



Hilton Head Island
community church

“Your Will Be Done...in Me” - Devotional Guide

Day 1: The Battle Within: My Will vs. His Will

Have you ever found yourself in a tug-of-war with God? You know the feeling—when what you want seems so reasonable, so good, yet deep down you sense God might be calling you in a different direction. This internal struggle isn't a sign of spiritual weakness; it's part of the human experience.

We all face this tension between our desires and God's purposes. It's natural to assume that what feels right to us must align with what God wants. After all, if we love God, wouldn't our hearts naturally desire what He desires? The reality is more complex. Our perspective, no matter how well-intentioned, is limited by our human understanding.

Think about a time when you desperately wanted something that didn't work out. Looking back, can you see how God's 'no' or 'not yet' actually protected or redirected you toward something better? This is the heart of surrendering our will to His—trusting that His view from eternity gives Him wisdom we simply don't possess.

The beautiful truth is that God isn't trying to make our lives miserable. He's not withholding good things to be cruel. Instead, He's working toward a definition of 'good' that's far greater than our immediate comfort or happiness. When we begin to understand this, the prayer 'Your will be done' transforms from a reluctant surrender into an act of faith and hope.

Bible Verse

'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.' - Romans 12:2

Reflection Question

What area of your life are you currently struggling to surrender to God, and what fears or desires are making that surrender difficult?

Quote

Our natural inclination because of our sin is My will be done. And that's true for all of us.

Prayer

Father, I confess that my natural inclination is to pursue my own will and call it good. Help me to recognize the areas where I'm holding tightly to my own plans. Transform my mind and heart so that I can trust Your definition of good, even when it doesn't match my own. Give me the courage to say 'Your will be done' and mean it. Amen.

Day 2: Redefining Good: God's Perspective vs. Ours

What if everything you thought you knew about 'good' needed to be reconsidered? We live in a culture that equates good with easy, comfortable, and pleasant. We assume that if God loves us, He'll make our path smooth and our burdens light. But what if God's definition of good is radically different from ours?

Consider a master sculptor working with marble. To create something beautiful, the sculptor must chip away pieces of stone. The process involves striking, cutting, and removing—actions that might seem destructive if you didn't understand the artist's vision. Similarly, God's work in our lives sometimes involves difficult circumstances that shape us into something beautiful. God's primary will for us isn't our comfort—it's our sanctification. He wants to make us more like Jesus, and that transformation often requires experiences that challenge us, stretch us, and even break us in certain ways. This doesn't mean God enjoys our pain, but rather that He sees the eternal value in the process of becoming like Christ.

When we struggle with God's will, we might need to examine how we define good. Are we looking for the easy path, or are we open to the transformative path? God's good includes His glory being revealed through our lives, and sometimes that happens most powerfully through our struggles and how we respond to them with faith.

Bible Verse

'It is God's will that you should be sanctified.' - 1 Thessalonians 4:3

Reflection Question

How might God be using current challenges in your life to shape you into the image of Christ, even if those challenges don't feel 'good' right now?

Quote

God's will is good, but his good is greater than our good. You see, God doesn't define good the same way that we do.

Prayer

Lord, help me to see beyond my limited understanding of what's good for my life. When circumstances are difficult, remind me that You're working to make me more like Jesus. Give me eyes to see Your greater purpose and the faith to trust that Your definition of good is perfect, even when I can't understand it. Amen.

Day 3: The Hard Road to Glory: Embracing Difficult Obedience

In our culture, 'hard' and 'good' seem like opposites. We avoid difficulty and pursue ease, assuming that the right path should feel comfortable. But in God's kingdom, hard and good often walk hand in hand. The most meaningful growth, the deepest character development, and the greatest displays of God's glory often emerge from our most challenging seasons.

Think about the people who have most influenced your faith. Chances are, their impact came not from their easy victories but from how they navigated hardship with grace and trust in God. Their struggles became platforms for God's power and faithfulness to shine through.

This doesn't mean we should seek out suffering or that God delights in our pain. Rather, it means we can trust that when God's will leads us through difficult terrain, He has purposes we may not immediately see. He's developing our character, deepening our dependence on Him, and preparing us to encourage others who will face similar challenges.

