

On The Road To Emmaus

It seems to me that a lot of our prayers are centered around us. What I mean is that our prayers are often more about getting our will done. We do not pray like Jesus did, *"saying, Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."* (Luke 22:42 esv)

If I might meddle a bit, perhaps this is because we equate our will, desires, feelings and plans with Gods. We do not think, realize or even contemplate that God may be desiring something else.

Our prayers should always center around God's will and asking that the will of God be done. The apostle Paul wrote, *"...asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;"* (Colossians 1:9b-10 esv). That little word filled carries in it the idea that believers will not only know God's will but also do God's will. That is to say we are controlled by the will of God and in submission to His will.

It is only when our lives are oriented around this can we prayer in the way that our Lord taught us. In what is known in popular culture as the Lord's prayer he instructed us to pray, *"Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."* (Matthew 6:9-10 esv)

We must ask ourselves two questions: first, are our lives marked by a knowledge of the will of God? That is to say, do we have a knowledge of God's Word that is broad and deep? Second, are we submitting to God's Word? Another way to ask this question is to say, are we controlled in our thoughts, actions and words by the revealed Word of God even in our prayers?

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