:19-20)
19. That we share, break bread, have fellowship in homes. (Acts 2:42-46)
20. That we challenge, train, equip, send, support missionaries. (Acts 13:2-4; 16:5-10)
21. That we are filled with the Holy Spirit. (Eph 5:18)
22. That we bring our children up in nurture of the Lord. (Eph 6:4)
23. That we forsake not the assembling of ourselves together. (Heb 10:25)
24. That we aggressively minister to "little ones." (Mt 19:14)
25. That we identify and exercise our gifts. (I Cor 12, Romans 12, Eph 4)
26. That we sing to the Lord. (Eph 5:19, Col 3:16)
27. That we give thanks in everything, good or bad. (I Thes 5:18, Eph 6:20)
28. That we give to the Lord cheerfully and liberally. (2 Cor 9:6-10)
29. That we trust God to heal our bodies. (James 5:14-16)
30. That we confess our faults, failures, weaknesses, one to another. (James 5:16)
31. That we are able to give a reasoned answer to our faith. (I Peter 3:15)
32. That we resist the devil and he flees. (I Peter 5:8-10, Eph 6:10-18)
33. That we forgive one another and make restitution. (Mt 6:14-15, Eph 4:29-32)
34. That we partake of the Lord's table worthily. (I Cor 11:26-30)
35. That we follow the Lord in baptism. (Mt 3:14-17)
36. That we love one another so intensely the world sees and believes. (John 13:35)

When we pray God's purposes we are safe. His promises will never fail. His purpose will always be accomplished. When we pray His purposes we pray "in the will of God" and according to the Spirit. There is no better way to enter into the heart of God.