

THE LORD'S PRAYER



"THY WILL BE DONE"

WHAT IS "WILL?"

- ❖ A desire or wish ("The voters expressed their will.")
- ❖ A command or direction ("The will of the king")
- ❖ Intention or decision, esp. regarding the future ("Tomorrow, I will go to the store.")

GOD'S WILL OR DESIRE

- ❖ God does have righteous and holy desires.
- ❖ Are God's desires ever unfulfilled? Does God ever want something that doesn't come to pass?
 - DAN. 4:35; PROV. 21:30; ISAIAH 14:27; 43:13; 46:10-11; ROMANS 9:19; HEBREWS 6:17.
- ❖ If God wills / desires something that doesn't happen, what would that say?

GOD'S WILL OR COMMANDS

- ❖ This refers to God's will regarding what He commands His creatures to do.
- ❖ 1 Timothy 2:4 (cf. Acts 17:30); Romans 12:2; Ephesians 6:6; 1 Thess. 4:3, 5:18.

GOD'S WILL OR INTENTION

- ❖ In theological terms, these are referred to as "decrees" - where God determines or decides what will occur.
- God's will determines all things: Isaiah 46:10-11; Acts 4:27-28; Eph. 1:11
- God's decrees are not revealed as are His commands (see Deut. 29:29).

"YOUR WILL BE DONE"

- ❖ For which aspect of God's will are we then praying to be done?
- ❖ Not His desires or His decrees, for these are always done. They cannot be thwarted.
- ❖ Therefore, we are praying for His commands to be done on earth as in heaven.

"ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN"

- ❖ How are God's commands carried out in heaven?
(We assume this means by the angels.)

Cheerfully	Fully	Constantly
Instantly	Exactly	Energetically
Glorifyingly	Unconditionally	Lovingly

PREREQUISITES FOR DOING GOD'S WILL

- ❖ A new heart (Romans 6:17, 8:7; Ephesians 6:6)
- ❖ A knowledge of God's will from His Word.

"As there are statute laws in the land which bind, so the Scripture is God's statute law, which we must exactly observe. As the watch is set by the dial, so our obedience is right when it goes by the sun-dial of the word. If obedience has not the word for its rule, it is not doing God's will, but our own; it is will-worship." (Thomas Watson's *The Lord's Prayer*, p. 148).

WHY DO WE PRAY THIS?

- ❖ Doing God's will is against our rebellious nature.
- ❖ Doing God's will is required. We are praying that God will grant what He requires. (*"Command what you will, and give what you command."* - Augustine)
- ❖ We are persuaded that God's will is good for us.
- ❖ Doing God's will testifies of the gospel.
- ❖ Doing God's will brings us assurance.