



# His Word Is Truth!

This article is written by Pastor Tom Eckstein of Concordia Lutheran Church in Jamestown. "His Word is Truth" will appear in this paper every 3rd Monday.



Today we continue my series on The Lord's Prayer as found in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. This article will focus on the following words of The Lord's Prayer: **"Your will be done."** Jesus teaches us to pray these words to help us learn that God will answer our prayers as He thinks best. Simply put, every request a Christian makes of God through prayer should be made with the understanding that God will answer that prayer by giving us what we need but not always what we want.

Sadly, there are some false teachers today who suggest that it is actually sinful to pray *"Your will be done"* - even though Jesus told us to pray these words! These false teachers will quote verses out of context and then make them sound as though God will give us whatever we want if our prayers are "truly sincere" and we have "enough faith." But Scripture does not teach this! In 1st John chapter 5 we read: **"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us. And if we know he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him."** Now, this does NOT mean that God will give us anything we want. What it DOES mean is that we must learn to trust that God will give us what we truly need!

Those who promote the lie behind a *"Name it! Claim it!"* understanding of prayer

are guilty of two evil errors. First, this error can drive people to despair. For example, what about a Christian woman who asks God to heal her of terminal cancer? What if her cancer then gets worse and she is not healed? Some would say her prayer was not "sincere enough" or that her faith was not "strong enough." **How evil!** Second, the *"Name it! Claim it!"* error leads us to treat God like a genie in a lamp whose purpose is to grant us our wishes. Jesus forbids this kind of prayer! (See Matthew 6:7)

God teaches us to pray *"Your will be done"* so that we will learn to trust His plan for our lives - **even if His plan includes suffering and trial**. We don't know all the reasons God allows Christians to suffer. However, Scripture does give us two reasons! First, God allows Christians to suffer as a way to strengthen our trust in His promises that we accept by faith (see Romans 5:1-5 and

1st Peter 1:6-9). Second, God allows Christians to suffer to give us opportunities to witness to others about the hope we have in Jesus (see Philippians 1:12-14 and 1st Peter 3:13-18).

Allow me to share some personal information. In January of 2000 I received a phone call that my father was in the hospital and was expected to die soon. As I was traveling to the hospital I asked God to heal my father. But I also prayed: **"Your will be done."** God did heal my father, and he is alive to this day! However, if my father had died God would have still answered my prayer nevertheless. Why? The reason is that I prayed: **"Your will be done."** Besides, *Christians can't lose!* (See Philippians 1:21)

Let me give you one other bit of personal information. Our oldest child was diagnosed with autism when she was 3 years old. On many occasions I have asked God to heal her. Life would be so much easier for us - *and especially for her!* - if God

would heal her. But I've also prayed: **"Your will be done."** So far God has NOT healed Birgitta. Nevertheless, God has given us His will for her - and that includes her ongoing struggle with autism. Jesus taught me to pray *"Your will be done"* so that I would learn to believe that God works for our good in all circumstances! (See Romans 8:28) **The Apostle Paul also learned this truth when God allowed him to suffer.** (See **2nd Corinthians 12:7-10**)

The reason you can know that God's will for you is best is that He sent His only Son to the cross to suffer the damnation we all deserve because of our sins against God. We deserve nothing but God's present and eternal wrath. But God didn't give us what we deserve. Instead, God gave us JESUS!

Jesus understood the words *"Your will be done"* firsthand. Just hours before His death Jesus prayed these words: **"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I**

**will, but as you will."** The "cup" Jesus spoke about was the "cup of God's wrath" that must be poured out on us sinners. *But the Father loved His enemies so much that He poured out His wrath on His own Son so that we might repent of our sins and be forgiven - and then live as God's children forever.* Jesus submitted to His Father's will because He trusted His Father **and** because He loves YOU!



Please read the next "His Word is Truth" on Monday, June 16th! Pastor Eckstein will continue his series on The Lord's Prayer with the following petition: *"Give us today our daily bread."*

For more resources about Christian teaching and issues, go to Concordia Lutheran's web page: [www.concordiajt.org](http://www.concordiajt.org)

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