

## Prayer – God’s Will

*Matthew 6:9-10*

Good morning, my name is John and I’m glad you’re here this morning. If you’re visiting today, I want to express my appreciation for your presence this morning. We’re always glad to have people visiting from all over the world here at EFC. If you’re watching online from somewhere around the world, thank you for connecting to our services today.

We’re in a sermon series called: “Prayer – A Relational Conversation with God.” The first Sunday of the series went studied *Philippians 4* which says:

***6 Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.***

The next Sunday we looked at the believer’s war room. A private place where you go to fight your battles and pray. This past week several of you came to me and told me about the private places where you have gone or where you go to pray alone and meet God to pray. That has been a great encouragement to me to hear. If you have a special place where you meet God, please take time to tell me, either by text, message or by whatever means, but it is a blessing to hear your stories!

The following week we looked at the first part of the Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6. We learned that the God of the universe, the creator of heaven and earth wants to have a personal, intimate relationship with you. We learned that the many deities around the world and throughout world history have been and are distant and have no desire to get to know you personally. They demand unquestionable worship with no expectation of reciprocal love and affection for us. However, the creator

God, Elohim, desires a personal relationship and He invites us to communicate with Him through prayer.

We also learned last week that God shows us that intimacy by telling us to call him “Father-Daddy.” He lives in heaven and is not bound by the limitations of time and space like we are. He is “hallowed” or one of a kind. He is in a category by Himself! And that we are to honor His name. We looked at three different names of God. Names that reflect and tell us about His person and character.

The first name that we looked at was Elohim – the creator God. He created all the universe from nothing. That is important for us to know because when we pray, he doesn’t always answer our prayers by ways that we can explain, but to the contrary. There are many ways we can’t explain how it happens. Yet, the creator God, Elohim, shows us His power when answering our prayers.

The second name that we looked at was the name YHWH – Yahweh or Jehovah. It is God’s relational name. It is written in our English bibles L-O-R-D. God told Moses that His name was YHWH – I Am Who I Am. Not, I am who you want me to be, but I Am Who I Am.

The last name that we talked about last week is Adonai. Adonai means boss, administrator, supervisor, patron, master, the one who is responsible for me. Normally the name for God Adonai is spelled in our English bibles: L-o-r-d.

Last week we looked at God’s Kingdom. We talked about the future kingdom that Jesus Christ will rule here in earth physically in Jerusalem. Then we looked at God’s rule and authority from heaven in our lives. He wants to rule our hearts. For God’s rule and authority to have effect in our lives we must surrender unconditionally to his authority over our lives.

Now, let's look at today's text. We're looking at the Lord's prayer which is found on the Sermon on the Mount. The text for today is *Matthew 6:9-10*. The bible says:

*<sup>9</sup> Pray then like this:*

*“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.<sup>[a]</sup>  
<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,<sup>[b]</sup>  
on earth as it is in heaven.*

Last week we talked about God's kingdom, his rule and authority. Today we're going to add to that. God's will. In this verse about prayer, about connecting to the God of the universe, who is our father, we must do His will in our lives.

Many people ask, “What is God's will?” “Where can I find it?” “How can I know if I'm in God's will?” Or more specifically, “Who am I to marry? Where am it to go to university? What company should I work at or should I start my own business? Where shall I live? Do I stay in Ecuador, or should I move to some other place around the world? But before we answer those specific questions, the most important question which is mentioned in this prayer model is, “What is God's will for my life?”

Some people think God's will for their lives are a mystery. It is like a scavenger hunt, where the directions to God's will are written on little pieces of paper and hidden under rocks, stones, or some other thing. And when we come close to the place where the paper is hidden, we think God will say to us, “you're getting closer, closer, no farther away, no to the right, no to the left, etc.” We think that God is heaven in teasing us and trying to make our lives miserable.

The thing is that God wants us to know His will. He desires for us to know His will and do it. He doesn't try to hide His will for our lives, but He has revealed His will so that we can live and do it. He reveals His will to us in His word, the Bible.

