

## God's Will in Prayer

God's will and wishes always take precedence over ours. All our requests should be subject to God's will. He knows what's best for us. He has plans and purposes for us. The promises in the Lord's Prayer are generalizations. They relate not only to specific situations and to our spiritual state, but also to the will of God.

*"...your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).*

**Jesus prays according to God's will.** *"My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done" (Matthew 26:42). "My food...is to do the will of him who sent me..." (John 4:34).*

**The Holy Spirit prays according to God's will.** *"...the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will" (Romans 8:27).* That means the Spirit prays for you and for me in keeping with God's will. That's because *"We do not know what we ought to pray for..." (verse 26).*

**We pray according to God's will.** *"...if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us" (1 John 5:14).* This should be our prayer standard – asking according to God's will. (See also Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5:17; Colossians 1:9.) If you forget everything else about prayer, remember to include God's will in all your prayer requests. When Jesus prayed for God's will, it was not because his faith was small or unstable. On the contrary, it was a sign of absolute submission and trust.

There are instances in our lives when, no matter what we think or want or pray for, it is God's will that we drink the cup he puts in our hand. In that case, it is for our ultimate good, for other people's blessing and for the glory of God. There are times when a permanent "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7) is God's will. And no amount of prayer or faith will remove it. Let's pray carefully, with discernment.

How do I react, what do I think of God, when he doesn't answer my prayer the way I expect him to? Is my relationship with him weakened or strengthened? ◇◇◇