

The Ministry of Prayer XI

“This then is how you should pray...Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

One of the things Jesus showed us in his lifestyle was a complete dependence and submission to the Father. He was intent upon doing the Father's will no matter what. Just read a few of the following verses from the Gospel of John. “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work (4:34).” “My Father is always at work, and I too am working. I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees the Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son does also. By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me (5:17, 19 & 30).” “My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether I speak on my own (7:16-17).” “When you have lifted up the Son of Man (speaking of his death on the cross) then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him (8:28-29).” “The reason my Father loves me is that I lay my life down... (10:17).” “Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father living in me, who is doing his work...but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me (14:10&31).” “I have brought you glory (Father) on earth by completing the work you gave me to do (17:4).” John doesn't record this but Matthew does, “Going a little farther, he (Jesus) fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me” Yet not as I will, but as you will (26:39).”

As I read through the Gospel of John picking these scriptures out for you, my heart was overwhelmed with a love for the Savior. He was so willing to die for us. He was so obedient to fulfill all that the Father gave him to do so that he could be a perfect sacrifice for us. He has such a love that it is impossible to understand unless it is revealed by the Spirit but it is very evident in all that he did for us. And he in turn asks us to pray as he did, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” He wants us to have the same love for him. If we truly love him we will deny ourselves and pick up our cross and follow him. Listen to what Jesus says, “Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and perform miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you, away from me, you evil-doers (Matthew 7: 21-23).” Good-doers do his will. Those who care enough to find out what he desires and who look and join in on what he is doing on earth in our day and time will show that they really love him. Lord, help us to lay our lives down for you as you did for us. Amen!