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HIS WILL, OUR WORSHIP

“Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.”

Romans 12:1 AMP

This week, our focus is on the Will of God so that we can desire His Will to be done for us, just as it is done in Heaven. From scripture, we know that worship is a paramount activity in Heaven. We were created to worship. In Revelation 4:8, we read that around His throne 4 living creatures cry day and night *“holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty”* – never ceasing to adore our God with the worship He deserves. As these creatures reverence God, the 24 elders then too fall down and worship the Lord God Almighty.

Yet, worship on Earth is more than singing the lyrics of a song, but a lifestyle of surrender. Paul said in Romans 12:1 AMP version *“present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship.”* This is a life of sacrifice, one which decides to honour and worship God with every part of our being and makes the decision everyday to please our Father in every choice we make – that is His will: for us to worship Him in everything and with everything. This same scripture in TPT version puts it like this:

“Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God’s marvelous mercies? I encourage you to surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship.”

In the Old Testament, sacrifices were dead when they were put on the altar, but God requires His children to present themselves not as dead individuals, but alive and kicking.

Our sacrifice is in our everyday living for Him rather than for ourselves.

Let us consider Mary (the sister of Lazarus) and Jesus’ first encounter in Luke 10:38–42. Jesus arrived at Mary and Martha’s house, and while Martha was serving the master (which has its time and place), Mary chose to seek the master. Martha prioritised other things, being too busy just to spend time with Jesus and became frustrated, complaining to Jesus that Mary was not helping her. He responded in v42: *“The Master said, “Martha, dear Martha, you’re fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it’s the main course, and won’t be taken from her.”* In that very moment, Mary chose what was essential; she set a tone of spiritual attentiveness and prioritising a connection with Him.

In another encounter, six days before Passover, Mary anointed Jesus’ feet with expensive perfume and wiped them with her hair (John 12:3 NKJV). What the disciples saw as waste of a valuable item was in fact a beautiful overflow of worship. The way we choose to worship God in our everyday living will not always make sense to those around us, but that should not deter us, because when we worship to an audience of one, it is Him who is well pleased. This reminds us of King David in 2 Samuel 6 who danced before the Lord and was despised by his own wife who thought that he was embarrassing himself.

When we choose to submit every part of our lives as a living sacrifice to God, that’s when we can experience His fullness that is seen in Heaven, here on Earth.

Further reading: John 12:1–8, Revelations 4:8–11, 2 Samuel 6:14–22

SURRENDERING TO HIS WILL

“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 NIV

Surrendering to God’s will is one of the most challenging aspects of our faith journey. It requires letting go of our own plans and desires, and understanding and placing our trust fully in God. Romans 12:2 calls us to resist the patterns of this world and allow our minds to be renewed. Only then can we discern God’s *“good, pleasing and perfect will.”* This process of transformation goes beyond surface-level changes; it calls for a deep, internal renewal that reorients our priorities and aligns them with God’s purposes. The world often promotes self-reliance, control, and the pursuit of personal ambition. However, God’s will often requires us to walk in faith, trusting Him even when the path is unclear or the outcome seems uncertain. This surrender is not a sign of weakness but of strength—it takes courage to relinquish control and trust the Creator of the universe with every detail of our lives. Jesus offers the ultimate example of surrender in the Garden of Gethsemane. Faced with the agony of the cross, He prayed, *“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as You will”* (Matthew 26:39). In this moment, Jesus demonstrated what it means to fully trust God’s plan, even when it involves pain and sacrifice. His surrender was not passive resignation but an active choice to place His trust in the Father’s wisdom and love. Because of His obedience, salvation was made available to all humanity.

Surrendering to God’s will also require us to renew our minds continually. Our natural tendencies often lean toward fear, doubt, and self-preservation. Renewing our minds involves immersing ourselves in God’s Word, spending time in prayer, and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As we do so, our perspectives shift and we begin to see situations through the lens of God’s promises and truth. This renewal empowers us to align our desires with God’s will and trust that His plans are always for our good. One of the biggest challenges in surrendering is releasing control; we often cling to our plans because they feel safe or familiar. However, Proverbs 3:5–6 reminds us to *“trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”* Trusting God means believing that His ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8–9) and that He works all things together for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). God’s will is described in Romans 12:2 as *“good, pleasing, and perfect.”* While we may not always understand His plans, we can trust that they are rooted in His love for us. His will often stretches us, calling us to grow in faith, patience, and obedience. It may lead us into uncharted territory, but it is always for a purpose greater than we can imagine.