There are two aspects of His will that He reveals to us in His word. The first one is His sovereign will. The second one is the will that he desires for us to do as humans. First, let's look at God's sovereign will. Please open your bibles to Psalm 33 and we'll be looking at several verses that show us God's sovereign will that governs all of the universe and all that is in it.

***Psalm 33:6, "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all of their hosts.***

***Psalm 33:8-9, "Let all the earth fear the LORD, let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him! (9) For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm."***

***Psalm 33:10-11, "The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the people. (11) The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations."***

***Isaiah 46:9-10, "Remember the former things of old; for I am God and there is no other; I am God and there is none like me. (10) Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things not yet done saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.'"***

***Psalm 135:6, "Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps."***

***Daniel 4:34-35, "At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for His***

*dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. (35) All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing and he does according to His will among the host of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say to him, 'what have you done.'”*

*Ephesians 1:11, “In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.”*

So, we see that there is a purpose that the Sovereign God will do, and nothing will stand in His way to fulfill that will that He has established in eternity past.

The second part of God’s will have to do with us humans. He wants to invite us to be part of His sovereign will here on earth. The reason the scripture says to pray for God’s will to be done here on earth is because God’s will is not being done. Unfortunately. Our disobedience to His will, will not change His sovereign will. He will accomplish what He has planned whether we obey or not.

However, God does have a purpose and plan for our lives. The question that all of us have is this: What is God’s will for my life? Where can I find God’s will? How do I get there? What am I responsible for in obeying God’s will? How do I know when I fulfilling and obeying God’s will?

If God has a will for my life, and he does. If God wants me to know his will, and he does. If God wants to reveal his will to me, and he does. Then where do I find his will? He has hidden his will from us. He doesn’t try to tease us with his will trying to trip us up. He has shown us his will in the most obvious place that he has given – His Word. God’s word, the Holy Bible, reveals to us his will for our lives. It’s not hidden, it’s not mystical but it is revealed to us in His word.

A pastor, whom I admire, has listed several points that show us God's revealed will for our lives in the scriptures. The first point to know God's will is that God wills us to be saved. God's first will and desire for you is to be saved. To be saved from sin and the punishment of sin and judgement.

***1 Timothy 2:3-4, "This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, (4) who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."***

***2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is now slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."***

***John 6:38-40, "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. (39) And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on the last day. (40) For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."***

God's will is for us to be saved. For that reason, Jesus Christ left heaven to come to the earth to save us from our sins. God's will is for us to have eternal life. To live with him for all of eternity. If you are to know God's will for your life, in the very details of your life, you must first be saved. You must trust Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Like the verse that I shared with you last week:

***John 14:6, "Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me."***

Secondly, not only is it God's will for us to be saved. But it is also God's will for us to be Spirit-filled.

***Ephesians 5:17, "Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."***

So, if we don't understand what the will of the Lord is, the bible says we are foolish, or another translation says, 'ignorant.' That's pretty strong language. That is because God's will is not mystic, it's not hard to find and understand. So, where do we find God's will. How are we to understand His will for our lives. It's found in the next verse.

***Ephesians 5:18, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit."***

God doesn't want us to be ignorant or in the fog about what His will is for our lives. He uses the analogy of wine. He says do not be drunk with wine but be filled with the Spirit. Why this image? God is talking about here about control. Control. Have you ever seen a person who is completely intoxicated? They do not have control of their thoughts, actions, or faculties.

Pastor John MacArthur writes this about the religious practices in Ephesus: *"In the ancient world, this is one of the ways that they worshiped the false gods – through drunkenness, gluttony, and sexual orgies. They thought that as they lost themselves, they transcended the temporal world and ascended into communion with the deities; the more debauched and the more drunken, the more transcendent and the more likely to contact the divine. The truth of the matter is they were drunk and contacting the demonic."*

With the same image, God tells us to be filled with the Spirit. We are to be controlled by the Spirit of God in our lives. In our thoughts, actions, and faculties. It is the complete opposite of being controlled by alcohol. God's Spirit lives within us.

