

The LPG

His Will Will be Done

January 10, 2021

Welcome to where we're learning to put *Thy will over my will!*

Do you want to know God's will? *Why?*

What are you gonna do with that information? **You gonna do it?** Because often, when we say we're seeking His will, we're really looking for a rubber stamp – I mean approval – I mean *confirmation* – of what we already know we're gonna do.



Well, we're learning to pray **the LPG** way – the **Lord's Prayer Guide** – which directs us to begin our day by **adoring our Dad**, **revering our Creator**, **discussing our hallowing** obedience and trust, and **kneeling to our King** to plan the day's advance of Dad's kingdom which is within, and comes heart by heart, and comes first in the hearts of Christ's ambassadors.



[Jesus said] "My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life," – John 6:40 NIV



First of all, then, I ask that supplications/requests, prayers/discussion, petitions/intercession, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone. ... This is good and pleasing to God our Savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. – 1 Timothy 2:1-5 NAB



And so now we pray for **the day's willpower to do His will by His power.**

We think of the will as fairly straightforward: I desire; I advance; I obtain. I will and I do till it's done. And that was *maybe* true for *pirates*. But if, for instance, you've ever taken kids to Disneyland, you know that a parent's *will* is a bit more ... *complex*. Same holds true for our Father.



First, there's your **supreme will of authority**, ruling mostly unseen over the whole thing. Plane tickets. Car rental. Hotel reservations. Luggage. Some choices are unpleasant but essential to the purpose. The kids are unaware, but you're there; and you got it covered. Like with our sin. God made sovereign plans for His Son to come, and die, and return to life.



This part of Dad's will *will* be done regardless of *what* we do. (Is 46:10) And that's *not* what *this* prayer is for. Praying "YOUR will be done" is about **our Father's collaborative will**, which begins with **specific expectations**. You explain the ground rules, the boundaries, and your heart's desire. And then you let the kids loose ... *and pray* ... that they heard your heart and actually desire to do your will; 'cause if they don't, they won't. So, **do you desire to do Dad's specific expectations?** According to Hebrews (10:5-7) Psalm 40 is a prophetic passage about Jesus:

Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of Me. [And He doesn't think *desiring* to do Dad's will takes it *far* enough. No. He declares that] I delight to do Your will, O My God, and [Why is that?] Your law is *within* My heart. – Psalm 40:7-9 NKJ



Not the old dead-works law that lays on religious rules; the liberating law of freedom from sin treasured within and carried out without doubt from a glad and grateful heart. **So, do you want to know Dad's will?** Why? Not enough to *know* it. Got'a *do* it. **We're not those people: the do-nots.** Oh, brother James has something to say about *them*:

Do not merely *listen* to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. [Into thinking you're a **doer**] Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the Word [like *now*] but does not *do* what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror [because we use God's Word to **examine ourselves**] and, after looking at himself, [and seeing what needs to be done] goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. [And what needed doin'] But *whoever* looks *intently* into the perfect law that gives freedom, [from bondage] and *continues* in it—not forgetting what they have heard, [regarding God's will] but doing it—they will be blessed in what they [faithfully, gratefully] *do*. – James 1:22-25 NIV

James just hopes we're not deceiving ourselves into believing we're a believer when we're not a doer. So if you want to know the specific expectations of Dad's collaborative will, here you go:

Be very careful ... understand what the Lord's will is. – Ephesians 5:15-17 NIV

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. – Micah 6:8 NIV

It is God's will that you should ... learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable ... For God did not call us to be impure, – 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 NIV

Prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. – Romans 12:2 NKJ

For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant – 1 Peter 2:15 NIV

Build each other up ... live in peace ... encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient ... rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. – 1 Thessalonians 5:11-18 NIV

May the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, – Hebrews 13:20-21 NIV

[We] ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit ... growing ... and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share ... in the kingdom of light. – Colossians 1:9-12 NIV

Okay kids – this is the truly magical kingdom – so go have fun! But remember, Jesus said:

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. – Matthew 7:21 NIV

Specific expectations are black and white. Do or don't. Obey or rebel. Got it. But what about all the non-specific stuff? Like, how do I know if He wants me to be a missionary, or a mechanic, or married, or single, or a homeowner, or renter, or maybe lease to own? People say things like, "God called me to this or that," but I'm *still* waiting for *that* phone to ring!

Well, **our Father's collaborative will** also comes with **nonspecific options**. These **aren't** black and white. They're full spectrum. You get to choose. And **choosing is pleasing to our Father**.

