

## NOT MY WILL, BUT THY WILL BE DONE

“He fell facedown and prayed, ‘My Father! If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will.’” Matthew 26:39

A grandfather was walking past his young granddaughter’s room one night when he saw her kneeling beside her bed, with head bowed and hands folded, repeating the alphabet.

“What are you doing?” he asked her.

She explained, “I’m saying my prayers, but I couldn’t think of just what I wanted to say. So I’m just saying all the letters of the alphabet, and God can put them together however he thinks best.”

Our experiences in Christian living have taught us that our lives work out for our greatest good when we trust Him to work things out as He thinks best.

Jesus clearly dreaded the cross. He knew exactly what He was facing. Matthew 26 tells us He was “deeply distressed.” His emotions were so raw, He told His disciples, “My soul is swallowed up in sorrow—to the point of death.” Then, getting alone, “He fell facedown and prayed, ‘My Father! If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will.’”

Notice what Jesus did not pray; as many often word it today, “Let this cup pass from Me if it be Your will” — “Heal the sick, if it be Your will.” At first brush, this sounds like saying the same thing, but it isn’t. What we are praying is — “Lord, if my will can be Your will, then please do my will.” “Father, if I can have my way, let me have it.” But what if our will is not God’s will? The way we word our prayer says nothing about that possibility or what we would have God do in such a case. We keep our prayer silent and our options open. However, Jesus’ prayer means, “If my will is not Your will, then, Father, do Your will instead” ...Thy will be done. It is the voice of submission and obedience.

In considering relocation, your church’s choices may be:

1. God, we will stay here. It is a little harder here, but we are effectively reaching the community. We are seeing changed lives. You are making a difference here through us. Though a fresh start would be incredibly exciting, Your will—and our duty—is that we should stay.
2. God, we will move to another place. We have many precious memories here and it feels like a death. Yet we realize that we are no longer the ones who can reach this community. You have now called someone else for that. We need to get out of their way and relocate to a place where we can be fruitful again.

Thy will be done. Put it together as You think best.

**Today’s Scripture Reading:** John 12:23-28

**Today’s Prayer Guidance:** *Lord, I want my will. I want to be able to control my own life. And to be honest, I don’t like it when we have to give up control of our church—even to You. So, remind my heart, that this is Your church and that You are its only Head.*