

## Praying God's Will into Actuality

### Introduction

- A. Prayer, as described in the Bible, is often associated with the power of God.

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. Eph. 3:20*

- B. When viewed correctly - prayer is a divine-human cooperative.

*And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. John 14:13*

- I. The Promises for Prayer are Related to the Will of God.

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14*

- A. This is a great promise. We are encouraged to get our eyes off ourselves and put our faith in God and His will. Our confidence in prayer is to revolve around Him. We are assured that when we ask according to His will - He will hear us.

- B. All believers struggle with such promises. So many of our prayers seem to go unanswered. We must submit ourselves to the wisdom of God and His timetable. His plan for us and our prayers goes far beyond our limited viewpoint.

- II. Illustrations of Praying the Will of God into Actuality.

- A. Elijah lived during the reign of wicked King Ahab who led Israel into deep apostasy (1 Kings 16:30,33).

He read how God promised to send a drought if His people became apostate (Deut. 11:16,17). Elijah prayed it would be done and Israel was brought back to God. In James 5:16,17 he is presented as an example of how we should pray.

- B. Daniel lived during the Babylonian Captivity (Dan 9:1-4). He read in Jeremiah 29:10 that the time of the captivity would be seventy years. He prayed for God's will to be done and probably led many others to pray with him. God answered the prayers.

- C. Epaphras was a member of the Church in Colosse. He was with Paul in Rome. During that time he prayed for God's will to be done in his home Church (Col. 4:12,13). He is presented to us as an example of how to pray God's will into actuality.

- D. Paul often prayed for God's will to be done among believers (Col. 1:9-12). He believed his prayers would make a difference among those for whom he prayed. We can approach our prayer life with the same faith in God and His promises.

### III. Examples of the Will of God We Can Pray for One Another.

- A. It is God's will that we delivered from the world.

*Who (the Lord Jesus) gave him self for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father. Gal. 1:4*

- B. It is God's will that we live a holy life.

*It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 1 Thess. 4:3,7*

- C. It is God's will that we experience joy, pray and are thankful.

*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thess. 5:16-18*

- D. It is God's will that we live a life characterized by honesty, love and good works.

*For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. 1 Peter 2:15*

**Summary:** We can pray these expressions of the will of God for one another with confidence that He will hear our prayers. While we must recognize all have a free will - and God will not be able to do what one may refuse - we know He has the wisdom and power to reach into even those who are making wrong choices.

We can add to the above verses the commandments of God, His promises, exhortations, and the prayers in the Bible that are given as examples of how to pray.

### IV. Biblical Reminders Regarding Prayer.

- A. Our unbelief, passivity, and sin often hinders God from answering our prayers.

*What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. James 4:1-3*

- B. We are exhorted to live a life pleasing God - so He can answer our prayers.

*Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. 1 John 3:21,22*

**Conclusion:** When we do not live a life pleasing God, surrendered to Him and praying in the Biblical manner - we deprive ourselves of great joy and effectiveness. By such failures we also deprive our family, friends and Church of much of the will of God.