

## **03 | Pray the Will of God**

### **GOD ANSWERS PRAYER Series**

Well, hello everyone, we are continuing our walks with God series titled God Answers Prayer. And we've been building our faith on how to pray effectively and to build our faith that God answers prayer. Well, you know, as we're building our faith in prayer, there is no better place to start than to take a look at the life and ministry of Jesus. You know, Jesus prayed often, and He prayed very effective prayers, and His disciples saw that Jesus was a man of prayer, and His disciples saw that God answered Jesus' prayer. So, at one point they came to Jesus and they said, "Lord, teach us to pray." We want to learn to pray effective prayers. And I want to begin by taking a look at what Jesus said in Matthew six, verses nine and ten. Jesus said, "In this manner, therefore, pray. Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven." Now, let me just stop there for a moment. Jesus is giving His disciples, and you and I, instructions on how to pray. And from the very beginning, Jesus says, "In this manner, therefore pray. Our Father..." In other words, we bring our prayers to God the Father. We're praying to God. And then He says, "Hallowed be Your name." That means that we begin by opening up in praise and

worship to God. We lift up His name. We magnify the Lord. We praise the Lord. And then Jesus said, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven." Jesus emphasized the importance for you and I to pray. God's will. We need to pray God's will.

In fact, that's the title of this lesson, "Pray God's Will." You see, praying God's will is not something that is supposed to be a mystery for you and I. Did you know that there are so many people who just mistakenly assume that you can never know God's will. You just never know what God's going to do. So, their prayers are more like a shotgun approach. Like, I'm going to shoot here and shoot there and lift a prayer this way and that way. And they might just say things like, "You just never know what God's going to do. You just never know what prayer He's going to answer. He might answer this one. He may not answer that one." And they approach prayer like a lottery. Sometimes you get lucky and sometimes you don't. And that's because many people mistakenly believe you just can't know God's will. But I want to encourage you that you can know God's will. Did you know that? You can know God's will. In fact, Ephesians 5:17 says, "Do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." Let me say that again. "Do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." In other words, understanding the will of the Lord is something that the Lord wants us to have. And if we don't have the will of the Lord, then we're unwise. Listen,

the Lord does not want you and I being unwise in our prayers. He wants us to be wise in our prayers. Therefore, we need to understand the will of the Lord and lift up and bring up the will of the Lord in our prayers. See, that is the prayer that the Lord wants us to have.

So the question then is this, how can we get to know God's will? How do we understand God's will? Well, there's no better place that I can think of to answer that question than by looking at Isaiah chapter 55 versus eight and 11. God says this, "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts. Neither are your ways, My ways,' declares the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the Earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts then your thoughts.'" Let me just stop right there for a moment. God here is acknowledging that His way of thinking is different than our way of thinking. And His ways of doing things are different than our ways of doing things. He's saying, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, and My ways are not your ways." And then He says this, "For as the heavens are higher than the Earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts higher than your thoughts." So, then the Lord now is giving us a comparison of height, and He's saying, "My thoughts are higher than yours." We can't think higher than the Lord. His way of thinking is the highest way of thinking. His way of doing things is the highest way. And our way of doing things and our way of thinking is down here. Well, there seems to be a gap. So, can you and I then understand

His thoughts and ways? Notice what He goes on to say in verse ten, "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there, but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater. So shall my word be." So, I want you to notice what He's saying, "My word will be like this." In other words, my thoughts are higher than your thoughts. My ways are higher than your ways. But just as He is, He's explaining that rain comes down from heaven, which is higher than the earth. We understand the heavens, meaning the sky here, in this context, that as the rain comes down and waters the earth and causes the earth to respond and grow and become fruitful, He says, "So shall my word be that goes forth from My mouth." In other words, the Lord is saying, "I don't want My thoughts and My ways staying up here without you understanding them. So I gave you My word, and My word, when you receive My word here on earth, you can receive My thoughts. You can receive My ways. You can understand My ways and My thoughts." Therefore, you and I can understand God's will. You see, the only way that you and I can understand God's will is to get to know His Word. The Lord bridged that gap by giving us His Word. By giving us His word. So how can we know God's will? Very simply, we get to know His word, the written scriptures, the Bible.

