

## **YOUR WILL BE DONE**

Wednesday, February 18

Reading: John 6:35-40

**John 6:38** *For I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him who sent Me*

Can you imagine one of heaven's angels saying to the Lord, "I know you want me to deliver this important message, but I don't want to right now." Or, "I'm busy right now so I'll do it later." Or, "Maybe one of the other angels would be better at it so I'll just let them do it." That attitude from God's angels is totally incomprehensible! And yet, many times it is the attitude displayed by Christians today.

Jesus told us to pray, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." For many, this means praying for our leaders to do the right thing and follow God's direction. While this is true, we cannot ignore the personal aspect of this prayer. God is calling US to do His will in our lives. It is impossible to love God and yet refuse to do His will in your life. While that may sound harsh, it is entirely true!

Jesus is our ultimate example of following God's will. Multiple times He stated that He had come to do the will of His Father.

John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him who sent Me."

In His final hours, as the agony of the cross lay before Him, Jesus struggled in prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. Matthew 26 gives us the most detail of this anguished time while Luke writes of the physical toll on Jesus – "His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground" (Luke 22:44). The struggle between Jesus' humanity and His obedience to the Father's will was settled in His cry, "Not My will, but Yours be done." This is the attitude every believer should desire when they pray "Your will be done."

What is the will of God? While we can never fully grasp it all, Bible teachers often describe God's Will in three aspects. First, there is His SOVEREIGN WILL. This entails His control of everything and his purpose and plan for all of creation. The sovereign will of God does not change and will always succeed. Second, we have the PERMISSIVE WILL of God. Since He gives people freewill, His permissive will allows things that are not His ideal – "in all things God works for the good of those who love Him" (Romans 8:28).

The third aspect of God's will is what we will focus on – God's REVEALED WILL. This consists of the commands and principles He has revealed in Scripture. For instance, it is God's will that people be saved (John 6:40), that we live holy (sanctified) lives (1 Thessalonians 4:3), that we give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18), and that we do good deeds (1 Peter 3:17). These and thousands of other commands and principles make up the revealed will of God.

Look up the verses mentioned above. Are you actively seeking to do them in your life?

What other commands and principles do you know God has commanded that you can add to this list?