



JESUS ACCEPTS

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The Lord's Prayer not only shows us a pattern of prayer, but also holds principles which we can adopt. The prayer is relatively short, yet the few words in it summarise the heart God seeks from us, and give keys to live the full life of a believer. As we follow this pattern of prayer, we can come before God daily and find renewed strength.

Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.
(Matthew 6:9-13)

'May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven'

There are just twelve words in the latter part of this verse, yet if we pray them with true understanding and purpose, it will change our lives.

When we pray 'let your will be done' it means we sincerely desire God's will and purpose to be fulfilled in our lives, according to His eternal plan. We are striving for God's authority and plans to be fulfilled on this earth, just as they are in heaven. We submit ourselves to His rule as our King of His Kingdom.

How do we define God's will?

- **The law of God.** God instructs us in the way He wants us to live in His word. When we live in God's ways we are fulfilling His will. (Psalm 40:8, 1:2; Matthew 7:24-27, James 1:22-25)
- **Anything that God says He desires.** God reveals His desires for the world and for us, and so shows us His will. (1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9, John 6:40)
- **What God permits.** We live in a fallen world, so for now God allows things to happen that are contrary to His perfect will. People choose to reject God. Sickness, troubles, and trials come to us.

However we ultimately know that Jesus has won the victory, and will set all things right on His return.

(John 16:33, Revelation 21:4)

How do we respond to God's will?

As disciples of Christ, we are not just to know what God's will is without taking any action. We are to respond to it and submit to it. We do so not out of duty or coercion, but out of relationship, and in response to God as our loving Father (Jeremiah 31:3, Ps. 143:10). We learn to hear God's voice by seeking Him daily and by being guided by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16).

How do we effectively pray and live out Matt. 6:10?

- Seek God's will through a relationship with Him as our King (2 Corinthians 5:17, Psalm 47:2, Zachariah 14:9, Matthew 6:33)
- Seek God's will daily (Psalm 63, Mark 1:35)
- Seek God's will in obedience (John 15:10)
- Seek God's will with joy (Psalm 16:5-11)
- Seek God's will with understanding (Proverbs 4:5)

Accepting God's will

When we have prayed for change and breakthrough and seemingly nothing changes, it can be discouraging. It can lead us to question why this is the case and cause us to doubt God. Accepting God's will is not always easy, but comes as a result of the relationship we have with Him. We accept out of trust, understanding that God's ways are higher than ours. (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. (Proverbs 19:21)

Jesus gave us the ultimate example of accepting God's will, when He was asked to lay His very life down:

'Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.' (Luke 22:42)



There are many benefits to us accepting God's will:

- Renewed strength

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31 ESV)

- Peace (Philippians 4:7)
- Developing trust (Proverbs 3:5)
- Deeper understanding of God (Job 42:5)
- Closure (2 Samuel 12:16-20)

Acceptance and submission do not mean giving up!
Jesus teaches us to persevere in prayer:

'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.'
(Matthew 7:7)

We persevere with an acknowledgment that God knows best, and ultimately He is sovereign.

The Lord's Prayer holds some powerful principles. When we pray with a heart to see God's will carried out in our lives, God can use us to extend His Kingdom on Earth as it is in heaven. Accepting God's will changes our perspective, and helps us to see things in God's way. We accept as children of a loving Father and in the context of a loving relationship.