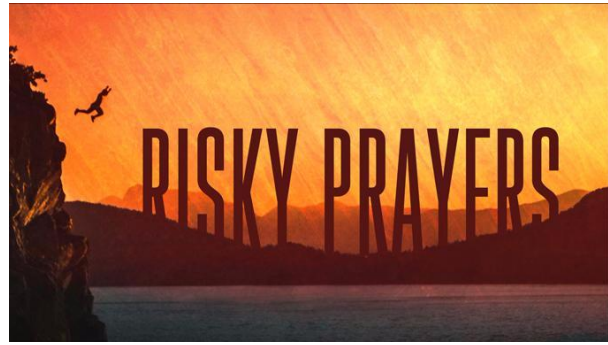


# GROWTHguide

**"Your Will Be Done"**

October 15, 2017



## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Matthew 2:1-36, 6:7-13 Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 26:36-46

### DAY 1

Our sermon series is about "Risky Prayers," which suggests that we might resist saying the prayers in this study because of the risks they involve. Many of us are familiar with the Lord's Prayer, and are used to saying it together during worship and privately as well. What is so risky about praying for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven?

#### Read [Matthew 6:7-13](#)

- **Do you agree that the words "your will be done" are risky words? If not, why not?**
- **What is at risk when we pray these words?**

Pray the Lord's Prayer, intentionally focusing on the words "Thy will be done." Now ask yourself; when you pray those words do you really mean them? Are you willing to risk giving up your will where it differs from God's will?

### DAY 2

#### Read [Matthew 2:1-36](#)

The story of King Herod's jealousy toward baby Jesus and his desire to kill him, reminds us that life on earth often places God's will in direct conflict with human desires and sin. What sinful tendencies and temptations did Herod

succumb to when he tried to find Jesus so that he could have him put to death?

- **What forces were motivating Herod to plot against Jesus? How was King Herod's will in conflict with God's?**
- **Does pride, greed, or fear hold you back from living fully into God's will for you?**
- **Reflect on the behaviors, attitudes and possessions you might have to give up in order to allow God's will to overrule your will.**
- **When you pray the Lord's Prayer do you consider it a communication with God, where you are confessing a need to give up the temptations that conflict with God's will?**

### **DAY 3**

#### **Read [Romans 12:1-8](#)**

Paul encourages us to resist the influences of the world so that our minds - transformed by Christ's influence, will allow us to understand God's will and to find his will good, perfect and pleasing. This suggests that understanding and doing God's will often conflict with worldly priorities.

- **Does the world tempt you to act in ways that conflict Christ's teaching?**
- **Pray the Lord's Prayer aloud, but when you say the words "Thy will" substitute "Thy will, not my will, be done."**

Continue to pray by asking the Holy Spirit to help you make your will submit to God's will. Be specific about the worldly influences you must avoid in order for your life to conform to God's will.

### **DAY 4**

In a sermon on the Lord's Prayer, John Wesley wrote about how angels behave and how human behavior and attitudes must be more "angelic" if God's will is to be done "on earth

as it is in heaven." In describing how angels carried out will in heaven, Wesley said,

*"...those who now circle his throne rejoicing, they do it willingly; they love his commandments, and gladly hearken to his words. It is their meat and drink to do his will; it is their highest glory and joy. They do it continually; there is no interruption in their willing service. They rest not day nor night, but employ every hour...in fulfilling his commands, in executing his designs, in performing the counsel of his will. And they do it perfectly. No sin, no defect belongs to angelic minds."*

-John Wesley, "Sermon on the Mount Discourse 6

It is not always easy to do God's will while rejoicing, or to do it continuously. It's near impossible to do it perfectly, but if God's kingdom is to come and his will is to be done on earth as in heaven; Wesley's description provides us with lofty goals.

- **Think about a time when you did God's will but without rejoicing or gladness.**
- **Do you undertake doing God's will like a behavior you can turn on and off or do you try to be consistent in finding and following God's will?**
- **Are you beginning to see what we risk in praying the Lord's Prayer?**

## **DAY 5**

Yesterday, we took a look at how hard it can be to do God's will by reviewing John Wesley's sermon about the Lord's Prayer and how Wesley perceived angelic behavior. We should also look at Christ's humble submission to God's will. Nowhere was his submission to his father more painful or poignant than in the words he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. [Read Matthew 26:36-46.](#) Jesus knew what he faced and he was afraid and distraught. His example reminds us that what we risk by praying "your will be done" doesn't often require what was required of our Lord.

Jesus rarely calls on us to do anything that he didn't do himself.

- **Does Christ's example inspire you or discourage you because you feel you can't measure up?**
- **How will you use his example to prepare and fortify yourself for a life of living into God's will.**
- **Reflect upon what you risk in praying "your will be done." Reflect on what you risk if you fail to pray this prayer.**

## DAY 6

Today is a day of reflection and prayer. Are you are ready to take the risk and pray the "Lord's Prayer" with the understanding of the full meaning and intention? Wherever you are in your faith journey, let yourself be open to do his will, and rely on him for strength in doing so. Thank God today for giving you the opportunity for his will to be done.

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