

A Reflection on the Prayer, “Lord, let thy will be done”

The prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, “Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me. Yet not My will, but Yours be done” (Luke 22:42), and the inclusion of the phrase “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” in the Lord’s prayer as taught by Christ to His disciples in Matthew 6:10, highlights the important nature of this simple but difficult prayer. Indeed, it is Jesus’ favorite prayer because of his obedience and total submission to the will of the Father.

I call it “simple but difficult prayer” because of human desires which often control our thoughts as we present our supplications to God. It is simple because anyone can say it, after all we say it quite often within the Lord’s prayer. However, only few have the disposition to accept the will of the Father, which most times does not align with human desires. It is a prayer that suppresses our will and desires, that is what makes it difficult. In agony Christ desired that the cup of suffering and death should pass Him, but it never did. This is the enigma of this prayer, you can never tell which way it goes. Christ ended up submitting to the will of the Father, bringing to completion the loving plan of the Father.



We too are often caught up in situations like this. Things don’t go the way we desire even when we pray. And I must say, it is not easy to accept situations like this. It is normal to believe in God to fulfil our heart desires. However, we are called to submit to the will of the Father just like Christ did. Christ himself has laid the foundation for us in humility and obedience. It is now left for us to emulate His humility and surrender to the will of the Father. It is not easy I must say, I too want my heart's desires to be fulfilled by God. But do not be afraid nor discouraged for God knows the plans He has for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). Trust in God at all times.

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