



Sharing

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

www.buildingfathershouse.org

(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission of the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)

Workshop no. 7 : “Thou will be done” – Trusting in God and His ability.

“I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.” (Luke 1:38)

Purpose of workshop : To look into the secret of “Thou will be done” in our prayer-life.

Intended Goal: To understand the secret behind the power of prayer as we acknowledge the will of God in a lifestyle of prayer.

Scripture readings :

“Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.**” Mathews 6:10

Word: qelhma

Pronounce: thel'-ay-mah

Strong: #G2307

Orig: from the prolonged form of 2309; a determination (properly, the thing), i.e. (actively) choice

(specially, purpose, decree; abstractly, volition) or (passively) inclination:-- desire, pleasure, will. #G2309

Use: TDNT-3:52,318 Noun Neuter

HE Strong: #H2655 #H5949 #H6634 #H7522 #H7891 #H8307 #H8649

1) **what one wishes or has determined shall be done**

1a) of the purpose of God to bless mankind through Christ

1b) **of what God wishes to be done by us**

1) **commands, precepts**

2) will, choice, inclination, desire, pleasure

Romans 9:20-21 No, but, O man, who are you who replies against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him who formed it, Why have you made me this way? Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel to honor and another to dishonor?

Furthermore, we had the fathers of our flesh to chasten us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? Hebrews 12:9

Again a second time he went away, and prayed, saying, My Father, if this cannot pass away, except I drink it, thy will be done. Matthews 26:42

For whosoever shall **do the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother.** **Matthews 12:50**

For I am come down from heaven, not to do mine own will, **but the will of Him that sent me.** **John 6:38**

No soldier on service entangle himself in the affairs of [this] life; that he may please **Him who enrolled him as a soldier.** **2Timothy 2:4**

For whosoever would save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall **lose his life for My sake, the same shall save it.** **Luke 9:24**

instructing us, to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, **we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world;** **Titus 2:12**

for if ye live after the flesh, ye must die; **but if by the Spirit ye put to death the deeds of the body, ye shall live.** **Romans 8:13**

So therefore whosoever he be of you that renounceth **not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.** **Luke 14:33**

knowing this, that our old man was crucified with [him] , **that the body of sin might be done away, that so we should no longer be in bondage to sin;** **Romans 6:6**

For Christ also pleased not himself; but, as it is written, **The reproaches of them that reproached Thee fell upon me.** **Romans 15:3**

And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.** **Romans 12:2**

Philippians 2:5-13 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**

1Samuel 3:10 The LORD came and stood there. He called as he had called the other times: "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "**Speak. I'm listening.**"

Hebrews 5:7-9 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, **he learned obedience through what he suffered.** And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

1Samuel 15:22-26 And Samuel said, "Has the **LORD** as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the **LORD**? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the **LORD**, he has also rejected you from being king." Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the **LORD** and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may worship the **LORD**." And Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the **LORD**, and the **LORD** has rejected you from being king over Israel."

John 14:15-21 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will

give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

Acts 5:27-29 *And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." **But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.***

James 1:22-25 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

Deuteronomy 10:12 *"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, **but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?***

Jeremiah 7:23 *But this command I gave them: '**Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people.** And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.'*

Hebrews 11:7-9 *By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. **By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance.** And he went out, not knowing where he was going. **By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.***

Food for thought :

When we say "Thy will be done" we **acknowledge the existence of God's perfect will (Divine will)**. It is a **invitation**, where we are asking the **King to establish His will, meaning to take control over us, as we surrender unto His perfect will**. This will however be more than just acknowledging the existence of God's divine will, it concerns the active part to be played in the fulfilment thereof, as laid out in the Word of God. **To do according to His will**, does not mean that God must establish His will, but that **we say we will submit** to His will in an act of obedience, based on trust in Him and His ability. We surrender to the will of God in the knowledge that His will is trustworthy. We submit not on the basis of understanding but on the basis of trust.