And so first, I want to leave you with this. Pray God's word. Pray God's word. If you want to pray God's will, let's learn to pray according to God's Word. Let's pray the Word

of God. And remember where we opened in first John, chapter five. It says, "This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." So what this passage is saying is that if we pray according to His will, and you can say this, according to His word, we know He hears us. And if He hears us, we know that He will answer our prayers. Listen, God answers prayers according to His will. When we pray God's will, He hears us and He answers prayers according to His will. Isn't that good? So, we're talking about praying God's will. So, we need to pray the word. Why? Because the Word works. The Word works. Notice again in Isaiah that God said, "So shall my word be that goes forth from My mouth." Notice this phrase. "It shall not return to Me empty." What does He mean? That, "My word shall not return to Me empty?" Some translations would say, "My word will not return to Me void of power." Well, what does that mean? "It won't return to Me empty." Well, let me suggest to you that one way that this applies to us is God sent us His Word. But when you and I receive the Word, and by building our faith and getting it into our heart, and through prayer, through our words, we can make declarations and pray. And we're saying sending the word of God back to Him, so to speak, back to His ears. And the Lord says, "When My word comes back to Me, it does not come back to Me void of power. It does not come back to Me empty." So I suggest to you that God gave us this powerful word that

causes growth here on the Earth, causes growth in our lives, and if we will return the word to Him, so to speak, through prayer and say things like, "Lord, according to Your word, I pray this, and I pray that," and the Lord receives those prayers according to His Word. And he says, "That is not void in power. They're praying according to My word. That's My will and it'll accomplish." Notice what it says. "It will accomplish that which I purpose and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Notice, "It will succeed." Your prayers will be successful. Your prayers will be effective. Your prayers will be answered. And notice that God said, "It will succeed in the thing for which I sent it." What does that mean? Every Scripture God gave us to accomplish something specific. If you are looking, and you are needing the Lord to answer a prayer regarding healing, look up the Scriptures regarding healing, and look and just realize God gave this Scripture specifically for healing. "So, Lord, I take this Scripture and I declare that according to what your word says," for example, "in Psalm 103, to bless the Lord all my soul and all that is within me. Bless His holy name, bless the Lord and forget not all His benefits, who forgives my iniquities and heals all my diseases. So, Lord, according to Your word, You sent this word for healing. And so I declare and pray, Lord, for healing in my body. Healing in someone else's body." You guys seeing this? And in the thing for which God sent it. He sent that word for healing, it'll be successful. God will answer prayers. So we need to pray God's word.

Praying God's word is a primary way that we pray His will.

So, let's dive into what God's Word is. To understand what His will is regarding healing, find out what God's will is regarding provision, what His will is regarding salvation, our family, peace, guidance, direction, wisdom, and so on. Let's find out what the Word of God says. And then I want to add this as well. Not only that, not only should we pray God's word, but we need to pray in faith. We need to pray in faith. Notice again first John 5:14, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And then we know if He hears us, we have the petitions that we've asked of Him." But notice it begins, "This is the confidence that we have, that when we pray, according to His will, He hears and answers our prayer." You see, when we know God's will, it creates a confidence inside of us and a faith inside of us that God will answer our prayers. Why? Because we're praying according to His will. And so the Lord doesn't want us praying these doubtful, pessimistic prayers that are more like wishful thinking or hope. Rather saying, "Lord, according to Your word, I pray this with that confidence, and I believe that I receive them." In fact, that's another passage. Jesus said, "That when you ask, believe that you receive them and you will have them." See, it's that believing, that's confidence, not this wishful thinking or this pessimistic hope or this lottery mentality of

sometimes you're lucky, sometimes you're not. No. You see, when we get to know God's word and we get to know His will, it produces confidence and faith so we can pray prayers in faith. You know, the Bible says that in James one, five, "That if anybody lacks wisdom, let them ask of God who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting. Let him ask in faith with no doubting." And it goes on to say, "because he who doubts, let not that man suppose he'll receive anything from the Lord." In other words, once again, we see that the Lord wants us to pray prayers in faith, in faith. "And we know that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." So we come back full circle to the word of God. The word of God builds our faith. It gives us confidence. And so when we pray according to God's word. We have that confidence and faith that we're also praying according to His will.

