

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Luke 11:1-4 “Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.’ So He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. *Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven....*’”

Quote: “There are no ‘ifs’ in God’s Kingdom. His timing is perfect. *His will is our hiding place.* Lord Jesus, keep me in Your will! Don’t let me go mad by poking about outside it.” “You can never learn that Christ is all you need until Christ is all you have.” Corrie Ten Boom, Survivor of a German Concentration Camp

Resignation might initially sound like a strange word to associate with prayer until you look at the following meaning: “to give oneself up into the power of another especially as a prisoner or to give oneself over to something as an influence.”¹ There is no greater example of resignation to the Father’s will than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself when He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Matthew recorded that Jesus “fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.’” In Mark’s account, Christ acknowledged God’s power when He prayed, “Abba, Father, *all things are possible for You.* Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.” Luke tells us that, as Christ prayed, “an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” The gospels also record that the Savior petitioned God three times that He would grant another way and three times Christ ended His petition with the words, “Your will be done.” From His humble condescension to become the Man of Sorrows to His glorious and victorious return to Heaven as the Prince of Peace, Jesus was the perfect example of submission to the Father’s will.

Prayer— Resignation

Likewise, Joseph is a wonderful example of someone whose whole world took a violent, life-changing turn at the hands of his callused brothers who sold him into slavery. To be sure, he cried out to God time and time again for restoration to his family. To be sure, he asked God how the reality of his life as a slave in a foreign land lined up with the dreams that he had had about his family bowing before him. And yet, when all was said and done, it was Joseph who bowed the knee in positive resignation to God’s will as evidenced in his words to his brothers who feared retaliation from him. “Do not be afraid, for *am I in the place of God?* But as for you, you meant evil against me; but *God meant it for good,* in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.” The “*it*” that God meant for good included prison and being in chains!³

Prayer “should be the most humble expression of submission to the will of the Father in heaven, but too often “it appears to be an attempt to impose our will upon the Almighty.”⁴ It is as though we give God our plan and ask Him to place His stamp of approval upon it. Unlike the Savior, we focus too much upon our problems and greed for how we wish things were instead of upon His praise and glory. Our prayer should be “that we may not displease God in any thing we do, nor be displeased at any thing God does.”⁵ When His providence does not line up with our prayers, we can become guilty of the sin of discontentment. This hinders our fellowship with Him as well as our service for Him. Love for God, trust in God and obedience to God bring the peace of God that all things are working together for good as the Father molds us into the image of Christ.⁶ It is as we pray for His kingdom to come and His will to be done in our lives that we gladly resign ourselves as bondservants to doing all for His glory and the eternal good of others.⁷ Like Jesus, by sincerely praying, “Your kingdom come, Your will be done,” we acknowledge our own desire for God’s glory above all else. We declare our confidence in, and our submission to, His divine providence for time and for eternity.

1 Merriam-Webster Dict. 2 Matt.26: Luke 22:44 3 Gen.50; Psalm 105: 17-22
4 Matthew Henry 5 H. Hoeksema 6 Romans 8:28-39 7 I Cor.10:31-33