To say "Thy will be done" is to **come in agreement with God's will according to His Word**. The Word of God is God-breathed and represent the will of God. We are saying "amen" to every will of God in the Bible. We sometime refer to the Bible as the Old Testament and the New Testament. Saying that a testament refers to the will of someone who passed away. But God is, was and will for ever be, so the word testament as a "will" is not correct. The dictionary however refer to **the testament as something that serves as tangible proof or evidence**: using the example of **a spacious plan of the city as a testament to the foresight of its founders**. **The Bible** is just that, it **serves as proof and evidence of God and His will to be done**, so that we can do accordingly. The Bible as the will of God helps to build our faith in trusting and relying upon God, for who He is, and then, like David, we can say that if God helped me with the lion and the bear He will help me with Goliath. **The Bible is hindsight and foresight to the reader with one purpose and that is to make God's will known so that we can be instruments in the hands of God as we willingly submit to His perfect will. (As we stand in awe of His foresight)**. Looking at our Lord Jesus Christ as an example, we can see that the Lord fulfilled the calling of the suffering servant through fulfilling the Father's will as

laid out in His perfect plan/will. *“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.” (Isaiah 42:1)*

To say **“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”**

- Refer to **the likeness and the same manner**. Meaning that we that say **“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”** are just as eager and zealous to be used in accordance to God's will, as all the heavenly hosts.
- Is to say **that the same authority that is in heaven should be established on earth, in perfect harmony**, where everything is working according to the will of God.
- Is to ask that we will be transformed on earth so that we can live in the likeness of the Heavenly hosts, glorifying the name of God.
- Is to **continuously seek the will of God and to do accordingly**.
- Is to **acknowledge that we have not yet arrived, but that we are making ourselves available to do the will of our heavenly Father, to fulfil his purpose**.
- Is to **die to ourselves, so that we can live as Jesus said, with a different kind of righteousness altogether - love and obedience**. Our righteousness must (1) **come from what God does in us**, not what we can do by ourselves, (2) be **God-centered**, not self-centered, (3) be **based on reverence for God**, not approval from people, and (4) go **beyond keeping the law to living by the principles behind the law**. We must become sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, we must become willing servants. We must become one.
- Is also to acknowledge that there is a will that will not always be to our liking, but only according to God's will. *Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.” James 4:14-15*
- Is to **acknowledge that if we ask anything according to His will we can ask in confidence and with expectation**. *This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 1 John 5:14*
- Is to be content, in receiving and in giving according to God's will, without seeking to be acknowledged. *John 7:16-18 So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of Him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. Humility in Scripture means, not pretending to be worthless and refusing positions of responsibility, but knowing and keeping the place God has appointed for one. Being humble is a matter of holding on to God's will for your life, whether it means the high exposure of leadership (Moses was humble as a leader, Num. 12:3) or the obscurity of subservience. When Jesus stated matter-of-factly that he was “humble in heart” (Matt. 11:29), he meant that he was conscientiously following the Father's plan for his earthly life.*

When **David's first attempt to move the ark failed** (1 Chron.13:8-14), **he learned an important lesson: when God gives specific instructions, it is wise to follow them precisely**. The next time David saw to it that the Levites carried the ark (Numbers 4:5-15). We may not fully understand the reasons behind God's instructions, but we do know **that His wisdom is complete and his judgement infallible. The way to know God's instructions is to know his Word**. But just as children do not always understand the reasons for all their parents' instructions until they are older, **we may not understand all of God's reasons in this life. But it is far better to obey God first, and then discover the reasons. We are never free to disobey God just because we don't understand.**

True story :

In considering “Thy will be done” and in acknowledging that God's Word is a testament of His foresight and plan/will to be implemented, the stories of Zechariah the father of John the baptise and Mary the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ came to me.

