

# The Lord's Prayer: The Third Petition

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*What does this mean?*

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

*How is God's will done?*

God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come;

and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.

This is His good and gracious will.

As we consider the Third Petition of the Lord's Prayer on this Resurrection Day, I want to focus on the first question, *What is the good and gracious will of God?* The answer is basically three-fold. 1) That God's Word be taught correctly, 2) That sinners be brought to faith in Christ 3) That those who believe in Jesus live godly lives.

**Deuteronomy 4:2**—*You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.*

God has given His revelation to us. It is complete and all we need for this life. It gives us examples (negative and positive) to heed, the story of Christ and our salvation, the teachings of the Prophets and Apostles, prophecy, prayers, poetry, and prose. Nothing can be *added* to it or *taken away* from it. It is up to pastors and teachers to pass it on in its purity and truth and for parents to teach it to their children so that they can grow up in the will and way of the Lord.

**1 Timothy 2:4**—*[God] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

God wants to see all people reconciled to Him. **2 Peter 3:9** says that *God is not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance*. It doesn't matter who a person is or how bad that person is, God wants them to repent and be reconciled to Him.

**John 6:40**—*For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.*

This tells us how God has determined that His will is to be carried out. Faith in the crucified, resurrected Jesus Christ gives us forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Just as He was raised from the dead, we will be raised on the last day.

**1 Thessalonians 4:3**—*For this is the will of God, your sanctification.*

God's desire for us to be made holy. As we confess in the Creed, working through the church, the Holy Spirit sanctifies us by the Word of God. This petition shows us how vital the Word of God is to our life.