

## **"The Danger of Hypocrisy"**

### **Part 10**

#### **Matthew 6:1-18**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of the outline which Jesus gave for us to build our prayers upon we looked at the 3<sup>rd</sup> petition that Jesus spoke of.

Here is the outline which we have been working from for the past several weeks:

- I. **The Seniority of God** - *"Our Father which art in heaven"*
- II. **The Supremacy of God** - *"Hallowed be thy name"*
- III. **The System of God** - *"Thy kingdom come"*
- IV. **The Scheme of God** - *"Thy will be done"*
- V. **The Supply of God** - *"Give us this day our daily bread"*
- VI. **The Security of God** - *"And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors"*
- VII. **The Safety of God** - *"And lead us not into temptation"*
- VIII. **The Sovereignty of God** - *"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen"*

Here are the petitions which we have looked at so far:

#### **Petition #1 - "Hallowed be thy name"**

This is praying for God's character to be made know to those around us as the Holy Spirit works in us.

#### **Petition #2 - "Thy kingdom come"**

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This is praying for God's kingdom to enter the hearts of the unsaved and it is also living for our eternal home and not for this world.

**Petition #3 - "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"**

Last week in our study we considered God's will in our personal lives and how important it is to remain in the will of God. But to pray for God's will to be done goes beyond our personal lives but it must start with each of us personally. Last week we looked at the dangers of walking outside of the will of God and the consequences which Abram faced because he stepped outside of the will of God for his life.



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Last week we ended our study with these 2 circles in which we can see an illustration of God's will. The inner circle is the revealed will of God found in the Word of God and the outside circle is the sovereign will of God. The inner circle is where God desires for us to stay but it is possible to step outside of His revealed will. But while we can leave the inner circle we can never go beyond the outer circle. God's sovereign will is that which is working everything together so as to fulfill His plan which is revealed in the Bible. As a believer steps outside of the inner circle it will not affect God's overall plan but it can be very costly to the believer. Abram's life is a picture of the pain that comes with stepping outside of the inner circle and at the same time it is a picture of how God takes the choices we make and uses them to carry out His plan.

Let us now get back to the text in Matthew 6. Jesus tells His disciples they were to pray for God's will to be done on the earth just as it is done in heaven and the application is for us also. That means that we are to pray for God's will to be carried out perfectly.

Now there are several more thoughts that we need to consider when praying for God's will.

- 1. We are to pray for God's will to be done in whatever situation we face.**

Last week we touched on this briefly. This outline for prayer is to be used in every circumstance we face. This is easy to do if the situation we face is one that is positive in our eyes.

**Example:** If you are interviewing for a new job and have several choices it is easy to ask for God's will to be done. But if you are facing

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the sickness of a loved one it is much harder to pray for God's will because in those situations we always desire for our will to be done.

There are spiritual truths we need to hold on to in order to surrender every situation to the will of God.

**Spiritual truth #1 - God has ordained the path we are walking.**

**Proverbs 16:9**

<sup>9</sup> *A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.*

**Psalm 37:23**

<sup>23</sup> *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*

**Psalm 23:1-3**

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

<sup>2</sup> *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

<sup>3</sup> *He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

The paths we walk in life are part of the plan of God for us. He knows what is around every turn. He is never surprised by what we face.

**Spiritual truth #2 - God's ways are best.**

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*

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*<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

### **Spiritual truth #3 - God loves us.**

This is so important for us to grasp because when there is pain in our lives one of the first temptations we face is to question the love of God for us.

### **Jeremiah 31:3**

*<sup>3</sup> The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

### **Romans 8:35-39**

*<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

*<sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

*<sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

*<sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

*<sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### **John 17:20-23**

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*<sup>20</sup> Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

*<sup>21</sup> That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

*<sup>22</sup> And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

*<sup>23</sup> I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

**Spiritual truth #4 - No matter how painful God's will may be it will be used for our good.**

#### **Romans 8:35-37**

*<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

*<sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

*<sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

Paul tells us that we are more than conquerors through Christ when facing the storms of life. But how are we more than conquerors when the storms and the trials seem to overcome us at times? The answer is seen in 8:28, 29.

#### **Romans 8:28-29**

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*<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

*<sup>29</sup> For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Every trial and storm that we face is used by our Father to make us more like His Son. This is exactly how Paul can say that we are more than conquerors because the trials and the storms cannot harm us but instead they are used by our Father to make us more like Jesus.

### **James 1:3-4**

*<sup>3</sup> Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

*<sup>4</sup> But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

The word "patience" here in James 1:3, 4 means "to abide under". The phrase "let patience have her perfect work" is a reference to surrender to God's will and path for our lives. The word "that" in verse 4 introduces the result of our faith being tested and our surrender to that which God has appointed to us and the result is we will be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. Now let me pull all of this together. When we are surrendered over to the will of God and our faith is tested, it is in the testing that we learn to "abide under" His protection and care or in other words we learn to trust Him with whatever we face. As we go through these periods of testing in our lives we learn to rest in our Lord and each period of testing takes us deeper in our walk which results in you and me being perfectly content with whatever we face in life (perfect and entire, wanting nothing). Through the "trying of our faith" we are taught that Jesus is all I need for this life.

**Spiritual truth #5 - God's grace is sufficient for whatever we face.**

**2 Corinthians 12:7-9**

*<sup>7</sup> And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

*<sup>8</sup> For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*

*<sup>9</sup> And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee:** for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

**Spiritual truth #6 - We are never left to ourselves in the midst of trials and storms.**

**Isaiah 43:2-3a**

*<sup>2</sup> When thou passest through the waters, **I will be with thee;** and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*

*<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:*

**Hebrews 13:5**

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<sup>5</sup> *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee**, nor forsake thee.*

**Conclusion:**

God has a rest for His children and that rest can only be entered into by faith and surrender.

**Hebrews 4:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.*

<sup>10</sup> *For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.*