

02.09.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Your Will Be Done”

Scripture Reading: [Matthew 6:9-10](#)

Reflection: Pastor Henry

I don't know if the same is true for you, but our slow, steady, reflective journey through the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples (people just like you and me) to pray is disrupting my heart and my soul and the way I pray. So far on our journey through this prayer, we have only examined the first four phrases. So far, we have only looked at just 22 words of this prayer. Just 22 words! But these 22 words have the power to refocus, recalibrate, and recondition our prayers if we receive them and allow them to shape the prayers we pray.

We are halfway through this prayer Jesus taught us to pray and the focus has still not changed or wavered. Each of these 22 words, each of the first four phrases, continues to focus the attention of our prayer on God and God alone.

“Our Abba Father in Heaven” - Each time we pray, we begin, awake and aware of the reality, that through Christ, we are God's child who is beloved by God. The God to whom we pray is our Abba Father in Heaven who loves us. We are his beloved children.

“Hallowed by YOUR name” – Each time we pray, we remember that God is holy. We set God apart. We hallow the name of God. We make God central. When we pray, we place God in the center spotlight, instead of ourselves or other things.

“YOUR kingdom come” – Each time we pray, we cry out and long for God to rule and reign over us and all things. We pray that God's kingdom would come, not ours or someone else's. God is King. God is ruler over all. We pray for God's rule and reign to manifest itself everywhere.

“YOUR will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” – Each time we pray, we cry out and long for God's will, what God desires, to be done here on earth, in our lives, in our families, in our church, in our school, in our workplace, in our community, in our social media feeds, in our driving, in our gatherings with friends, in our _____ ..., just as God's will is being done in heaven. We don't cry out for our/my will to be done or someone else's will to be done. We don't cry out for what we want. No, we cry out for God's will to be done. We cry out for what God wants to be done. We cry out for God to have his way with us and our world. Each time we pray we surrender to, we yield to, we relinquish control to the will of our God. “As YOU wish!” we pray to our God. “Your will be done.”

If we were to look at the first half of a typical prayer that we pray, would the first half of it focus our attention on the name of God and awaken us to the reality that we are beloved by our Abba Father?

If we were to look at the first half of a typical prayer that we might pray, would the first half of it focus our attention on the holiness of God? Would our prayer place God in the center and in the spotlight? Would the rest of our prayer radiate out from this place?

If we were to look at the first half of a typical prayer that we might pray, would the first half of it include us crying out for God's kingdom to come and God's rule and reign to manifest itself in our lives and the lives of those around us?

If we were to look at the first half of a typical prayer that we might pray, would the first half of it include us crying out for God's will to be done and the desires of God's heart ("As you wish!") to be done in our lives and the lives of those around us?

What would happen if we began to pray this way for the first half of our prayer every time we prayed?

How might putting these 22 words into practice disrupt and disturb how we typically pray?

Prayer:

Jesus, time and time again, you spent time in prayer time with your Father in Heaven. Jesus, as we turn our attention to prayer in the days and weeks to come, Lord disrupt and disturb us as you teach us how to pray. Amen.

-A prayer based on Matthew 6 and Luke 11

Action Item for the Day/Week:

During this worship series on prayer, we are going to be experimenting with different prayer practices each week:

Practice #5: Prayer Postures

This week, as you continue spending 3-5 minutes in prayer, three times a day (morning, noon, night), try praying using different postures: kneeling, standing with arms outstretched, prostrate (lying down face to the ground), and sitting down. The posture we take in prayer, both physically and attitudinally, impacts our praying.

You can also pray this mission prayer which is our missional practice for the month of February:

God, where will your Spirit lead today?

Help me be fully awake and ready to respond.

Grant me courage to risk something new and become a blessing of your love and peace. Amen.

Songs for today:

[This Is My Desire](#)

[I Surrender](#)

Revelation Song