

Day Seven

"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 'Give us this day our daily bread. 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.' -Matthew 6:9-13

Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven...

*Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."
-Psalms 40:7-8*

This Psalm is applied to the Savior by the writer of Hebrews. In fact, all of the life of Jesus was a continual submission to the will of His Father in heaven. It was stated as such when Jesus came up from the water at His baptism: *and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."* -Matthew 3:17. And again when on the mount He was transfigured before the eyes of Peter, James and John: *While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"* - Matthew 17:5.

Paul uses Jesus' submission to the Father's will as a basis for urging us to emulate that humility into our own lives: *Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.* - Philippians 2:5-7

Now, the question remains, "how do I know what the will of God is in my life?". Too often, we find our lives at odds with God's will. We ask for God's blessing for what we want to the exclusion of seeking what He would have us to do. In fact, what we often find is that we are seeking forgiveness for

our stubborn will rather than the giving thanks at having done His will.

Submission is only submission when we submit. Few of us enjoy the trials we go through. But, James tell us that these are perfecting us. *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* - James 1:2-4. Peter relates the same: *After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.* -1 Peter 5:10

Is it the will of the Father for us to suffer? Perhaps. We must be prepared for what lies beyond the trials and suffering. Joseph, in the same way desired an end to his imprisonment, but God had other designs. In the end, Joseph was able to see His hand at work. *"And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.* -Genesis 50:20

We may affirm with our lips what Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans: *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.* -Romans 8:28. Now we must take it to heart in our prayers. God's will is perfect in heaven. All is done according to His divine Law. His will shall be done on earth as well. The task: let our lives be in tune to that will.

Which of us would trade places with Job? How about Daniel? Perhaps Jeremiah? We should not think it a punishment to endure persecution. Rather we should rejoice. Peter shares the same sentiment with the likes of James, Paul and Christ that he should do the will of the Father with joy: *but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.* -1 Peter 4:13 *saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."* -Luke 22:42

Prayerful Thoughts: Father, use me as Thy instrument in this world.