

## Mt.6.9-15 “God’s Plan in Prayer”

### INTRODUCTION:

Many people wonder how God’s sovereignty can be related to praying for His will to be done.

- God resolves all things in perfect, noncontradictory **truth** (Dt.29.29).
- Our responsibility is to believe & **act** on God’s truths, whether some of them seem to conflict or not.

#### A. **WRONG UNDERSTANDING OF GOD’S WILL**

- Some believers are **resentful**.
- Some are **resignedly** obedient.
- ❖ Our own prayer lives often are **weak** because we do not pray in faith;
- ❖ We do not **expect** prayer to change anything.
- ❖ We pray out of a sense of **duty** & obligation;

God is sovereign, but He is not independently deterministic.

- Some think of God’s providence as a sort of **cosmic** vending machine;

#### B. **RIGHT UNDERSTANDING OF GOD’S WILL**

Our prayer should be that everything be brought into **conformity** with God’s perfect will.

A part of the right understanding of & attitude toward God’s will is what might be called a sense of righteous **rebellion**.

✚ **Nothing** wicked or sinful comes from the hand of God, but only from the hand of Satan.

- ❖ To pray for righteousness is to pray **against** wickedness.
- ❖ To pray for God’s will to be done is to pray for **Satan’s** will to be undone.

To pray rightly is to pray in faith, believing that God will hear & answer our prayers. I think the greatest hindrance to prayer is not:

- lack of **technique**,
- lack of biblical **knowledge**, or even
- lack of **enthusiasm** for the Lord’s work, but
- lack of **faith**.

We simply do not pray with **expectation** that our prayers make a **difference**...

There are three distinct aspects of God’s will as He reveals it to us in His Word.

**1<sup>st</sup> His will of purpose.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> God’s will of desire.**

- ❖ His will of desire is **not** always fulfilled;

**3<sup>rd</sup> God’s will of command.**

This will is entirely for His **children**, because only they have the capacity to obey. (Ro.6.16–18).

God’s will of purpose embraces;

- ❖ the ultimate end of this **world**,
- ❖ Christ’s second coming &
- ❖ the setting up of His eternal kingdom.

The great enemy of God’s will is **pride**. For God’s will to be accepted & to be prayed for in sincerity & with faith, self-will must be **forsaken** in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Ro.12.1–2).

### CONCLUSION:

In vv.11–13a Jesus gives three petitions:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - relates to our **physical** life & the **present** (**daily bread**),
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – relates to our **mental** & emotional life & the **past** (**debts**), &
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – relates to our **spiritual** life & the **future** (**temptation & evil**).