Zechariah's story is found in *Luke 1:13-20* *But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."* And Zechariah said to the angel, *"How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."* And the angel answered him, *"I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."* In the mentioned true story, God made His will known to Zechariah, a servant of God, through the angle Gabriel. Zechariah although he was in the presence of God, did not recognise God's messenger and therefore failed to trust the message, and asked the angle "how shall I know this" meaning how will I have knowledge of this word to be a trustworthy word, he sought confirmation, and confirmation was given, he could not speak. The confirmation here was not based on Zechariah's need but on the fulfilment of God's Word. In a sense Zechariah was punished for his unbelief in God's ability to fulfil His will.

The story of Mary, the mother of Jesus. *Luke 1:28-38* *And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"* But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."* And Mary said to the angel, *"How will this be, since I am a virgin?"* And the angel answered her, *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."* And Mary said, *"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."* And the angel departed from her. In like manner God presented His will through the angle Gabriel to Mary, who received it as God's will, in asking "how will this be, since I am a virgin" she did not question God's will, doubting the truth of what was said; she required no sign, as Zechariah's did; nor is she charged with, and blamed for unbelief, as he was; it is expressly said, in ([Luke 1:45](#) "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."): nor was this a curious question, as whether she should have this son by a man in a married state, or in her present virgin state; for she clearly understood the angel to mean the latter; she did not dispute it, but wanted to know by what means it would be brought about: she knew, by prophecy, that the Messiah was to be born of a virgin, and she perceived, by the angel's declaration, that she was that virgin, but could not imagine in what way this amazing thing should be effected, but willingly submitted herself unto the Lord our God to be used as a servant. She understood that being a faithful instrument in the hands of God, is to be favoured by God. **By accepting God's will for her life, the very purpose for being born, the Bible say that "[Luke 1:45](#) "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord".**

Another true story, in May 2004 the Lord called me to go to Israel. The calling filled me with excitement as I believed that I would be the instrument in God's hand to serve His people. Although I had only R400.00 pm support, nor knew anybody in Israel, I believed that as God called, He will lead me step by step. A friend offered to help me to buy a plane ticket, we could only manage a return ticket to Egypt, valid for one month. I also made my own plans, and signed up with SAR-EL, a volunteer program in the Israel Defence Force. According to all the information at hand, I would be able to receive a visa for 3 month, renewable within Israel. But it did not work out that simple, when I got to the border, they gave me only a one month visa, at SAR-EL they told me after 3 weeks that I had to leave due to my plane ticket and visa that is going to expire. I prayed about going back and the Lord said, 'do not go to Egypt'. Having no money, a visa that is expiring within a week and knowing that if I do not return to Egypt I have no way to return to South Africa. I phoned my mother and explained the situation, her answer was simple, obey the Lord. I obeyed and the Lord granted me the privilege to go to the mountain of Israel, (Where the prophet Samuel lived in Old Testament times) the Lord extended my visa and after a stay of 5 months in which the Lord spoke to me concerning His

plan/will for my life he gave me a plane ticket back to South Africa. I believed the Lord, I did not rationalize nor did I look at the facts at hand, **I simply submitted myself unto the Lord and His will.** The result, **I was blessed in ways that cannot be described,** but it did not come easy, it was a way through trails, even to the extent that I thought I was going to die.

God's authority :

***Deuteronomy 7:9** Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,*

***Deuteronomy 10:12-13** "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?"*

***Psalms 1:1-2** Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

***Philippians 2:12** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,*

***Psalms 84:11** For Jehovah God is a sun and shield; Jehovah will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.*

***Psalms 119:2** Blessed are they who keep His testimonies, and who seek Him with all the heart.*

***Psalms 119:152** Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.*

***Psalms 119:157** Many are my persecutors and my enemies, yet I do not turn aside from Your testimonies.*

***Psalms 119:167** My soul has kept Your testimonies; and I love them very much.*

***Jeremiah 44:23** Because you have burned incense, and because you have sinned against Jehovah, and have not obeyed the voice of Jehovah, nor walked in His Law, nor in His statutes, nor did you walk in His testimonies, therefore this evil has happened to you, as at this day.*

