

HC 124 –Lord, help me to die to my will

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: There are many signs around Toronto of people offering to predict your future by reading the palm of your hands, using tarot card, looking into your eyes, interpreting your horoscope (星象), or getting knowledge from the world of “spirits.” But it gets worse. After predicting your future, those people then try to give guidance (from your plans, the spirits, or the stars) about how to invest money, what job you should take, whom you should marry, and what your lucky lottery (彩票) numbers are. So what you do is not directed by God’s Word. They want you to follow their will.

But God teaches you to reject those dumb and demonic things and do what he wants, based on his revealed will. You will hear about this today.

Our headings are:

You must deny your will

You must desire God’s Will

You must do God’s Will

Our goals are: That seeing the great gift of your spiritual freedom through Jesus, **you will learn God’s will, you will desire God’s will, and you will ask God for the grace to do his will so his kingdom can come!**

124 Q. WHAT DOES THE THIRD REQUEST MEAN?

A. *Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven* means, **Help us and all men to reject our own wills and to obey your will** without any back talk. Your will alone is good. **Help everyone carry out the work he is called to** as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.

You must deny your Will

1. You cannot pray for God’s will if you insist on your will, so you must reject your will.

You are naturally selfish and proud. It is not in your nature to give in to other people’s will, like Adam and Eve who chose their will and rejected God’s will. Today, children under control of our government churches – schools, are trained to “**not to make your parents “force you to do what you don’t want to do.”**” The will of the child becomes paramount. Some Christians think it is wrong to make children come to church. Whose will is that? And what if children refuse to eat broccoli? Listen to Jesus’ call to die to your will:

Matthew 16:24 ...“If anyone desires to come after Me, **let him deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 “For **whoever desires to save his life will lose it**, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

Look at how the Apostle Paul challenged Christians to die to their own sinful desires.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts**, we should live soberly (清醒地), righteously (公义的), and godly...

In fact, all men on earth must submit to God’s will, just as all the angels in heaven submit.

2. You must also reject your old father’s (the Devil’s) will.

Do not consult horoscopes, fortune-telling (占卜), etc. God’s will for you is revealed in his Word. God saved you in Jesus Christ, surely he will tell you how to live for him and grow in him. **And in keeping his will is great reward!!!**

Isaiah 47: 13 You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels筹划; Let now the astrologers观天象的, the stargazers看星宿的, And the monthly prognosticators说预言的 Stand up and save you From what shall come upon you. 14 **Behold, they shall be as stubble碎秸. The fire shall burn them;** They shall not deliver themselves From the power of the flame; It shall not be a coal to be warmed by, Nor a fire to sit before!

3. You must also reject superstitious迷信的 will – something that many have inherited from Charismatic灵恩派的 leanings.

a. **Someone might say: “If I get a job offer on Tuesday** that is a sign from God I must leave the job I have.” Well, you may get a job on Tuesday, but it is not a special sign from God. It may even be a good job, or a job that might cause you to leave your present job, but you have to make that decision by examining **the principles of the will of God in the Bible. Will that job advance the kingdom?** You are not to wait for some special sign.

b. **Someone says: “I will become a Christian if God gives me a job”** and then God gives him a job. He may go to church, but **he is not a Christian.** He doesn’t understand the will of God. **He has not learned to submit to God through the merits and works of Jesus Christ** (his life, his death, and his resurrection).

You must desire God’s will

1. Added to your willingness to reject your own will, a will that is marred by sin, you must desire to do God’s will.

It is the only rational thing. It is a required thing, based on all that God did for you. (Romans 1-11)

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice (活祭), holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The thing to keep in mind is that it is not normal to desire to do God's will. You have to reflect on what God has done for you – how great his salvation is – so that you will want to honor him. This is why preaching and devotions are so important.

2. Avoid those who say: “I haven’t studied this, but I believe...” or “I can’t believe God would say that” or “I don’t believe God meant that.”

Politicians and the press often speak like this.

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

3. Look at some examples of how men, with God’s help, worked in redemptive (救贖的) history to reject their wills and advance God’s kingdom by submitting to God’s will:

a. Abraham left his comfortable life in Ur of the Chaldees to be a temporary resident in Canaan. He was there to mark the land God was going to give to his descendants as they waited for Messiah. Later, Abraham was called to sacrifice his son, his only son, whom he loved. Abraham rejected his will and was ready to sacrifice his son.

b. Moses gave up the comforts of living in Pharaoh’s palace, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

c. God told Hosea to go and marry a prostitute (妓女) , Gomer, and have a child with her, and he did.

