

Chapter 22. The will of God

*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven – **Matthew 6:10.***

1. The **will of God** is the living power to which the world owes its existence. Through that Will, and according to that Will, the world is what it is. It is the expression or manifestation or embodiment of the Divine Will in its wisdom, power, and goodness. All the beauty and glory that it has, is because God willed it to be so. Just as that Will formed the world, so it also maintains it every day. Creation does what it was destined for – it shows forth the glory of God. *"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."* **Revelation 4:11.**
2. If this is true of inanimate nature, how much truer is it of intelligent creatures. The Divine Will created a creature with a will in His own image and likeness, with the living power to know, accept and co-operate with that Will to which it owes its existence. The glory of the angels consists in counting it their highest honour and joy to be obedient to and do exactly what God wants and does. **The glory of heaven is that God's will is done there.** Sin and misery of fallen angels and humans, consist simply in having turned away from, and refused to abide in, and do, the will of God.
3. Redemption is nothing else but the restoration of God's will to its rightful place on earth. This is the reason why Christ came and, *in a human life, demonstrated how humans have but one thing to live for – **the doing of God's will.*** He showed us how there was only one way to conquer the self-will – by dying to it, in obeying God's will even unto death. In this way, He atoned for our self-will and conquered it for us. He opened a path through death and resurrection, into a life entirely united with, and devoted to, the will of God.
4. God's **redeeming will**, is now able to do in fallen humans what His creating will had always worked and continues to work in nature. In Christ and His example, **God has revealed what He asks and expects of us – to devote ourselves to and delight in His will.** In Christ and His Spirit, He renews and takes possession of our will, working in it both to will and do His will, enabling us to willingly do all His will. He Himself works all things according to the counsel of His will. *"He makes*

you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight." (Hebrews 13:21). When this is revealed by the Holy Spirit, and believed and received into the heart, we begin to understand the prayer: *"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,"* and the true desire to do God's will is awakened because of the life it promises.

5. It is essential that the believer realises his relationship to God's will, and the claim it has on him. **Many believers have no concept of what their faith or their feeling should be in regard to the will of God.** Very few say: *"My whole understanding about blessing is nothing else but the complete harmony of my will with the Will of God; I feel my one need is, the continual surrender to always, in the smallest thing, do what God wants me to do. By God's grace, may every hour of my life be a surrender to a life of doing the will of God, as it is in heaven."*
6. It is only when a **living faith in the Divine Will**, working out its purposes in us, masters the heart, that we shall have the courage to believe in the answer to the prayer our Lord taught us. It is only when we see that it is through Jesus Christ that this working of God's will in us is carried out, that we shall understand that it is the close union with Him that gives us the confidence that God will work everything in us. And it is only this confidence in God, through Jesus Christ, that assures us that we can do our part, and that it is possible for our feeble will on earth to truly surrender to and co-operate with the will of God. Let us accept our destiny and our responsibility as the one thing our heart desires, that in everything, the will of God is done in us and by us, as it is done in heaven. Then our faith will overcome the world.
7. **The will must not be disconnected from its living union with the Father, nor from the living presence of the blessed Son.** It is only by the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit, that the will of God can be known in its glory and beauty, in its application to daily life, and in its ever-growing revelation. This teaching was given, not to the wise and prudent, but to babes, the people with a child-like attitude, who are willing to wait for, and depend on what God gives them. The guidance of the Holy Spirit will lead us in this path of God's will.
8. Our **secret interaction** with God is the place where we learn and repeat the great lesson: The God Whom I worship asks of me perfect union with His will; My worship means: "I delight to do Your will, O God." The morning hour, the inner

chamber, the secret interaction with God, will reveal the knowledge of God's will, give the power to perform it, and enable the total and joyful surrender to everything God wants. When this is sought and cultivated, our study of God's word and our prayer will yield their true and full blessing.

Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, I pray as You prayed: Not my will but Your will be done. I desire with all my heart to do Your will, every day, the whole day. Work in me to reveal and do Your will."