God’s plans for your life are intricately woven into His larger purpose, and your obedience allows Him to work through you to accomplish His kingdom goals. Take a moment today to reflect on the areas where you may be struggling to surrender. Ask God to renew your mind and transform your heart so that you can embrace His will with confidence and joy. Surrendering to God is not about losing—it’s about gaining a life rooted in His love and aligned with His divine purpose. Trust Him, and let His good, pleasing, and perfect will unfold in your life.

Further Reading: Proverbs 3:5–6; Matthew 26:39; Philippians 2:13

THY, NOT MY

“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...” Matthew 6:10 KJV

Many of us will be familiar with this line in the Lord’s prayer, but do we understand what it really means?

Jesus gave the disciples the Lord’s prayer as a template to follow. If we look at it closely, it contains the themes of worship, surrender, requests for our physical and spiritual needs as well as confession and repentance of our sins.

We as believers have been reciting this for years, but do we have a thorough understanding of what it means? Yes, we take our petitions to God, declaring ‘thy kingdom come, thy will be done’, but do we mean it in our hearts? Ask yourself: Does my heart align with my declaration?

We think we’re doing well to pray, when at times, we’re not praying the will of God. For example, if you have a family member who needs healing, why wouldn’t God want to heal them? Or for the job role that you know you’d be ideal for, why wouldn’t He want you to get it? We earnestly pray “Your will be done”, but really, it’s our own will we want. Instead of our hearts aligning with ‘thy, thy thy’, we’re really praying ‘my, my my’ – this is not surrender!

Many times we go to God already thinking that we know what is best for us. We take our petitions, telling Him what we want Him to do and we want Him to bless our plans. Our Father is not a magician, and the whole point of us saying ‘thy kingdom come, thy will be done’ is that we’re showing our heavenly Father that we’re surrendering to His will: holding onto nothing, trusting Him, no matter what.

As part of our spiritual development, as well as giving us great blessings, sometimes He lets us go through situations and it can feel like ages before He takes us out of them, the things we don’t like to experience: job loss, looking for a new job, illness, praying for unsaved loved ones yet seeing no change. It can feel like there is no light at the end of the tunnel, but we are to know and be reminded that whilst God may not deliver us according to our timeline, He is with us as we go through each situation. In fact, often, the low times are when we experience the most spiritual increase, as there is no one else to turn to but Him.

We may not see it immediately, but when we look back at our lives and reflect on the things we have experienced, that’s when we can see God’s hand at work.

No matter the way we feel, we must know that our Father knows what is best for us. He sees beyond the prospects of what a job vacancy presents, the lives our loved ones are leading, and what would what it would look like to have their souls saved and lives spared. Although we think we know what’s best, we don’t. When surrendering to God, our role is to lean on Him and trust Him daily as He knows all things.

Further reading: Luke 22:42, Isaiah 43:2, Romans 8:28

GOOD GOOD FATHER

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

It’s hard to have a conversation about God’s will without the question of suffering and pain coming up. Even in Christian settings, the age-old question “why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?” continues to present itself. Many struggle to come into God’s Kingdom because they couldn’t find an answer to this question. The truth is we may never fully understand God’s will until we get to eternity. Isaiah 59:8-9 says *“for my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts”*. How, then, do we deal with this question in a world where suffering and pain are so real and so near every day?

Perhaps we are asking the wrong question; perhaps this isn’t a question of why but of Whom. I heard a certain preacher say that God is good and if we truly believe this fact, then we should also be able to believe that His will for us is good, even when it doesn’t make us happy, or involves pain and suffering. Scripture declares countless times that God is good. Even Jesus in Mark 10:18 said no one except God is good. Goodness is His nature, He wants to do us good in every way. Our understanding of pain and suffering should start with understanding God and His character, but oftentimes we try to understand God through the eyes of pain and suffering.

However, in His goodness He has given us free will, and in a fallen world, our choices and actions too often fall short of His good and perfect will for humanity. Let’s also be real – a lot of the pain and suffering we go through is a direct consequence of our own choices and actions. Shouldn’t we pay the price for our actions?

