

Dear Friend,

Having been in ministry for many years now, I always cringe a little bit when I hear believers say things like, *"Well, you know what the bible says. God is in control. Everything that happens is God's will and He has a purpose for it."* I know they are trying to honor God when they say such things, but if those statement are true, then why did Jesus instruct us to pray the following in the Lord's prayer?

Mat 6:9-13 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (10) **Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.** (11) Give us this day our daily bread. (12) And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. (13) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Why pray the Father's kingdom "come" and His will "be done" ... if everything that is happening is already His will for us? Some people will even say sickness, car wrecks, and famine are the will of God. If that's the case then why would Jesus tell us to pray the way He did? I am going to share a verse with you that is seldom taught from church pulpits. First, I will give you the King James version, and then I will give it to you in the Amplified Version of the Bible:

1Jn 5:19 *And* we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.
KJV

1Jn 5:19 We know [positively] that we are of God, and the whole world [around us] is under the power of the evil one. AMPLIFIED BIBLE

The word translated "wickeness" in verse 19 is actually in the masculine gender and is properly rendered "the evil one." In plain language, the verse is saying the whole world we live in is under the dominion of the evil one. Most people are not aware that even the apostle Paul himself declared that Satan is the "god of this world." (little "g").

2Co 4:4 In whom **the god of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Believe me when I say, Paul understood there is only one and true living God ... and that is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. But what Christians MUST understand is that God's will is not automatically being done in this present world. This present world is still under the control of the evil one, Satan himself. It is the evil one who is the thief.

Jesus told us it is the thief who comes to steal, kill and destroy. [John 10:10] But Jesus came to deliver us from the kingdom of darkness and to deliver us into the Kingdom of God instead.

On planet earth, there are two kingdoms at war. It is the kingdom of God against the kingdom of the evil one. Without the prayers and the faith of believers, the darkness prevails by default. It is exactly like a room that is dark, will always remain dark, until somebody brings in a light. Darkness has no power at all over light. God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. [1 John 1:5] That's why Jesus told us to not just sit idly by and allow the evil one to continue with his stealing, killing, and destroying. We are to intervene in prayer and do like Jesus said and pray that God's kingdom come, and that His will be done **INSTEAD** of the will of the evil one. One of my favorite verses is Acts 10:38 because it so precisely illustrates Jesus going about and causing the will of the Father to prevail instead of the will of the evil one:

Act 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Think of all the cripples, blind people, deaf and dumb people, lepers, and sick people that Jesus set free. Each one of them was being oppressed by the will of the evil one, not God. Jesus went about doing good by manifesting the kingdom of God and the will of the Father for them all. He never refused a single person who came to Him for healing. Let us rise up in faith and pray like we have never prayed before so that the kingdom of God, and the will of our Father, be done on this earth, just like it is in heaven.

Sue and I love you and appreciate you. We thank God for your generous and giving heart. God bless you!

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY