



## THEME: CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

### Bible Study 6 :Answered Prayer – “ Thy Will be done!”

**INTRODUCTION** If we want to really break through into a place of consistent answered prayer we need to keep things simple. This simplicity is expressed in a simple prayer of Jesus where He teaches His disciples to pray , “ Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Here is the heart and key to the real experience of powerful and complete answered prayer. But what does it mean to pray this prayer? Is there more to it than just a general covering over a situation in the hope that somehow God will do what is right because we have covered it in this simple statement? To truly understand and affirm this statement of Jesus, to practice the heart of this statement is to discover what is for many the undiscovered land of answered prayer.

**DISCUSS** – What do you think is at the heart of God’s will for His creation and for His people?

Do you think His will changes throughout the generations? (give reason for answer)

What do you think we can learn about the will of God by looking at what He has done before, by reading His word ?

**WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS**– Job 36 v 5, Proverbs 19 v 21, Psalm 33 v 11 Ephesians 3 v 10 – 11, 1 Chronicles 16 v 34, 2 Chronicles 5 v 13 – 14, Psalm 25 v 1 – 10, Psalm 34 v 8 – 10, Psalm 100

**TEACHING SLOT** – God’s will is good and its outcome is perfect.

When we begin to understand something of the nature of God what we see is that God is perfectly Pure, Holy, Righteous and Good. Over and over again Scripture declares that God is a moral being who does what is right and who’ every action is thought out, consistent, and in line with His unchanging nature and purposes. What this means is that when we come to the reality of prayer and when we come to discern His will we can be assured that the Lord intentions and actions are always governed by perfect goodness, perfect love and perfect justice. To seek His will to be done is the ultimate act of ongoing trust and confidence in who HE is and how He manifests Himself to His creation. The simple truth that we have is that our Father in heaven does not make up things as He goes along, BUT because He is all knowing, all present, all powerful, He is not taken by surprise by the things of the present or the future, but He has already made a way, defined a plan of action, established a an outcome that will be in line with His perfect will and for the greater good of not only His people but of His Kingdom. Because the Lord does not change, His nature does not change, His purposes do not change, we can learn much about His active will for our lives, relationship and situations by educating our minds and our spirit in the nature of who He is, what He has done, and what His perfect purposes are. As we do this we find our understanding and spiritual discernment is drawn into a place before the throne of grace where we are praying in line with His will and therefore are moving into a place a real anointed answered prayer.

**DISCUSS** –Why do you think that for some people discerning God’s will and purposes is hard?

How do you think we can overcome these difficulties?

**WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS**– John 14 v 26, John 15 v 15 – 16, John 16 v 12 – 15, Romans 8 v 26 – 27, 1 Corinthians 2 v 10 – 16, Psalm 119 v 1 –3, Psalm 1 v 1 – 3, Joshua 1 v 7 – 8,

**TEACHING SLOT** – Learning to know and pray God’s Will

It is a simple truth that for our prayer life to become powerful and effective we need to educate ourselves in the will and purposes of God. Scripture calls us to mediate on the works of the Lord, to mediate on His word. One of the reasons for this is that when we fix our minds on the Lord, His Word, His Ways, His Spirit we begin to get insight into His Will and purposes. THERE ARE PRACTICAL WAYS THAT WE CAN INFORM OUR PRAYERS AND OUR PETITIONS TO THE LORD. As the prayer of our hearts conforms with the will of God being done we move into a real and powerful place of answered prayer. “ Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” then becomes not just a generalised prayer that we hope covers all the possibilities, but by the Spirit of God renewing our minds we actively know what the Will of God is in a situation or over a person and we pray with educated faith for this to come into existence.

This is very much a journey of learning and growing, but because we are His children the Lord actively wants us to know what is on His Father’s heart, How He has worked in the past and how He will work in the future. Because of this He has given practical things that we can do to produce this sensitive, insightful answered prayer that comes from His throne of grace. The more we know and experience the truth of God the more that truth informs our prayer and requests. As we gain a greater understanding of His ways and actions we find ourselves natural submitting our will to His and praying alongside His revealed actions and outcomes. Jesus made it clear that He had not come to do His own will but to do the will of the One who sent Him. What we see here is that at the centre of Jesus’ words, actions and even prayers is a complete focus on the will of the Father and His purposes being made manifested. This resulted in Jesus being testified to by the Spirit and also by the Father through signs and wonders. ( John 15 v 26, Acts 2 v 22, Acts 10 v 38) As God’s children by adoption through faith in Jesus we are called to put the purposes and will of God at the centre of our lives, our desires and our ambitions. As we let the Spirit and the Word lead us into a deeper revelation of the LORDS will we will discover that the Lord WILL testify concerning our faithfulness to His ways and actions. This testimony is to enable us to bear a clear witness, to grow in the fruit of the Spirit so that our lives give glory to God.

**TEACHING SLOT** – Obedience and Trust are the keys

This process of knowing and praying into existence the Lord’s will is all about a simple trust in the nature and actions of our heavenly Father in heaven. It is about laying all on the alter and declaring that we will trust and obey what the Lord wants for situations know that His goodness and faithful love will truly fulfil His good and unchanging purposes in our lives, situations and world. This is about the crucifying of the flesh and learning to live and pray by a Holy Spirit directed life. Thinking and praying God’s thoughts after Him is possible and indeed necessary for the experience of answered prayer as in many situations we discern what the Lord’s will is and by faith and agreement we pray it into existence. We may not ever be perfect at this discernment, but from small beginnings great things grow and are made manifest!!