***Psalms 119:14** I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches.*

***Psalms 119:22** Remove cursing and scorn from me; for I have kept Your testimonies.*

***Psalms 93:5** Your testimonies are very sure; holiness becomes Your house forever, O Jehovah.*

***Psalms 25:10** All the paths of Jehovah are mercy and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.*

***Jeremiah 7:23** But I commanded them this thing, saying, Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people; and walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, so that it may be well with you.*

***Hebrews 8:10** "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My Laws into their mind and write them in their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

***James 1:25** But whoever looks into the perfect Law of liberty and continues in it, he is not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work. This one shall be blessed in his doing.*

***Luke 1:45** "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord"*

John 5:30 I can do nothing of My own self. As I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of the Father who has sent Me.

Hebrews 10:9 then He said, "Lo, I come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first so that He may establish the second.

In his agony in Gethsemane Jesus prayed three times for a way around his suffering: "Yet not as I will, but as you will.... may your will be done."

Conclusion :

In considering "**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven**" :

- Zechariah, a priest in the house of God, prayed unto the living God for a child. When God in accordance to His will/plan came in answer to Zechariah's prayer, proclaiming His divine will for Zechariah, and the son to be borne. **Zechariah found himself doubting the Word that came to Him. The result of Zechariah's unbelief was that he became mute and thus could not testify to God's glory.**
- **Zechariah rationalized on the basis of what is humanly possible** and did not consider the God of the impossible, the creator of heaven and earth, who spoke and it came to pass.
- **Zechariah's position in the holy place, did not benefit him at all.** It is not where we are in the physical that matters, what matters is, are we in the presence of God.
- **Mary, a woman, sitting at home in the presence of the living God, recognized the God of the impossible, only to submit herself unto Him and His perfect will.** Testifying of the glory of God as she visited Elizabeth.

To say "**Thy will be done**" has a lot more to **do with trusting in God and in God's ability**, than what we perceive. To "**say thy will be done**" is to **accept whatever follows as to be just and righteous**. This trust is developed through a relationship based on fellowship between man and God. Someone once said that it is only true friends that can be together without continuous conversation. Prayer is communication, but prayer is not only communication, prayer is fellowship and fellowship is not only communication. Fellowship is being together, **Enoch had fellowship with God. "Gen 5:24 Enoch walked steadily with God. And then one day he was simply gone: God took him". He did not only talk he simply walked with God, being in His presence.** Mary was in the presence of God even though she was at home, she could recognize the truth.

Remember *If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.*

"**Thy will be done**" is not to be presumptuous, it is being obedient servants who allow God to work in and through us, to the glory of His name.

We must be transformed into the image/likeness of Christ so that we receive the mind of Christ in the Spirit. **We must think not according to the flesh but according to the recreated mind of Christ Jesus.** Looking at the miracle of the loaves, the Bible says that Jesus had compassion on the people, and when He prayed, He did not think concerning the 5 bread and 2 fish, He thought of His Father and His Father's heart and will for the people who sat before Him. Thinking of the Word in "*1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.*" It is not based on understanding but on trust, we will and cannot always understand God's will, as children we sometimes thought that our parents do not understand, but in thinking back we realized that it was not the parents but us who did not understand. (*Our understanding was that of a child, we had to grow to maturity*). **The victory on the cross** was done in the words "**Thy will be done**", when Jesus said in Gethsemane "not My will but Thy will be done" he **submitted unto the Father and initiated the proses by which God's plan could be fulfilled, to redeem that what the enemy stole.** Likewise when we say "Thy will be done" and willingly submit unto the will of God, which imply that we resist the plan of the enemy, the enemy will flee, for the Bible say *James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

Questions to be answered :

1. What is the meaning of the words “thy will be done” in your own word according to your understanding?
2. What is meant by “on earth as in heaven” according to your understanding?
3. What is the result of doubting God's will?
4. In considering the prayer of Mary, what is the significance thereof?
5. Where in is the victory?