

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven

1. What is God's will? (Poll)
 - A. Boulema (βούλημα) - will/counsel/purpose
 - a. His **decretive** will — the expression of God's perfect sovereign plan
 1. *God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? Num. 23:19*
 2. *I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 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, calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it. Is. 46*
 3. *Eph. 1*
 4. Prime: "We change our minds often because things turn out differently from what we expect and we cannot see into the future. But not so with God... his will is eternal and unchanging."
 - b. Thelema (θέλημα) - preferred will
 - a. His **preceptive** will — the expression of God's perfect moral character (but does not necessarily ordain - can be disobeyed)
 1. *... I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. John 5:30*
 2. *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." Mt. 7:21*
 3. *"And when he had removed him [Saul], he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will." Acts. 13:22*
 - b. Sometimes refers to what pleases God, his disposition
 1. *Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel? Ez. 33:11* Cannot mean sovereign will, nor his moral will
 2. Possible to obey commandments without pleasing him!
 - A. *"...this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men." Is. 29:13*
 - B. To accomplish his purposes (his decretive will)?
 - a. We know that God always accomplishes all that he plans, so why pray this prayer? Why pray at all?
 1. Express confidence in his power
 2. When we consider God's sovereign will, we humble ourselves to accept his decrees.
 - A. *In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. Lk. 10:21*
 - b. The fact that the request is qualified shows that this is not all Jesus has in mind.
 - B. *As it is in heaven* (obedience, his preceptive will)
 - a. The angels — obeying with joy and praise
 1. *Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! Psalm 103:20-21*
 - b. How do we know his will?
 1. *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Eph. 5:15-17*
 2. *"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."*
 - c. A prayer for personal obedience:
 1. Thomas: "... means asking for purpose of mind and resolve of spirit; strength, that is, to do as God bids us."
 2. For others: *And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Col. 1:9-12*
 3. For yourself: *Gestbemene*: a prayer of submission and a petition for strength
 - A. Should we pray, "if it be your will?"
 - B. The answer to the prayer
 - C. In all of these first three petitions we are assuming a **posture of humility**, and setting straight our priorities:
 - a. We are children dependent on our Heavenly Father who want his name to be worshipped and feared, who want his rule to be recognized and respected, his will to be obeyed and loved. Because there are no greatest goods than these.
 1. *Hallowing his name is good: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly! Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King! Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre! For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation. Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds.*
 2. *God's Kingdom is good: "Seek first the Kingdom of God..."* It is a treasure!
 3. *God's will is good: "I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes." "You are good and do good; teach me your statutes." Ps. 119*
 3. Praying the prayer guide and the Lord's Prayer

A. You will see Jesus' priorities in prayer reflected in the way the guide directs you to pray — don't overlook them!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 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.

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 that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.