The key is learning to hold both truths simultaneously: God's will can be hard AND good. We don't have to choose between them or pretend that difficult circumstances aren't really difficult. Instead, we can acknowledge the challenge while trusting in God's goodness and purpose. This perspective transforms our hardships from meaningless suffering into meaningful participation in God's greater plan.

Bible Verse

'Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.' - 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

Reflection Question

Can you think of a difficult season in your past that you now see contributed to your spiritual growth or ability to help others?

Quote

Hard and good in our culture really are antonyms. But hard and good aren't antonyms in the kingdom of God.

Prayer

God, help me to embrace the truth that Your will can be both hard and good. When I face difficulties, give me the strength to trust that You're working for my ultimate good and Your glory. Help me to see challenges as opportunities for growth rather than obstacles to avoid. May my response to hardship point others to Your faithfulness. Amen.

Day 4: Following Jesus' Example: The Garden of Surrender

Even Jesus struggled with surrendering to the Father's will. In the Garden of Gethsemane, facing the cross, Jesus was so distressed that He sweat drops of blood. He prayed earnestly, asking if there might be another way. This wasn't weakness—it was honest humanity wrestling with an incredibly difficult calling.

Yet in that moment of ultimate struggle, Jesus demonstrated what true surrender looks like: 'Not my will, but yours be done.' He didn't pretend the path ahead would be easy. He didn't spiritualize away His very real anguish. Instead, He acknowledged the difficulty while choosing to trust the Father's plan.

This gives us tremendous hope and permission to be honest about our own struggles with God's will. We don't have to pretend that surrender is easy or that we always understand God's ways. We can bring our fears, our questions, and our resistance to God, just as Jesus did.

The beautiful truth is that Jesus' surrender in the garden led to the greatest victory in human history. His willingness to deny His own will and embrace the Father's difficult plan resulted in salvation for all who believe. When we follow His example of surrender, we participate in God's redemptive work in the world. Our 'yes' to God's will, even when it's costly, becomes part of His greater story of love and restoration.

Bible Verse

'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.' - Matthew 16:24

Reflection Question

What would it look like for you to follow Jesus' example of honest struggle followed by willing surrender in your current circumstances?

Quote

Jesus had to submit his will, his good, to the Father's will and to the Father's good. And the Father's will for Jesus was hard.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for showing me what surrender looks like. You didn't hide Your struggle, but You chose to trust the Father's will even when it led to the cross. Give me the courage to be honest about my own struggles while choosing to follow Your example of surrender. Help me to deny myself and take up my cross daily, trusting that Your way is always best. Amen.

Day 5: Active Trust: Living Out 'Your Will Be Done'

Saying 'Your will be done' isn't passive resignation—it's active trust. It's not throwing up our hands in defeat but placing them confidently in God's hands. This kind of surrender requires ongoing relationship with God and connection with other believers who can provide wisdom and encouragement along the way.

God is always working in our lives, constantly shaping us to become more like Jesus. Sometimes this happens through obvious blessings and open doors. Other times, it happens through closed doors, unexpected challenges, or seasons of waiting. The key is staying connected to God through prayer, Scripture, and community so we can discern His voice and respond with faith.

When we're not sensing God's activity in our lives, it might be because we're not actively engaging in the good works He's prepared for us. God often reveals His will as we step forward in obedience, serve others, and seek to honor Him in our daily choices. His will becomes clearer as we walk in relationship with Him.

Remember, God's ultimate goal is not just our personal transformation but our participation in His mission to reach others. As we surrender to His will and allow Him to shape us, we become equipped to lead others toward the same transformation. Our willingness to say 'Your will be done' becomes a testimony of God's faithfulness and an invitation for others to experience His goodness too.

Bible Verse

'This is the prayer I pray for you: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your head and test your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush.' - Matthew 6:10

Reflection Question

How can you actively trust God's will this week through specific actions, relationships, or decisions you need to make?

Quote

God is always working, and he never stops wanting to shape us to make us more like His Son, or to prepare us to lead others to that, too.

Prayer

Father, I want to live out 'Your will be done' not as passive resignation but as active trust. Help me to stay connected to You through prayer and Your Word. Surround me with believers who can offer wisdom and encouragement. Show me how to participate in Your work in the world, and use my surrender to Your will as a testimony that draws others to You. May Your will be done in and through my life. Amen.