

PRAYER FOR SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WILL

Intro: Set before us in this petition is the sovereignty of God. This is the heartbeat of the Reformed faith!

This petition naturally follows that which precedes: citizens of God's kingdom submit and obey the rule of their King.

How we need this petition: the grace to deny ourselves, our own will and desires to will God's will.

I. GOD'S PERFECT WILL**A. God is a willing being.**

- God is not an impersonal power like the wind or a blind force like the god of the Deists.
- Rather God is an intellectual, volitional, personal Being. There is harmony between his being and his will.
- God is sovereignly free: all he wills, he does; all he does he wills to do.
- There is never anything that God does that is involuntary or by compulsion

B. Distinguish between his will of decree and will of command.

1. The will of God's decree is his eternal plan by which he has determined all things, which he perfectly executes.
 - This is the sovereign plan of God by which he sovereignly determines all that happens in creation & in our lives (Eph 1:11)
 - God's will is good (Rom. 12:2).
 - God's will is infinitely wise. He knows the end from the beginning.
 - This will is secret until the moment that it is unfolded or revealed.
2. The will of God's command or precept is his will concerning his rules and laws for his citizens.
 - The emphasis of this petition is upon this aspect of God's will.
 - He teaches us that we desire obedience to his precepts like unto the obedience of the angels in heaven.

C. To whom and where does he reveal his will?

- He reveals that will not in the sky or in one's inner self.
- He reveals his will in his Word and in his law.
- In the gospel we are taught to repent and to believe, and how we are to live a life of sanctification.
- Let him who has ears to hear, hear what the Spirit has to say: spiritual things.

II. PRAYING FOR SUBMISSION.**A. We are praying for grace to renounce our own will.**

- We have a mind and a will. It is a mind and will that is fallen, under the influence of our sinful nature.
- This is no easy business. God's will for our lives is often very contrary to our will. It demands self denial.
- Jesus Christ in his humanity in the garden looks at the suffering that is demanded of him. "Not my will but thy will be done."
- Jesus teaches us to pray this because he knows what a struggle this is for us.

B. Submission to God's will of decree:

- The will of God is good and wise and perfect.
- That will of God touches our lives in the health of a loved one, difficulties in our pilgrimage. God is in control.
- We love his counsel that chose and saves us. But when he makes our way hard...we foolishly think that we know better.
- Not rebellion or anger, but humble submission. "The Lord gives, the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

C. Obedience to God's will of precept.

- A prayer that God will teach us his will, to make us know increasingly his will for our walk of sanctification.
- It is a prayer that we will love his precepts, not find them grievous, that we do not murmur or complain.
- We pray that we may obey not only when it is relatively easy and pleasant but when it is very difficult and costs us.

D. What this petition entails:

- That we accept our station and lot in life.
- We are asking for spiritual wisdom, to understand the way of his precepts.
- We are asking for an spiritual inclination towards his will, running in the way of his commandments/
- We are asking for spiritual strength to perform his bidding.

III. WHY WE NEED THIS PETITION.**A. Why do God's will?**

- In this we show our love to Christ.
- We give evidence of our sincerity.
- By our obedience living, others are brought to Christ.
- Our obedience is the way. In which we receive God's blessings. It is the way of happiness and long life.

B. The needed grace to pray this petition.

1. We need grace to trust our Father for he is trustworthy.
 - He is our Sovereign Lord and our heavenly Father.
 - We know that he chooses the best way to bring us to heavenly glory and the best way to realize fully his kingdom.
2. We need grace to pray this from our hearts.
 - This is a simple prayer to utter from the lips. Even a child can.
 - But the only way we can pray this petition is if the grace of God smashes our own sinful desires.
 - God gives us grace to pray what we cannot of ourselves: how wonderful! "Thy will be done...on earth as it is in heaven."