

Matthew 6:10

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

About fifteen years ago, I was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. Also about fifteen years ago I had surgery to have my prostate removed, and I have been cancer free for the last fifteen years (ALL praise and glory goes to God for this!!!)

But I remember when I was first diagnosed with the cancer, my doctor went over several options on how to treat the cancer. But what if I found out that I had cancer and I started giving my doctor instructions on how I thought that he should treat it? Now I have no medical background as far as schooling or an education in the treatment of cancer. So how crazy would it be for me to give my doctor instruction on how to treat my cancer?

Also, I really enjoy eating a good meal at a fine restaurant, or even that my wife makes. But what if I went to a fine restaurant and placed my order for food, but then started telling the chef exactly how to prepare and cook my meal, including cooking times, which spices to use and telling the chef which ingredients to use and even where to get them. That would be an insult to a master chef, or anyone cooking my meal. Even when my wife asks what I want for dinner, I usually tell her anything is fine (Wives, don't you love that answer from your husband? lol). But let's say I told her what I wanted, but also told her how to prepare it, what stores to go to, to get the ingredients etc. just like I did with the chef. I would not have a happy wife if I did that.

Now read part of today's devotional verse, which is Jesus teaching on how to pray, and let's think about it based upon our examples: *Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

Just as we would never, ever think of telling a doctor how to treat cancer, or a chef or spouse how to cook our food, why do we think it's ok to give God instructions in our prayers? Even Jesus prayed in the Garden.

† **Matthew 26:42 (KJV)** *He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, **O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.***
(underlined for emphasis)

Notice, Jesus never gave God the Father all these different ways He could have fixed this without Him going to the cross, but instead, Jesus simply prayed "*Thy will be done*" knowing that God the Father knew exactly what He was doing. Yet we pray and ask God for things, then tell Him how to accomplish our request. When we do that, we turn "*Thy will be done*" into "My will be done."

Have you ever considered that if we knew how to fix things, we wouldn't need God, because we would have everything figured out ourselves. So if we mess up all the time and need to go to

God in prayer all the time, why would we want to tell God how to do something, if our ways are always the wrong way?

Here is another example. When my teenage son lived with us, he would like to cook his own hamburger for lunch, and when he did, he wanted no red or pink inside of it at all. (I call it a beef jerky hamburger, or a hockey puck made out of beef.) Every time he did, I had to feel sorry for that poor cow who gave his life to that hockey puck hamburger. Also, my brother-in-law is an awesome cook, he is what we would call a Semi-profession chef. So if he were going to make me a hamburger, would he ask my son's advise, or would I want my teenage son to tell my brother-in-law how to cook a hamburger for me? No, because the way my son cooks it, no one but him would eat it.

Now I know this example is a stretch, but it is meant to show how someone would do something wrong, telling someone else, who knows how to do it right, how to do something. And that's what we do with God when we try to give Him instructions. Let's take a look at Jesus' instructions on how to pray.

✠ **Matthew 6:9-13** *In this manner, therefore, pray:*
Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Now look at each line carefully, and tell me where in Jesus' instruction on how to pray, does it include telling God how to answer that prayer?

Yet we pray, *"Give us this day our daily bread by giving me this great job that I really, really like, and that I make a bunch of money at, and I only have to work two days a week, but only one hour each day so I can have time to spend with my family and go out a play and...."*

I know that sounds crazy, or that you are saying that you would never pray like that, yet how often do we pray that way, maybe not in regard to our daily bread, but for any other request we may have.

As a parent, we enjoy it when our kids ask us for good things, but do we want them to tell us how to give them those good things? God wants to hear from us asking Him for our needs (not greed's), but I don't think God wants us to give Him instructions, but rather to come to Him knowing that He is God and He has everything under control without our instructions.

† **1 Corinthians 2:16** *For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.*

† **Psalm 32:8** *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.*