

A person wearing a purple and red garment is blowing a long, curved horn. The background is a sunset with a bright sun and a colorful sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

# **YOUR WILL BE DONE: THE COST OF SURRENDER**

**The Lord's Prayer (4)**

When Jesus teaches us to pray these words,  
He's not giving us a polite religious phrase.  
He's leading us into something far deeper and far  
more costly. Jesus is revealing to us the same  
posture that defined His own life, and ultimately  
led Him to a cross. He's inviting us to join Him.

- ▶ Hallowed Be Your Name
- ▶ Your Kingdom Come
- ▶ Your will be done

These three requests are not separate and unrelated. They are asking for one great reality, that God would once again be honoured as King, and that His will would be done on earth as it is in heaven.

9. Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
10. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

**Matthew 6:9 -10**

## ▶ **What Does 'Will' Actually Mean?**

**Thelema** - desire, intention, heartfelt purpose.

When Jesus teaches us to pray "Your will be done"  
He's not calling us to submit to something harsh or distant. He's calling us to trust the heart of a Father.  
God's will is not something we must endure, it is something we can trust.

- ▶ **What Does 'Will' Actually Mean?**
- ▶ **The Heavenly Standard**

In Psalm 103:20 the angels are described as those who do His word, obeying the voice of His command. It is not reluctant obedience, it's immediate, complete and joyful.

In Isaiah 6:1-3 the seraphim cry "Holy, holy, holy". What we are seeing is the posture of heaven, creatures who have seen God clearly and whose entire response is one of glad, wholehearted surrender.

Heaven obeys God without hesitation and Jesus teaches us to pray that us believers here on earth would begin to do the same.

- ▶ **What Does 'Will' Actually Mean?**
- ▶ **The Heavenly Standard**
- ▶ **Jesus Brought Heaven's Obedience to Earth**



In his excellent teaching 'Experiencing God', Henry Blackaby makes the observation that we never invite God to join our activity, rather, we watch to see where God's already at work, and we join Him there. The initiative always belongs to the Father. Our part is not to launch our own plans and ask God to bless them, but to stay close enough to the Father that we can see what He is doing, and then move in alignment with it.

Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them,  
“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of  
Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father  
doing; for whatever the Father does, these things  
the Son also does in like manner.

**John 5:19**

I have come down from heaven not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

**John 6:38**

I do nothing on My own authority, but I say these things just as My Father taught Me.

**John 8:28**

- ▶ **What Does 'Will' Actually Mean?**
- ▶ **The Heavenly Standard**
- ▶ **Jesus Brought Heaven's Obedience to Earth**
- ▶ **Gethsemane: Surrenders Cost**

Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me.  
Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours be done.

**Matthew 26:39**

Jesus had a will of His own and He understandably had a deep desire to avoid this path. Yet, in the most costly act of surrender in all of history, He humbly chose the Father's will. "Not My will, but Yours be done." In the Garden of Eden, mankind chose their own will over God's and the world broke. In the Garden of Gethsemane, the Son of God chose the Father's will over His own and the world was redeemed. The same choice, but the opposite result. And in our lives, that same choice remains.

- ▶ True surrender is not the absence of feeling, it's not pretending that the cost doesn't matter.
- ▶ True surrender is the choice, made in full awareness of what it costs, to place the Father's purposes above our own.

- ▶ **What Does 'Will' Actually Mean?**
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- ▶ **Jesus Brought Heaven's Obedience to Earth**
- ▶ **Gethsemane: Surrenders Cost**
- ▶ **The Oldest Prayer Reversed**

## **What is sin at its root?**

It's not just a list of bad behaviours, but the deep, persistent, universal human insistence on placing our own judgment, our own desires, our own plans above the will of God.

Romans 3:11 says that no one naturally seeks God: none of us naturally seek to know or do His will, unless He first works in us.