None of these men could advance the kingdom’s cause without abandoning their will and desiring the Lord’s will. So ask God to kill your will and make you desire to please him.

You Must Do God’s Will

1. You must not only reject your desire and desire to do God’s will, you must go farther and actually do God’s will.

To desire to do God’s will you have to know his Word (which took time and effort). And when you desire to do God’s will you will then do it.

2. Look to the example of Jesus Christ and the angels; this will motivate you to do God’s will.

Jesus Christ rejected his desires for the will of the Father, even when he was facing death. He pursued his Father’s glory!

Luke 22:42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; **nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.**"

So when you pray “your will be done,” you are praying for self-denial. Also, learn from the angels.

Psalms 103:20 Bless the LORD, **you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word,** Heeding the voice of His word. 21 Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, **who do His pleasure.**

3. You must do God’s will without complaining otherwise you get not credit for obedience.

Moses showed the opposite response **when he struck the rock out of frustration,** refusing to do God’s will. He let his frustration work against God’s will. **So when you pray “your will be done,” you are praying that you will not complain.**

Exodus 16:6 Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt. 7 "And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what are we, that you complain against us?" 8 Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? **Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD.**"

4. You must do God’s will without being a pretender (作假者) trying to fool God.

Church attendance will not save you. Being friends with Christians cannot save you. God’s will is wrapped up in heartfelt obedience to his law.

Matthew 7:21 **"Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven,** but he who **does the will** of My Father in heaven.

5. When you do God’s will it must be in whatever area God has called you to serve: Single, married, rich, poor, young, or old.

a. Look at how this was taught in the Scriptures. God’s will is to endure even difficult times!

1Corinthians 7:20 Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called. 21 **Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it;** but if you can be made free, rather use it. 22 For he

who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. **Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's slave.** 23 You **were bought at a price**; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brethren, let each one **remain with God** in that state in which he was called.

b. Look at how this is applied today. God may want you to be rich to do his will, so you are not to give away all your wealth. God may use wealthy people to reach wealthy people who may never listen to a poor man. **God may want you to be poor** because you can identify with the poor. **I wonder if modern preachers lived in the early church** if they would have told believers to rebuke their bosses in Jesus' name and claim their freedom! So praying for God's will is to pray that you will **accept realities of life – harsh or kind realities.**

Ephesians 6:5 Bondservants, **be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh,** with fear and trembling, in sincerity (真诚) of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, **doing the will of God from the heart,** 7 with goodwill **doing service, as to the Lord,** and not to men,

Of course this does not mean that you shouldn't work hard, but if you work hard and are poor, that is God's will. Accept that.

6. Consider some practical cases. What is God's will in each case?

a. **Would you confront a friend who is living in sin – challenging him to do God's will** or would you be afraid to lose a friend?

b. **If your salary would increase 50% for taking a new job that requires Sunday work,** what would you do? Would you rationalize and say: "I can give the church more" or maybe, "I can help the poor more?"

c. **If you have a really great boyfriend or girlfriend who is not a Christian,** what must you do?

d. **You find a wallet with \$500.00 on the road.** Do you spend it and take as a gift from God?

7. Keep in mind that there are some times when you simply have to accept God's will.

You may have to accept the death of a child or spouse in a natural disaster or accident. You may be robbed. You may experience terrible sickness – like Job experienced. **Take what comes from God's hand.** **Deuteronomy 29:29** "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever..."

Don't try to know what God does not tell you.

Conclusion:

Pray that you will reject your will, knowing your will is marked by sin and selfishness. Pray that you will desire God's will, and know his will well by studying his Word well. Pray that you will actively and passively do God's will. **This will help God's kingdom to come in fullness.**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Don't short-cut the system like Gideon and the fleece羊毛. To know God's will. It is true that knowing and obeying God's will isn't easy. It is against your nature. But study God's Word. Reflect on what Christ did for you on the cross and the greatness of his love and sacrifice for you. **Only this will make you to submit to his will.**

2. When you do struggle to submit to God's will, ask him for help.

3. Don't ever be ashamed to do God's will. You belong to your Redeemer. Do God's will in your work place as an employee or employer.

4. Promote God's will. Teach others, especially your children, from childhood, to do the will of God.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, you have free will自由意志, but you do not have free ability to obey God. The Bible says that the one who is not a Christian is a "slave to sin." You have lost the ability to do God's will. Absolutely nothing you do can please God. The only thing you can do that will please God is to receive what he offers: The sacrifice of his Son as a substitute (代替) for sinners. Will you accept God's offer to you?