

## **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven**

Why does doing God's will here on earth seem so hard? A combination of factors is at play.

### **I must first know God to understand His will.**

God's words and actions in the Bible and all creation reveal His eternal power and divine nature to us. It is He who created us and all the complexities of our human bodies. He established the boundaries of the earth, seas, and sky. He ordered our physical world with mind-boggling precision when you consider buoyance, gravity, migratory routes, reproduction, seasons, tides, and weather cycles to name only a few. The heavens declare His glory, the skies proclaim the work of His hands according to Psalm 19:1. He knows what lies in the outer reaches of space, in the depths of the ocean, and beyond what the naked eye can see.

This same God loves you and me so much that He does not want anyone to be separated from Him and His love. John 3:16-17 says "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

### **To carry out God's will, I must want to do His will more than I want my own way.**

John 6:38 tells us "I [Jesus] have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me [God the Father]."

Jesus spent time in prayer, in His Father's presence, so He knew His Father and His Father's will. But even Jesus struggled when that will was hard. Mark 14:33-36 tells us that on the night Jesus was betrayed and arrested, when He was deeply distressed and overwhelmed with sorrow, He prayed "Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Jesus made the difficult choice to do His Father's will instead of doing what He wanted.

### **I must believe it is both possible and desirable for God's will to be done here and now through me.**

We are created to proclaim God's power and glory. All who believe that Jesus died for their sins and have accepted God's forgiveness can cooperate with God's Holy Spirit to accomplish God's purposes. However, everyone is also capable of exercising the free will God has given each one of us. Let God, the Master Potter described in Isaiah 64:8, mold you into something wonderful as you seek to do His will. We must desire God's will to be accomplished in our lives and believe the Holy Spirit will make this possible in our hearts, minds, emotions, and egos.

Take time to

- Spend time reading God's Word to learn more about who He is, His character, His purpose for you, and His will
- Repent of deliberately choosing to go your own way, refusing to know or do God's will
- Ask God what He wants you to do for/with Him today instead of just telling Him what you want
- Seek God with all your heart and memorize His words (Psalm 119:10-11) so you will want to do His will

Pray "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...."