▶ **The Personal Cost: What We Actually Surrender**

- ▶ **The Personal Cost: What We Actually Surrender**
- ▶ **Why We Resist**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Romans 12:2**

He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all – how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?

**John 8:28**

- ▶ **The Personal Cost: What We Actually Surrender**
- ▶ **Why We Resist**
- ▶ **How Do We KNOW His Will?**

- ▶ Scripture is the primary, non-negotiable guide. God's will has already been revealed - clearly, reliably, and authoritatively, in His Word.
- ▶ The Holy Spirit illuminates, applies, and enables.
- ▶ God's guidance is also internal. Jesus promised His disciples that the Spirit of truth would guide them into all truth.

There is a big difference between the Holy Spirit dwelling within us and the Spirit filling and empowering us moment by moment.

In Acts 4, we can see the believers who already had the Spirit were filled again and again. And in Ephesians 5:18, we are told to be filled with the Spirit - not once, but continually.

The Greek verb **plērousthe** is a present tense imperative and it carries the sense of keep on being filled, be continually filled.

We are expressing a cry of full dependence: "Father, I cannot live this life in my own strength. If Your will is to be done in my life, it will be because You, by Your Spirit, enable it." Suddenly this prayer is no longer heavy or burdensome. It becomes a response to Jesus' invitation - to be yoked with Him, to walk at His pace, in His strength.

The same Father who calls us to obedience is the Father who gives us the Holy Spirit to enable us to walk in it.

▶ Peace, wise counsel, and waiting.

Colossians 3:15 tells us to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, and the word translated 'rule' is the Greek word for an umpire in a sporting contest, someone who adjudicates. The peace of Christ can function like that in our hearts. A settled, quiet peace can be a significant confirmation.

From Henry Blackaby, I have learnt that in our Christian walk: just as not all open doors are for us to walk through, a door that God hasn't yet opened isn't necessarily a door He intends to keep closed.

Sometimes His will is not unclear, it's simply not yet. Learning to wait with faith rather than forcing our own timing is itself a form of surrender. It is saying: Father, not only do I trust Your plan - I trust Your timing.

Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

**Psalm 25:4-5**

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

**Psalm 27:14**

- ▶ **The Personal Cost: What We Actually Surrender**
- ▶ **Why We Resist**
- ▶ **How Do We KNOW His Will?**
- ▶ **Surrender is Not Passivity**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

**Romans 12:1**

- ▶ **The Personal Cost: What We Actually Surrender**
- ▶ **Why We Resist**
- ▶ **How Do We KNOW His Will?**
- ▶ **Surrender is Not Passivity**
- ▶ **The Freedom on the Other Side**

The yoke of surrender to the Father's will is not a heavier burden than the one we were already carrying. It is a far lighter one. Because, praise God, we're no longer trying to carry something that was never ours to carry and finally we're no longer trying to be king.

## **The Prayer That Changes the One Who Prays It**

- ▶ **It is a prayer of trust** - because it requires us to believe that the Father's will is good, even when we cannot yet see how.
- ▶ **It is a prayer of surrender** - because it calls us to release our grip on the outcomes we have been trying so hard to control.
- ▶ **It is a prayer of alignment** - because it slowly, steadily, sometimes painfully, reshapes us into people whose desires increasingly match the Father's own.

Before God's will changes our circumstances, He is looking to change us. The truest answer to the prayer "Your will be done" is not always a change in our situation. It's the change that occurs in the garden of our hearts. We begin to see our situation the way the Father sees it. As that change happens in us - as we learn to hold our plans and preferences more loosely, as we learn to trust the Father more fully - we will find that He enlarges something in us. He enlarges our faith. He enlarges our peace. And He enlarges our capacity to be used for purposes far greater than our own.

**The kingdom comes where the King is obeyed.**

And the King is most fully obeyed, when we have truly surrendered,  
and can say with Jesus from the depths of our hearts:

“Father, . . . Your will be done.”