So a primary way that we pray God's will is to pray according to His word. And I want to give you maybe just a couple examples here. How should we pray? You know, when it comes to the healing, when it comes to healing, we can pray something like this. "Lord, according to Psalm 103, verse three, where You said that 'You forgive all of our iniquities and You heal all of our diseases.' So, Lord, according to Your word, I pray healing over my body, I declare healing over this person, that person you see," or you pray according to the Word of God when it comes to provision. You can say, "Lord,



according to Philippians 4:19, that You said that those that are tithers, and seek You first, that 'You will supply all of my needs according to Your riches and glory.' So, Lord, I pray Your provision in my life as a tither." Before the Lord, when you're wanting to pray for salvation for others, you see, we are wanting to pray for the lost. Isn't that right? Then we can say, "Lord, according to Second Peter 3:9, 'You are not willing that any should perish, but that all come to repentance.' So, Lord, according to Your word, I pray for so and so, and so and so, that they not perish, but that they come to repentance, and that they will receive salvation," and you're praying according to the will of God. Are you guys seeing this? So, find out what it is the Bible says when you need peace. "According to John 14:27, Jesus said, 'Peace I give you and peace I leave with you.' So, Lord, I receive that peace in Jesus' name." And so, we pray His will. And the primary way we pray His will is to pray God's Word.

And I want to leave you with one last thing I don't know about you, but sometimes you just maybe don't know what God's will may be. Even when you want to look, you might want to look in the scriptures, but sometimes you might not know exactly what to say or how to say it. Well, the Lord tells us something very powerful in Romans 8:26. The Lord says "Likewise, the Spirit" talking about the Holy Spirit, "helps us in our weaknesses. For there are times we do not know what we should pray for as we ought." Sometimes you just are

in a situation where you don't even know what to pray right now. Maybe there's confusion, maybe there's an attack, maybe you're discouraged and your confidence is down and such. Yes, we need to get in the Word. Yes, we need to build our faith. Yes, we need to pray according to the will and the Word of God. Yes. But even right here, the Bible says that we can find ourselves in times where there's just this weakness that we have. And the Lord didn't leave us helpless, He gave us His Holy Spirit. Notice, "The Spirit helps us in our weaknesses, for there are times when we don't know what we should pray for as we ought. But the spirit Himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words." And notice verse 27, "He who searches the heart knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints," that's you and I, "according to the will of God." In other words, the Holy Spirit prays the perfect will of God. Another primary way we can pray the will of God is to pray in the Holy Spirit. If you are filled with the Spirit and you have received your prayer language, I want to encourage you, pray in the Spirit. Why? Because the Holy Spirit only prays the will of God. He doesn't get the will of God wrong ever. He knows God's will. He knows God's mind better than anybody else. Isn't that right? He is God's Spirit. And so, when you and I pray in the Holy Spirit, we're praying the perfect will of God. So, I want to encourage you, yes, pray God's Word. Yes, pray in faith, and yes, pray in the Holy Spirit. Do all of it. Pray all of it. And as

we do, we're going to see that this builds confidence in us, and this faith.

And I want to close just by simply reading again where we began in, looking in first John 5:14, "That this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask" and I might add, according to His will, "We know that we have the petitions that we've asked of Him." In other words, God answers prayer according to His will.

So, Father, we come to you in Jesus' name, and I pray for everyone watching right now, that just as Jesus taught us to pray, "Your kingdom come, and Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven," that we understand that Jesus emphasized the importance for You. For us to pray the will of God. And so, Lord, as we seek to pray Your will, help us to know Your will. We want to understand Your will. And so, Lord, we commit ourselves to get to know Your will, to seek out Your will. And we'll do that by spending time in Your word. So, Lord, as we are facing various challenges that might be going on in our personal lives, in our finances, relationships, health, ministry, whatever it may be, Lord. May we know what Your Word says regarding those situations, and latch on to those promises, and may our faith be stirred and built as we hear the Word and we read the word so that we will have confidence in our prayers and knowing that our prayers are effective because we're praying according to Your will,

and according to Your Word. And Lord, I thank You also that when we don't know what we should pray for, as we ought, that You did not leave us without a helper. You gave us the Holy Spirit. So, Lord, I pray that we will be encouraged to pray in the Spirit even more than we have ever prayed before, because praying in the Spirit, we understand, prays the perfect will of God. So, Lord, may we be a people who pray the will of God. And Lord, where Your will might not be known to us, open our eyes to see, and to discover, and to receive what Your will is through spending time in Your Word, and spending time hearing messages, building our faith so that we can have that confidence in our prayers, that You hear us, and You answer us. And I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen. God bless you.