Let's say you ask the kids if they want a snow cone in the magic kingdom. Yes? What flavor would you like? Now, why do we do this? What's our reason? Well, there's the joy of offering a gift. And a deeper joy of experiencing *their* joy. And an even *deeper* joy of watching them make decisions, experience life, risk, learn, grow, and slowly become a self-determining grownup.



Unless they're like, "Which flavor am I *supposed* to choose?" "Any. That's why it's called a *choice*." "But which one do you *want* me to choose?" "Any. I want to watch *you* choose." "What if I choose the wrong one?" "There isn't a wrong one. Just pick one." "Which one would *you* choose?" "No snow cones! We're getting' Dole Whips."

We desire to offer the types of choices that help our kids develop and explore and discover. From the beginning our *Creator's* intention has been freedom of choice – to inspire vision, imagination, investigation, discovery, exhilaration, and maturity – within the safe limits of loving boundaries set up for our protection. Back home in the garden ...



The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; [freedom of choice within the boundaries] but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, [a specific expectation that comes with an explanation] for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." – Genesis 2:16-17 NKJ

Now if they'd taken that to heart, they would've *desired* to *do* Dad's specifically revealed will, so they could keep living and freely choosing; and they would've *delighted in* the myriad of options they'd been offered within the safety of the one limitation our loving Father had set.

It's like those Disneyland brats. Instead of trying to understand your wise and loving intention behind your "laws of liberty", **they push the boundaries, and test your limits, in order to see what they can get away with**. And sometimes your forgiveness is just easier than permission.

So, **how do you do Dad's will?** When you're mistreated, do you do hate or do you do love? When disappointed, do you do grouching or do you do grace? When slandered, do you do drama or do you do peace? **Who's will do you really mostly do**, and see it through, until it's done?



And are you curious about our Father's big reason behind all this? Well, on the night He was betrayed in the garden, Jesus let us in on a wonderful insight.

I am the True Vine, and My Father is the Gardener. – John 15:1 NIV

So ask yourself: **What's the will of the Gardener?** *Produce! A crop.* Produce a crop.

Like seed sown on good soil, **hear** the word, **accept** it, and **produce** a crop – Mark 4:20 NIV

I am the *vine*; you are the *branches*. If you *remain in Me* and I *in you*, you will bear much fruit; – John 15:5 NIV

What kind of fruit? The kind that *only* grows in *Dad's* garden.

The fruit of the *Spirit* is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. – Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

[And] The *fruit* of the *righteous* is a tree of life ... – Proverbs 11:30 NIV

And *that* only grows in our garden up home in Heaven, *and* in our heart down here on earth *as it is* up home in heaven. Which is why, when we pray “YOUR will be done,” **we're ultimately talking to our Father about our role in cultivating the family crop.** So, we should focus far more on the fruit, and a little less on whether we should take this job, buy that house, or select grape.

And so we **pray**, “YOUR will be done,” and we **pause** to inspect our fruit by the light of His Word, and then **personalize** this part of the LPG by discussing the condition of our current inventory – instead of forgetting what we look like, like those do-nots. And **we ask for wisdom and strength in the specifics we know, and sensitivity and integrity in the choices we make.**



[So] Sing to the Lord a new song ... Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. ... For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; ... Let them sing aloud on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand – Psalm 149:1-6 NKJ



Because *that's* where we find His specific expectations, as well as His inspiration to do 'em. And it's where we learn from His Number One Son, how to make the choices that most glorify Dad. *So*:

Whatever you do, **[within His *unspecific* cooperative will, be sure to obey this *specific* expectation, and]** work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord – Colossians 3:23 NIV



Because He wants *you* to decide if you'll be a missionary or a mechanic, but **He demands that you glorify Him in whatever you choose to do.** Glorify how? Well, “on earth as it is in heaven”.

We're called to model our home in heaven by doing Dad's will down here. And, we can't know all that *that* entails, but Scripture gives us a pretty good starting point. **In heaven, His will is done immediately**, not postponed or put off. “Gabriel, go tell Mary she's going to give birth to My Son.” “Yeah, not right now – the game's on.” In heaven, **His will is done enthusiastically**, not halfheartedly. And in heaven, **His will is done completely**, not partially or *somewhat*. We all want to go up to Heaven, but we're not as enthused about having Heaven come *down* to us.

But **eternal life doesn't begin after we die**; it begins the moment we bow our knee and begin to seek to align *our* will with our *Father's* will, and follow the Great Shepherd of our souls.

The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the [will of the] Father but from the [way of the] world. [And] The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. – 1 John 2:15-17 NIV

So, do you want to be led from your bed, or forget what we've read, and fall back to sleep?

Jesus *delighted* to do Dad's will.

Do you?

Let's pray ... *together*:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. YOUR kingdom come. YOUR will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And 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. – Mat 6:9-13