Sure, it would be easy for God to swoop in and fix everything, removing all the pain and suffering, but wouldn’t that cost us our free will? Would you be willing to pay that price? And so the dilemma continues.

Our anchor scripture is a feel good verse often quoted by Christians, but we need to realise that these were words to a people who were being punished by God. For hundreds of years, the Israelites had turned away from the proper worship of God and when He sent prophets to warn them of their idolatry, they ignored or killed the prophets. So God allowed them to be taken captive by the kingdom of Babylon. Yet in the midst of their despair, God speaks this word of encouragement to them through the prophet Jeremiah. He says even though things look bleak, my plans for you are good. Isn’t that amazing?

It is also God’s will that all of humanity should be saved. By our human standards everyone should get the punishment for their actions, but in God’s perfect will Jesus took on our punishment and today we are saved by His grace. This is another mind-boggling aspect of the goodness of our God. We must look at all of who God is, to be able to understand His will, especially when it is hard to see what He is doing. In hindsight, you will look back and be grateful for the things God did or did not allow in your life, but how we go through the trial matters more than why we go through it.

If you are struggling with some tough questions right now, I encourage you to take a step back and focus on God. I pray that He will give you fresh eyes to understand His character and a heart to trust Him through whatever situation you are going through.

Further reading: Matthew 7:11; 2 Peter 3:9; Psalm 107

EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL

“Not my will, but Yours be done...” Luke 22:42 NIV

Our emotions are powerful! They colour our world, shape our experiences, and often – whether we like to admit it or not – drive our decisions. At times, they can feel overwhelming, even dictating how we relate to others and to God. Yet, as children of God, we must remember that while our emotions are valid and real, they are not the ultimate authority in our lives: God’s will is.

We live in a culture that constantly tells us to follow our hearts. We are urged to quit, leave, or give up the moment we feel unhappy or uncomfortable. But Scripture reminds us that God’s ways are higher than our ways, and His plans are better than anything we could imagine (Isaiah 55:9). Following our emotions may feel natural, but seeking God’s will is what leads to true peace and purpose.

When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, facing the excruciating reality of the cross, He prayed, “*Not my will, but Yours be done*” (Luke 22:42). Even in His emotional distress, Jesus surrendered to the Father’s will. This moment is a reminder that obedience to God’s will is the highest calling, even when it feels hard or painful. God’s will is unchanging, perfect, and not swayed by our emotions. That’s why it is vital to seek His will above how we feel. This doesn’t mean ignoring or suppressing our emotions, but bringing them to God and trusting Him to guide us through them.

However, sometimes we become so consumed by our emotions that we miss out on God’s will for our lives.

Holding onto relationships, careers, or ambitions that are not aligned with His plan can lead to frustration, heartbreak, and even years of unnecessary misery. When something falls apart, it’s often because it wasn’t part of God’s best for us.

Emotions can also prevent us from being present with God; how many times have we allowed sadness, frustration, or laziness to keep us from praying, reading His Word, or attending church? What might seem like minor choices can grow into barriers that separate us from God’s presence and His plans. This is especially dangerous because we may not even realise how much we’re missing. God often speaks to us in His Word, in prayer, and through the fellowship of other believers. By letting our emotions dictate whether we engage in these practices, we risk missing His voice and His will for our lives.

We must recognise when emotions are leading us astray and we must intentionally surrender them to God. In those moments when feelings threaten to take control, let us look to Jesus as our example and pray “not my will, but Yours be done”. God’s will is always for our good, even when it’s hard to see in the moment. Trust Him, bring your emotions to Him, and let Him lead you into His perfect plan!

Further reading: Galatians 5:13–26, Philippians 4:6–7, James 1:19–20

WHOSE WILL? WHOSE WORK?

“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

Proverbs 19:21 NIV

Whose will are you pursuing? Whose work are you prioritising? These questions strike at the core of our daily lives and decisions. In a world that glorifies personal ambition, relentless hustle, and the pursuit of self-made success, it’s easy to focus on our own plans and dreams. But as Proverbs 19:21 reminds us, while we may have many plans, it is God’s purpose that ultimately prevails. The challenge, then, is whether we are aligning ourselves with His purpose or stubbornly pursuing our own. For many of us, our days are filled with tasks, goals, and to-do lists. We might be chasing promotions, building businesses, or striving for personal growth. These pursuits aren’t inherently bad; after all, God gives us talents and responsibilities. However, if we pause and reflect honestly, how often are these plans rooted in our will rather than His?

