

Your will be done!

Investing Into God's Plan

- "Your kingdom come, Your will be done" Matt 6:9-13

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give **us** today our daily bread. ¹² Forgive **us** our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead **us** not into temptation, but deliver **us** from the evil one." (Matt 6:9-13 NIV)

- "When Jesus gave his disciples this prayer, he was giving them part of his own breath, his own life, his own prayer. The prayer is actually a distillation of his own sense of vocation, his own understanding of his Father's purposes. If we are truly to enter into it and make it our own, it can only be if we first understand how he set about living the Kingdom himself." — N.T. Wright, The Lord and His Prayer
- Our Father...Give us...Forgive *us*...Lead *us*...Deliver *us*...As you can see, the "Lord's Prayer" is not really a personal prayer, but a **corporate in nature**.
- "If we take into account how early the **didache** came into being (between the mid to late first century), how firmly this catechism was affirmed by following bishops and Church Fathers, I think we are left with a good reason to believe the Lord's Prayer was instituted in the very early Church, likely by the disciples themselves."
 - The **didache** states the following: "*But let not your fasts be with the hypocrites for they fast on the second and fifth day of the week; but fast on the fourth day and the Preparation (Friday). Neither pray as the hypocrites; but as the Lord commanded in His Gospel, thus pray: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our debt as we also forgive our debtors. And bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one; for Yours is the power and the glory for ever. Thrice in the day thus pray.*"
- We worship God every time we pray and give our lives to him. Jesus taught his followers to **pray and commit themselves to God's will**. In Romans 12:2 it says that God's will is good, perfect and it fits you. One of the first steps toward discovering God's will for our lives is not doing something different, but choosing to let him change the way we think...
 - Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. **Then you will learn to know God's will for you**, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Rom 12:2 NLT-SE)

- “I am the LORD your God, who **teaches you** what is good for you and **leads you** along the paths you should follow. (Is 48:17 NLT-SE)
- **The Way We Pray...**Most of our prayers at least start out as requests. Seldom, do we start our time with the Lord with listening. We make a concerted effort to honor God in prayer with thankful hearts, grateful for all he has given us.
 - When we do begin to “make our requests known to God,” we typically ask him to bless us saying, **help me** do the right thing, and **give me** what I need to do what I feel he has called me to do.
 - **Rarely, do we honestly ask him what he wants us to do with and for him!** I we could make this shift in our approach to prayer, we would find that a majority of what we give ourselves to in prayer is a direct investment into his kingdom.
 - ¹⁹ “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ **Store your treasures in heaven**, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ **Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.** (Matt 6:19–21 NLT-SE)
- **What Are God’s Plans?**
 - “**I know the plans I have for you,**” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. (Jer 29:11 NLT-SE)
 - “**I know the plans...**” We have all heard the words of encouragement God had for his people while in captivity in Babylon. It’s a favorite verse for high school graduation ceremonies, spoken with enthusiasm to young people heading out into the real world to start their lives. That said, not many people actually know the context in which God spoke this word over his people...
 - **The Context:** ⁴ This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: ⁵ “Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. ⁶ Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! ⁷ And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.” (Jer 29:4–7 NLT-SE)
 - **The Promise:** ¹⁰ This is what the LORD says: “You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But **then I will come and do** for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. ¹¹ *For I know the plans I have for you,*” says the LORD. “*They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.* ¹² In those days

when you pray, I will listen. ¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. ¹⁴ I will be found by you,” says the LORD. “I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land.” (Jer 29:10–14 NLT-SE)

- Submitting To God's Plans

- All the evidence may point to difficult times and that likely makes you feel a bit squeamish about continuing on the path God has you on. **One thing's for sure, his will being “done” in our lives is the best path we could ever be on...**
 - “My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.” (Matt 26:42 NLT-SE)
- Submitting our will to God's will just sounds like we think we are incapable of doing things right. The truth is, when we submit our will to his, we don't become inactive in the process. Quite the opposite. **Once we submit our will to his, God is able to give us the resources, wisdom, and courage to do the impossible...**
 - I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will. (John 5:30 NLT-SE)
- **There is no future in getting our own way with God.** One person said, “The definition of “Hell” is getting your way for eternity...”
 - This world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever. (1 John 2:17 NLT-SE)
- **Would you like your life to be so touched by God that everything changes?** The culture we live in is draining, leaving us tired, discouraged and surviving with little, if any, margin in our lives. It's time for your “garden” to be renewed and replanted by the Spirit...
 - ‘God will continually revitalize you, implanting within you the passion to do what pleases him. (Phil 2:13 PASSION)