



United Pentecostal Church Intl May 2024



## Pray, According to His Will

By Mary Catherine Beek



The word control means, “To determine the behavior or supervise the running of.”

When we say we have control over something, it can make us feel quite powerful. Sometimes it can be hard for us to either hand that control over or, even worse, have it taken away from us. This is how our humanity can feel. Handing control over to someone can be difficult, and there can even

be resistance.

When it comes to handing over control, or our will, over to God, we may resist. We may feel that we know better than God. We can start to problem-solve, plan, and organize our lives and situations around our own strength and wisdom.

I have experienced in my own life that when I begin to pray, “Not my will, but Yours be done,” a burden lifts off me. I have come to the realization that God’s ways ARE higher than my ways and His thoughts ARE NOT my thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9). We must understand, and accept, that our will and tight control over our lives is nothing in comparison to the great things God has in store for us.

A life verse of mine is Proverbs 3:5-6.

*“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*

Our paths, will, control—whatever we want to label it— will only lead to problems. We must trust in God with all our emotions (heart) and lean not to what makes sense to our own minds (understanding). Then, when we acknowledge God in all our ways and release that control over to Him, His promise to us is that He will direct our paths. This is how we can pray the will of God into our lives. We need to

release the tight grip we have over our lives, making sure everything is just right and acceptable for everyone to see.

When we truly live a life that is in His will, the stress, anxiety, and frustrations of life will start to fade. We will then live our lives knowing, trusting, and believing that His will is what's best for us.

*“Therefore, take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:31-33)*

Note: Mary Catherine Beek, is mother of three beautiful, talented, and vivacious girls: Cayla (14), Alexa (11) and Isla (1). Her husband, James, pastors New Life Church in Glasgow, Scotland. They are excited about the revival that is happening. A few things she loves: her man and girls, coffee, and plants, especially sunflowers. Most of all, she loves Jesus!

---

## **A Prayer Checkup**

By Liane R. Grant



Preparing to write an article about praying according to God's will caused me to examine some of my typical prayer requests. Do they really line up with what the Bible says about God's will? A prayer checkup can be very enlightening... and convicting! Let's look at a few Bible verses about God's will and see how they apply to prayer.

*“For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.” (James 4:15)*

There's a phrase I used to hear all the time growing up that doesn't seem very common anymore. “We'll see you next month, Lord willing” or “I am starting a new job soon, Lord willing.” We tend to make our own plans as we see fit, forgetting to invite the Lord to direct our lives. We rush ahead to the next thing on our schedule, seeing how many things we can check off on our to-do list. How would our prayer life change if we put James 4:15 into practice at the beginning of each day?

*“That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.” (Romans 15:32)*

If anyone ever had a right to get moody and tired of travelling, it would be the Apostle Paul, but he chose to do God's will with joy, and so can we. It's easy to let annoyances, frustrations, and discomforts consume our prayer time. But if we truly believe that circumstances beyond our control have passed through

God's approval process, then we are in the middle of His will. Let's pray that God will help us to respond with joy and let our faith and faithfulness be a living testimony that refreshes those around us.

· ·  
*"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* (Romans 12:2)

"That's just my personality." "You know redheads have a temper." "I've never been able to tolerate . . ." and so on. Hmm . . . are these just excuses for bad habits we have developed? The scripture above emphasizes our need to change so that we can live out the will of God. His will is that we demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

Regardless of our personality, our childhood or experiences, we should pray daily that God will shape and change us according to His will. And His will is good, it's acceptable, and it's perfect!

*"Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."* (1 Peter 4:19)

This one is difficult. We love to talk about God's will when it pertains to comfortable, fulfilling, and exciting things; but sometimes His will is for us to suffer. We can't choose when and where to do God's will; it is a total commitment. So how do we suffer "according to the will of God"? This can only happen in prayer, by throwing ourselves into His arms, in total trust that He really does know what is best for us. He is our Creator and He WILL be faithful to us. Remember that God has His eye on the end result. When all is said and done, what really matters is that our souls are saved. Let's pray sincerely and let Him choose what suffering is needed to accomplish our salvation.

These are just a few scriptures that can guide us as we pray according to God's will.

We need to remember that our Heavenly Father is in control and that He loves us more than we could ever comprehend!

Note: Liane R. Grant is a certified English/French translator with a PhD in Translation. She has written several books, including the *Order My Steps* devotional journal and *The 3-Hour Translation Team*. She and her husband Scott are metro missionaries in Quebec City, Canada. Liane is the founder and President of Nonprofit Translation Solutions, a UPCI-endorsed ministry. [www.LianeRGrant.com](http://www.LianeRGrant.com)

---

**From the Editor**

Debbie Akers Robbins



God is doing mighty things!

God is opening many doors and this newsletter is now available in:  
English, Arabic, Chinese simplified, Chinese traditional, Czech, Dutch, Fijian, Filipino,  
French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Pijin, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian,  
Spanish, Sri Lankan, Swahili, Swedish, and Thai.


**Please help us pray for more translators!**

If you wish to receive this newsletter please send request to  
LadiesPrayerInternational@aol.com or debiakers@aol.com

we are delighted to add you to our mailing list!

[Visit Ladies Prayer International on Facebook and "like" our page!](#)



 Like us on Facebook

Dear Prayer Team Leader, Please visit Ladies Prayer International on Facebook and "Like" our page! Facebook Ladies Prayer International Link

Also, please invite your group to subscribe to this FREE newsletter at: [Ladies Prayer International](#) or email request to: debiakers@aol.com

Please share this information with your church, friends and family. Thank you for being a part of this thriving prayer ministry and for helping us spread the word about the FREE newsletter and Facebook page!



Who we are . . . Since 1999: Ladies Prayer Intl. is made up of women worldwide, who meet one day in the first week of each month to unite in focused prayer for their children and the children of the local church and community.

Our Mission . . . We are committed to the spiritual preservation of this generation and beyond and the spiritual restoration of previous generations.

Our Need . . . Committed women who will join together on the first Monday of each month and pray focused prayer for their children.

Three Priorities of Prayer...

- The salvation of our children (Isaiah 49:25; Psalm 144:12; Isaiah 43:5-6).
- That they take ownership of the faith at an accountable age (1 John 2:25-28; James 1:25).
- That they enter into the ministry of the Lord's harvest (Matthew 9:38).