

## Power in Prayer

## Praying According to God's Will

## I. Introduction

- The Bible teaches that not all requests made in prayer will be granted – James 4:3 and Psalm 66:18 are examples
- One factor that determines if our prayer spurs God to respond is how our requests fit into His Will – I John 5:14-15

## II. The Multifaceted Will of God

- The Sovereign Will of God
  - This is seen in God's overall plan for the ages.
  - It is based in the unfathomable wisdom of God – Romans 11:33
  - This part of God's Will *must* be fulfilled – Isaiah 46:8-11
- The Revealed Will of God
  - This is seen in God's commandments made to His Creation in which He allows us a measure of free will and choice.
  - It is based on God's Sovereign Will, but is revealed in direct commandment to us – Micah 6:8
  - Here he leaves mankind the choice to obey or disobey and to see the consequences of that choice – Deuteronomy 11:26-28
- The Dispositional Will of God
  - This is seen in God's expression of pleasure or displeasure.
  - This is less direct and more general than God's Revealed Will and also give mankind free agency to follow or not follow.
  - Example: God *wants* all men to repent and be saved though not all men will – II Peter 3:9

## III. Knowing the Will of God

- By its revelation in Scripture, such as the command to evangelize the world in Matthew 28:19-20 or the command to be thankful in I Thessalonians 5:18.
- By navigating the Dispositional Will of God, such as Abraham's intercession for the righteous in Sodom in Genesis 18:22-33.
- By experience and testing, as seen in the word "proving" in Romans 12:2.
- By the leading of the Spirit, as seen in Acts 16:6-7 in helping guide Paul to Macedonia.

## IV. Principles for Praying in the Will of God

- Pray while in God's Will for God's Will – John 15:7
- Pray in desire for God's Will – Psalm 37:4
- Pray in subjection to God's Will – Matthew 26:39
- Pray in acknowledgement and anticipation of God's Will – Matthew 26:42
- Pray until you come to know God's Will – II Corinthians 12:7-9