



One day, a man was asked to make the prayer before a meeting. As he was in a hurry, He made the following prayer "Dear God, Let Your Will be done: Nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. Amen!"

Seeking to do the Will of God, at always times and living according to It, is the key to our faithful Christian living. The Gospel of the Day is an exhortation towards this aspect through the prayer – The Our Father with the key dimension of **"forgiveness and pardon"**.

1. Hallowed be Thy Name: "Hallowed" means to be holy. As we pray this part of the prayer, we are not praying that God's name will become holy, for His name already is holy. God Himself is holy, holy, holy. He is thrice holy! In other words, He is the Holiest! Living with this fundamental disposition of the heart is key to a good Christian life and to a good life of prayer. We pray that this holiness of God will be recognized by us and all people. We pray that there will be a deep reverence of God's name and that we will always treat God with the proper honor, devotion, love, and awe to which we are called. It's especially important to point out how often God's name is used in vain. That is a strange phenomenon. Have you ever wondered why, when people get angry, they would curse God's name? It's strange. And, in fact, it's demonic. Anger, in those moments, invites us to act in a contrary way to this prayer and to the proper use of God's name.

2. Thy Kingdom come: This petition of the Lord's Prayer is a way of acknowledging two things. First, we acknowledge the fact that Jesus will, one day, return in all His glory and establish His permanent and visible Kingdom. Secondly, we must realize that the Kingdom of God is already here among us. For now, it's an invisible Kingdom. It's a spiritual reality that must become an all-consuming and present reality in our world. To pray that God's "Kingdom come" means we desire that He first take greater possession of our souls. We also pray that the Kingdom of God becomes present in our world. God wants to transform the social, political and cultural order right now. So, we must pray and work for that.

3. Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven: Praying for the Kingdom of God to come means, also, that we seek to live the will of the Father. Praying this petition is a way of asking God to fill us with knowledge of His will. But we also need the courage and strength necessary to then live out that will. So this petition also prays for those Gifts of the Holy Spirit that enable us to live out what God reveals as His divine plan for our lives.

4. The fourth petition – for forgiveness – is also accompanied with a clause – “...as we forgive” - forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us! Well, does this mean God’s forgiveness is conditional? It needs to be understood, that God in His infinite mercy and goodness, has always the store of forgiveness, unconditionally opened for us!

But, It means that If we harbour a wrong against other, If we continue to nurture hatred against other, If we willfully fail to extend absolution to the other, If we adamantly keep having repulsion against the other, then **we are telling God to not forgive me either**, then **we are telling God to not shower His blessing on me**, then **we are telling God to withhold His unconditional mercy on me**, then **we are telling God to stop extending His unconditional compassion**. It is this aspect of “forgiveness” that becomes highly essential and conditional in our desire to do the Will of the Father, at all times, and living a faithful Christian life.

The prayer – "Our Father" is indeed one of the most easily learned and widely used prayers. But this clause of the prayer, which is often overlooked, also makes this prayer dangerous! This clause of the prayer, which is often not thought of, also makes this prayer challenging! Let the prayer 'Our Father' help us to make inroads into forgiving others! make us to march forward into extending pardon to others! With forgiveness and mercy in our hearts, may we seek to echo, at all times **"Dear God, Let Your Will be done - Nothing more, nothing less, nothing else"**.

Let us pray:

Father in heaven, you have given me a mind to know you, a will to serve you, and a heart to love you. Give me today the grace and strength to embrace your holy will and fill my heart with your love that all my intentions and actions may be pleasing to you. Help me to be kind and forgiving towards my neighbor as you have been towards me.

Jesus, I trust in You.

