

Hey there! Pastor Gerber here again. Welcome back.

Today, we are continuing with our study of the Lord's Prayer. Let's pray that together again, right now.

Our Father...

Today we are looking at the third petition of the Lord's Prayer: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. **What does this mean?...**

What is God's will? Put simply, God's will is doing what God desires for you to do. God has a will for all of his creation. A rock that sits firmly planted in the ground is doing God's will. A tree that gives shade, fruit, and a home for animals is doing the will of God. A fire that cooks food and gives warmth to those nearby is doing God's will.

Now, there are 2 different categories of God's will: His general will and His specific will. God's General will applies to every person and is revealed in Scripture. John 6:40 tells us that Jesus' Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and Jesus will raise him up at the last day. That's a general will. It is for all people.

Matthew 22 teaches all people what they should do: love the Lord with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.

And Micah 6:8 teaches all people to act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.

All of these are commands and desires are for all people. It's not like I'm called to act justly and you are called to love mercy and your friends is called to walk humbly with our God. No. We are all called to do all of those things. It doesn't matter how old we are, if we are male or female, if we are in a relationship or single. We are all called to do all these things.

But then God has a specific will for each of our lives. This is unique to each person and revealed by the Spirit. I am called to be a husband to Stacy. I am called to be a father to Landon, Alexandria, Samantha, and Bennet. I am called to be the assistant pastor of youth and family here at Trinity. I am called to be a good neighbor to those who live on my specific block. You are not called to those things, unless you too have a wife name Stacy, kids named Landon, Alexandria, Samantha and Bennet, you work at Trinity as the assistant pastor of youth and family at Trinity, and are living on the same block that I am living. That would be highly coincidental, but I would love to meet you! Hopefully I have already met you since we were both called to be good neighbors in the same neighborhood. But even if we had all of these things in common, there would still be a specific will of God that is only for me and one that is only for you.

In 1 Corinthians 12, we see that every part of the body is important. This is a metaphor for the body of Christ. If you try to be something that you're not, you decrease the impact of the body. God wants you to embrace what He has called you to be and to be.

So, how do you know God's will and how do you live under God's will?

Romans 12:2 teaches us that a changed heart removes our 'self' from the center and allows us to see God's will.

And Jeremiah 29 teaches us to seek and trust God, no matter what the circumstances.

To grow in our understanding of God's Will, we should read God's Word, because God's will never contradicts the Bible. Then, we should pray because prayer is our step of faith to know God, it's our chance to share our desires with Him, even though he already knows them, and it's our chance to hear His will for our lives.

Then we wait. We cannot control when or how God speaks. We should be attentive to His speaking, but He could speak to us in a variety of ways.

While we wait, we can ask others whom we respect for wisdom in our situation. That could be a parent, a pastor, a friend, a leader in the church, or someone else that you look up to.

And then, once we have determined God's will, we follow it. We trust that He is good and will lead us!

And, finally, what are we asking by saying "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven?" That God's desires would take place in our lives and the lives of those around us. That we seek to know God, not just His plans for us. And that God would reveal His specific will for us, by the Holy Spirit, over time. Or, more simply, we are seeking to do what God would want us to do every minute of the day.

The main point of our session today is that God's will is so much more than what we do, but it's whom we are following!

Well, that's all for today. As always, let me know if you have any questions. See you next time!