

“Thy Will be Done on earth as it is in Heaven!”

(07-07-13)

Let's continue our journey through the Lord's Prayer by reading aloud the Third Petition and Luther's explanation. **“Thy Will Be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven.”**

What does this mean? The good and gracious Will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's Will done? God's Will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious Will.”

It's true to say that uncounted millions of men, women, and children have repeated these words without having the faintest idea what God's Will is. The Will of God has always been present. He showed His Will in the creation event itself. In Genesis 1, God saw a world that had no form and was empty, and exerted His Will in the creation of all things. His Will or Purpose was to put it all together for our good and for His glory. And at the end of each day, God looked at what He had done and He said, *“it is good.”*

If we're going to ask that the Will of God also come to earth as it is in heaven, it would be good for us to look at what the Will of God is like.

God's Will is good and gracious. As you think about it, it's a wonder that God should even care about us since our own selfishness and hate seems to fill the entire world! But He doesn't give up on us! He's faithful to His purpose, always good and gracious! The Word that created the world, the Word that redeemed the world, still comes to us to rescue and give us life!

God's Will defeats and hinders the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh. The devil continually puts us under attack because of our faith. We need to ask God that His Will, not Satan's be done. In our world today, it's not so much that it has disbelief in God, as it has belief in all sorts of gods! It's amazing that belief in the living God is suspect, while other faiths with no rational base whatsoever flourish! But this fits, because our nature is sinful and many times stands in the way of God's Will because we want to follow our own!

God's Will keeps us in His ways. God's Will can't be done in the hearts and lives of those who reject Him! God wants us to learn from Him and follow His Word and ways. But to do this, we have to change! When we change, and follow God's Will only, we can truly grow in maturity and holiness!

Unfortunately, obedience and believing in God isn't what we or the world desire! The Catch Words of our time are: **Rebellion, Resistance, Confrontation!** Going right along with these, **Obedience is the most unpopular theme for today! To obey is to submit to someone else!** Our own will gets in the way! Instead we have to realize, **God is the Master craftsman! We're clay in His hands!**

Open to Psalm 40. There was an old craftsman, with a wrinkled face and thin hands, who worked in his shop creating beautiful clay works of art. When he was ready to begin a new piece, he would go into an old, smelly shed and put his hand into a deep, gooey hole in the floor, and feel around for the material he wanted for his creation. When he found it, he would take the smelly clay and put it in the center of the stone wheel he had in his shop.

When he did this, it went right along with verses 1-2 where it says, *“I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.”*

Then the craftsman went to work molding the clay into the precious creation he had thought of. As the piece started to be formed, he continually took out any imperfections he saw so the piece would be exactly as he had imagined. Perfect!

That's exactly what God did! He saw all the imperfections of our sins and sent His One and Only Son to take the punishment for us and suffer and die in our place! Because of Christ's death and resurrection, you and I are seen as perfect in our Father's eyes! Because of what Jesus Christ did for us, we have the opportunity to live life to the fullest and serve Him with all our hearts!

God's Will is done easily and with joy in heaven. It should also be done with joy on earth! When we do the Will of God willingly, heaven actually descends to earth and becomes a reality inside us!

Turn to Ephesians 1. God so wants us to be part of His Kingdom and follow His Will. At the waters of Baptism, we hear those words as we're brought into His family, "*I have called you by name, you are mine!*" This is a deep commitment from our Almighty God to have us be a part of His family and experience His Kingdom and Will on earth!

Look at verses 7-10, "*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*"

So how can we get more in line with God's Will? 1. **See and grasp its purpose!** It's God's purpose not ours! 2. **Ask God to invade and fill your mind and will with His Will alone!** 3. **Receive strength and courage from God alone to do what He asks!**

As Phillip Keller put it, "The final result is to find ourselves in complete accord and harmony with the Will of our Father in heaven. This is to experience joy, serenity, usefulness, worth, and enormous adventure in our walk with God as we move in accord with His plans and purposes on this planet."

So don't just stand there asking, "What's God's Will for me?" Pray with all faith and trust, "**My** Father Who is in heaven, You are holy. May Your Will be done on earth **in me!**"