So, how do we know if we are filled with the Spirit? It's not a mystery. It doesn't produce some existential emotion that we may or may not achieve. It's quite simple. The next verse tells us how we know we're filled with the Spirit.

***Ephesians 5:19-21, "Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, (20) giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (21) submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ."***

Another passage gives a similar understanding.

***Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."***

You see, there is a connection with the filling of the Spirit of God in your life and the Word of God in your life. You cannot have the Spirit's filling without the Word of God. They are interconnected. And the manifestation of the Spirit is praise to God, thankfulness in our hearts, and submission to one another. It's not mystical, not emotional, but a manifestation that you are being controlled by the Spirit of God.

First, it is God's will for us to be saved. Secondly, it is God's will for us to be Spirit filled. Thirdly, it is God's will for us to be sanctified – or separated.

***1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, "Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you have received from us how you ought to***



***walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. (2) For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus (3) For this is the will of God, even your sanctification...***

The word sanctification means to be separate. Separate from what? Separate from sin. It is God's will for us to distance ourselves from sin. But what sin or what type of sin. Well, the bible gets real personal with us. Let's continue reading.

***(3) For this is the will of God, even your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; (4) that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor (5) not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God (6) that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.***

It is God's will for us to be separated from sexual immorality. Let's remember our context in the Lord's prayer – ***Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*** We desire for God to hear and answer our prayers. However, the bible says, ***Psalm 66:18, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."***

Young people, if you are sleeping and having sex with your boyfriend or girlfriend, God will not hear your prayers. Husbands, if you are sleeping and having sex with someone that is not your wife, God will not hear you. Wives, if you are sleeping and having sex with someone that is not your husband, God will not hear your prayers. It is God's will for us to abstain from sexual immorality. That's pretty clear.

We are to honor our bodies as to the Lord. That's God's will. The bible says to ***control our bodies in holiness and honor.*** Also, to not let ***lust control our bodies like the Gentiles*** (or we can say – unbelievers – those who are without Christ). We are not to transgress against other believers.

Abstain from sexual immorality: pornography, sexting, lude and x rated moves, internet, etc. Another thing I want to bring up this morning is not to sin and let lust control you against a brother or sister in Christ. Young men don't go up to a sister in Christ like a peacock showing all their feathers and chasing the female bird around the barn in all it's lust quoting scripture and telling them that it's God will for you to marry them. Young ladies don't be flaunting all your beauty like Dalila in the bible trying to seduce a young man who is not saved, who doesn't love Jesus, who doesn't work hard, who sleeps half the day away only thinking about how to get you to lose your virginity. The bible says that ***the Lord is an avenger in all these things as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.***

***1 Peter 4:1-2, "Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, (2) so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God."***

First, we see it is God's will for your to be saved. Secondly, It is God's will for you to be Spirit filled. Thirdly, it is God's will for you to be sanctified – or separated from sexual immorality. For sake of time, I'm going to give you the following points with some verses to study.

Fourthly – It is God's will for submission:

- ***James 4:7 – submit to God***
- ***Ephesians 5 – submit to one another – husbands, wives***
- ***Hebrews 13 – submit to the pastors and elders of the church***
- ***1 Peter 2 – submit to government***
- ***1 Peter 2:15 – this is the will of God***

Fifthly – It is God's will for us to suffer

- ***1 Peter 3:17***
- ***1 Peter 2:20***
- ***1 Peter 4:19 – let those who suffer according to the will of God***

- *1 Peter 5:10*
- *2 Corinthians 12*

Lastly – it is God’s will to give thanks

*1 Thessalonians 5:18, “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

*<sup>6</sup> Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

We’re studying the Lord’s prayer. We’re looking at the teaching and model that Jesus Christ is giving to us as we learn to pray. It’s not just about asking and telling God, “give me, give me, give me.” But it’s about developing a relationship with the God of the universe who wants to call him daddy. We humbly submit ourselves to His authority and rule over our lives and desire to do His will in our lives.

*Matthew 6:9-10.*

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hallowed be your name.<sup>[a]</sup>*

*<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,<sup>[b]</sup>  
on earth as it is in heaven.*

Let’s pray.