

On The Road To Emmaus

As I walk through this life it seems that most people I run into pray. This world is filled with the prayers of people. As I have thought about this I have begun to wonder what marks my prayers as a Christian? How are my prayers different from those who belong to this world?

One of the marks of true Christian prayer is found in Matthew 26.39 (esv): *“And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”* Our Lord Jesus prayed for the will of God to be done and not His will.

One essential element of all true Christian prayer is that we ask for the Father’s will to be done. Why? Because, how can I know what is best for me? How can I know whether what I desire would be a true blessing or be a curse to me.

There are things that we cannot be certain about. We cannot know that if we get very sick—is it God’s will that we recover and are healed? Or rather is it God’s will that we die and go to be with Him. If we have a loved one that is sick or injured we cannot know whether the will of God is a longer life or death. If we have some physical condition, trial or pain, we may pray very intensely that God would remove it. However, we cannot be sure that it is the Father’s will to remove it.

So we pray, *“not as I will, but as you will”*. God will answer our prayer but He does this by not bringing His will down to ours—rather He raises our will up to His will. He does this far more often than we think or realize. Our prayers are answered in conformity to His will.

God’s will does not bend to ours, rather He gives us the strength for us to walk with Him. He lifts us up to Himself and sustains us. Oh, is this not the better and the larger blessing my fellow disciple?

A Fellow Disciple