

**Advanced Bible Correspondence Course  
Lesson 49 – The Lord's Prayer**

**Q. 124. WHICH IS THE THIRD PETITION?**

**ANSWER:** "THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN"; THAT IS, GRANT THAT WE AND ALL MEN MAY RENOUNCE OUR OWN WILL (A), AND WITHOUT MURMURING OBEY THY WILL, WHICH IS ONLY GOOD (B); THAT SO EVERYONE MAY ATTEND TO, AND PERFORM THE DUTIES OF HIS STATION AND CALLING, AS WILLINGLY AND FAITHFULLY (C) AS THE ANGELS DO IN HEAVEN (D)

(A) MATTHEW 16: 24, TITUS 2: 11, 12. (B) LUKE 22: 42, EPHESIANS 5: 10, ROMANS 12: 2. (C) 1 CORINTHIANS 7: 24. (D) PSALM 103: 20, 21.

**God's will**

In the previous Lord's Day we saw that every man is his own king, yes, a god. This means that he wants to have his own way in all things; that things will go as he wants them to. The petition "Thy Kingdom come" implies that I will no more be king; that I will submit myself to the great King of heaven and earth. Only one will remains to be obeyed, which is God's will. He who prays has been taught that this will is the only good one. God's will cannot be different from that, which is good, though this will may be contrary to our will. This will is directed toward the honour of God. Do we always understand this? No, far from it, but love says "Everything that God wills and does is good." Then it cannot be otherwise, that when we pray, we will ask, "Thy will be done." We are short-sighted that we do not know what is good for us. God knows better than we do.

**Absolute obedience**

"Thy will be done" indicates absolute obedience toward this will. Everywhere, always, and by everybody this will is to be obeyed. That is what occurs in heaven. The angels and all the people who are already in heaven do not wish anything but to unconditionally obey the will of God. We know that it would look totally different on earth if that will would also be obeyed here, by all men, in church, in politics, in families, at work; yes, everywhere and under all circumstances.

But how do all those people know what God's will is? This we find in the Bible, the Word of God. Therefore this should also be the purpose in the counsel of ministers of the government. Then God will also be honoured in political life. This is also a prerequisite for the prosperity and well-being of a nation.

### **Beginning in our own heart**

Where should this begin? It should begin within us, in our hearts. Do you know what is necessary for this? The new birth or regeneration. Otherwise our heart will never comply with this obedience. Then a disagreement will remain, if not in words, then certainly in our hearts. The apostle struggled with this too. He says: *"For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do"* (Romans 7:19) Our will and the will of God must become one will. We must abandon our will. This means that we will become disloyal to our own evil will, and not follow our own will, not to comply with it, not obey it. That will work peace in the heart. It was like this in Paradise. Then man only wanted what God wanted. We do not have this of ourselves. Therefore we have this petition "Give..." God is so worthy of being served by everyone. Therefore we would also like all people to render unconditional obedience out of love toward God. God would receive the honour and man would receive the benefits of this compliance.

### **Directed toward God's honour**

In all our obedience toward people who are set over us, we ought to have God's honour in view. Paul teaches us how we should serve: *"Not with eye service, as men pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service, as to the Lord and not to men"* (Ephesians 6: 6,7). The angels are an example, those compliant spirits, who always, without objecting, do what God command. Wherever we read about angels, we never hear a word of objection out of their mouths. God's will is their will. Therefore the petition says: *"As in heaven also on earth."* As it happens in heaven, may it also happen on earth. What do we need for that? The fear of the Lord, which means a loving reverence for the highest God. This petition will be answered, here in principle with God's children, and later perfectly on a new earth. What a blessing this is!

### *Questions:*

1. *As a result of what did the Lord Jesus as the great Example teach this prayer? (See Luke 11).*

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2. What does “renounce our own will” mean here?

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Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_

Meditation: “*The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.*”  
*Titus 2:11*

Here are three blessed and glorious truths: they demand the constant attention of our minds; they tend to sink into the deepest humility of heart, to excite the greatest joy of spirit, and to inspire the most ardent love and gratitude of soul.

*Salvation:* this was the counsel of heaven; the work of the Son of God: the wonder of angels; the envy of the devils, and the glory of apostate, rebellious sinners; sinners who are born with enmity of heart, rebellion of will, and hatred of affections against God, and who have manifested the enmity of their mind by wicked works; the rebellion of their will, by taking arms against the Lord; and the hatred of their affections, by refusing to lay them down and submit unto him: O that precious word, full of wonder, grace and love, “God commendeth His love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us –when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his son.” Romans 5: 8-10. This is a salvation worthy a God of infinite love to bestow; here is a Savior worthy to be received with all readiness of mind. To be embraced with the most cordial affection, and to be gloried in as the richest blessing, by lost, hopeless, ruined sinners.

This salvation is “*brought to us*; the news of it is sounded in our ears; the report of it is daily made to us; it is displayed and set before us in all its glory, richness, freeness and fullness, in the Gospel, that we may receive it and enjoy it, take it as our own, and rejoice in the salvation of our God.

It is brought to us by *the grace of God* which hath appeared. Where? In the person of the Son of his love, and in the Gospel of his grace: there the grace of God appears; there the salvation of Jehovah shines forth and is made manifest to all men; to all sorts of men, Jews and Gentiles. Therefore it is revealed, as a free and full salvation, worthy of ALL acceptance, free from all limitation and restriction.

Paul speaks of “knowing the grace of God in truth.” Colossians 1:6. This is done when any poor sinner receives and believes the Gospel: it then becomes the power of God to salvation to that poor sinner’s soul: he then knows the free favor of God in Christ Jesus: Christ is all his salvation and all his desire: the Holy Spirit, who

hath convinced him of sin, and enlightened him to see Gospel truths and Gospel grace, will comfort him by them. Hath the grace of God thus appeared to thee? Hath it brought salvation to thy soul? Dost thou believe the Gospel? Then take heed of mixing any righteousness of thy own with thy faith and hope in the grace of God and salvation of Jesus! For this were to degrade both, and bring thy soul into bondage to the law of works.

*Taken from: "A Spiritual Treasury for the Children of God" by William Mason*