The Bible is clear about the danger of self-centered living. James 4:13–15 warns against making plans without considering God’s will: *“Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’”* This passage highlights our tendency to assume control over our lives, forgetting that our time, talents, and resources ultimately belong to God. When we pursue our own will and work, we often find ourselves exhausted, unfulfilled, and restless, no matter how successful we may become. Jesus modelled perfect submission to the Father’s will, even when it was difficult. In John 6:38, He said, *“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”* Jesus’ life was entirely focused on doing the Father’s work, and as His followers, we are called to do the same.

So how do we shift from living for ourselves to living for God? It begins with a heart check. Ask yourself: Whose will am I following? Whose work am I doing? If the honest answer points to yourself, it’s time to recalibrate. Surrendering to God’s will requires humility and a willingness to let go of control. It means asking God to align your desires with His and being willing to follow wherever He leads, even if it’s not what you envisioned. God’s will and work are often countercultural. While the world tells us to build our brand, Scripture calls us to seek first His kingdom (Matthew 6:33). While society values independence, God invites us to depend on Him completely. His will isn’t about our comfort or recognition—it’s about His glory and the advancement of His purposes. The beauty of surrendering to God’s will is that it leads to true fulfillment and peace. When we focus on His work, we find that His yoke is easy and His burden is light (Matthew 11:28–30).

Take a moment to reflect: Are your goals and efforts advancing God’s kingdom or your own? As you meditate on this devotional, consider what it might look like to realign your life with God’s will and work. Pray for clarity and courage to release anything that doesn’t align with His purpose. Remember, it is only when we seek His will and commit to His work that we experience the joy and freedom of living as He intended. Let today be the day you stop chasing your own will and begin walking in His. Only then will you discover the joy and fulfillment of living for His glory.

Further Reading: Psalm 127:1; Colossians 3:23–24; Ephesians 2:10, Proverbs 3:5–6

REVIVAL READY?

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV

‘Revival’ is a word that we love as believers and it is God’s will for the nations. We often sing about it, and what a good song it makes! However, revival doesn’t come about through singing songs. Today’s anchor scripture is clear to show that revival or restoring the souls of a people comes about through consistent and persistent prayer, repentance maintained through consecration, and it starts with self first. Revival comes by people willing to partner with God to tarry, wait, pray and fast for God’s will for nations, communities and people to be done.

Let’s look at one of the blueprints for revival: Acts 1 and 2. Before the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles, and before they went out preaching the gospel in different languages, they were gathered together as Christ had instructed, in one mind and one purpose (unity) and continually devoted themselves to prayer, emphasis on “continually”. The bible tells us that there were 120 people gathered, waiting for the promise of the holy spirit. By the end of Acts 2, we see that 3,000 people were added to their numbers in one day, and from that point onwards, the Lord kept adding to their numbers as they devoted themselves to “the apostles’ teachings, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer”.

We need to get to a point where we think beyond our own desires. In Acts 2:44, it states that *“All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts”*.

Their concern was each other. We need to learn to come to God in prayer to not just lay down our burdens, but to also pick up His. This will sometimes mean being a spiritual midwife; to labour in the place of prayer for something or someone, whether or not it’s your desire or there’s any direct benefit to you. Which agenda of Christ has he called you to be a spiritual midwife for? What or who do you need to continually stand in the gap for?

It is important to remind ourselves: this is the Kingdom of God and He is the sovereign one. His Will will most certainly come to pass, with or without us. There is an outpouring of His Spirit in these last days and He will turn the hearts of His people back to Himself. We have a part to play in this; we each hold a position in God’s big picture and plan. Some may be called to be like Anna, who prayed day and night in the temple for the arrival of Jesus, or like John the Baptist, declaring the coming of the King. The point here is that God’s agenda for a saviour was always going to come to pass with or without Anna, John the Baptist and the other prophets and people who were spiritual midwives along the way, partnering with God to bring His plan to pass. If they weren’t willing, God would raise others.

So I urge us, let us avail ourselves as vessels to partner with the Holy Spirit to bring about God’s agenda here on Earth. Remember, revival doesn’t happen without consistent prayer, repentance and consecration. Revival is coming, the question is will you be found as a participator or a spectator?

Further Reading: Acts 1, Acts 2, Esther 4:12–17, Esther 8:17