

Prayer Part 2: Matt. 6:10 “God's Reign”

Intro. The purpose is not to see our will done but His will. The purpose is not to simply get from God but to grow in God.

Subject: God's reign and prayer

Objective: Seek God's will in prayer

Review: Sermon on the mount, model prayer, God's invitation to pray

A. The problem of doing God's will

1. What is God's kingdom? “Kingdom of God” used 50x in Matthew's gospel alone Garden of Eden [Gen 3], God's kingdom reigns on earth before fall. After 1st coming & victory over sin at cross the kingdom is characterized by God's reign in our hearts.

At 2nd coming est. Christ's earthly and everlasting Kingdom [Revelation 21:2-5; 22:3].

a. God's people seek to know and do His will.

2. How is God's will done in heaven? In heaven worship God & yield completely. God is clearly revealed in heaven. There is purity and perfection & no rebellion

3. Why is it difficult to do God's will?

a. Conflict between doing His will and our flesh, desire for this world

b. We don't know God's will - neglecting the Word of God.

c. We believe that our will is better than God's will

4. Prayer helps us to do His will

a. Jesus in the Garden [Mt.26:39-42] Not as I will, but your will be done [2x]

i. Pray or else you'll fall into temptation [Mt.6:13- do not lead us into temptation]

ii. Temptation is a lure to think or act contrary to God's will

B. Benefits of knowing God's will

1. Closeness: seeking His will brings you closer to God

* Job offer – seek God and His will vs. seeking a sign [opp. for intimacy]

2. Comfort: encouraging to know you are in His will, especially in difficult times

* Couple struggling in their re that know God brought them together

3. Confidence: we can actually know God's will

1John 5:14-15 “Now 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 that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him”

C. How to know God's will

1. Scripture: The Word of God reveals the heart and mind of God generally and in very specific ways.

** **George Mueller:** relied upon + prayed promises of God, prayed w/open Bible

a. The more we know God's word the better we know His will

2. Spirit: The Holy Spirit guides us to pray just as Jesus would [Jn. 14:15-17,26]

- a. The Spirit intercedes to help us pray per God's will by guiding our prayers [Rom. 8:26-27]. We pray to the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit [Jude 1:20-21]
- b. Bible refers to the Spirit's help in prayer more than any other help He gives
- c. Pray in the realm of the Spirit rather than merely our intellect
- d. Real prayer transacts its business in the spiritual realm
- e. Yield your life to God & His Spirit will guide your life generally and in prayer

3. Separation: we need time alone with God

a. We need to eliminate or minimize distractions [not a call to isolation]

i. Matt.6:6 when you pray go away by yourself ...

ii. Hard to hear from God when there is too much distraction

b. Take time [e.g. half-day] away from everyone and everything – just your Bible and a journal to write your notes. What are your questions? What do you believe? What are you afraid of? What are you living for? What do you want and why? How does it affect your relationship with God? why do you think it is or isn't His will?

4. Surrender: God is likely to reveal His will when you've decided to follow it

Discussion Qs

- 1. What are some reasons why it is difficult to do God's will?**
- 2. What do you consider to be some benefits of knowing God's will?**
- 3. What advice would you give to someone who is seeking to know God's will?**
- 4. Spend time praying together as a group.**