

# Alton Baptist Church e-Service 14th February 2021

## Your will be done

Welcome to our e-Service when we can spend time listening to encouraging songs of praise and worship and grow in our love and knowledge of the Lord as we study His Word.  
Our theme is YOUR WILL BE DONE.

Psalm 92: 1 - 2

“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.”

**Song:** Praise Him, Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
In verse 1 it says, “Jesus will guard His children, in His arms He carries them all day long.”

Knowing that, does it not encourage us to praise Him?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKjAdtBsisY>

### **Prayer:**

Loving heavenly Father we praise you for your unfailing love toward us. We thank you that you are a rock on which we can build our lives that through the sacrificial death of Jesus we can have eternal life. We confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and ask for your forgiveness. We ask that the Holy Spirit will be present even though we are unable to meet together. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

**Song:** All the way my Saviour leads me

This song reminds us that the Lord leads us on our journey through life and it is good when we allow Him to lead and fulfil His will in our lives.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekUELQCnQIM>

### **Intercessory Prayer:**

Father we come to you with our petitions and requests at a time when the world is in turmoil resulting from the impact of the pandemic. We ask for your comfort for those who have lost loved ones, for those suffering mental health issues, the lonely who have not seen family or friends for such a long time and for those who have financial concerns through the loss of employment or the collapse of businesses.

Please give guidance to the decision makers in government, to managers of organisations and to church leaders as they seek to lead in an effective way.

Protect those who deliver the services we need to keep the economy going and to those in the NHS who provide medical support.

Let us remember farmers and fishermen who provide the food we need that they will be sustained in the demanding role they have.

Bring to the Lord those in the Alton fellowship and others you know who need prayer at this time.

**Song:** Have Thine own way, Lord

Verse 1 says “mould me and make me after **Thy, will.**”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D29AE8YVSFU>

**Prayer:**

Father, reveal to us from your Word what we need to hear to enable us to grow in obedience to your will for our lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

Matthew 6: 9 – 13 **YOUR WILL BE DONE**

<sup>9</sup>“This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, **your will be done**, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

Possibly the biggest battle Christians face each day is that of the WILL. The pull to want my way rather than what the Lord wants for us each day as we walk with Him.

Paul understood this when he wrote in Romans 7: 18 – 19

“I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing.”

We can contrast this with the way that Jesus faced this battle when He was in the garden at Gethsemane.

Matthew 26: 39

“My Father if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but AS YOU WILL.”

Here we see Jesus fulfilling what He gave as guidance in the way we should pray, YOUR WILL BE DONE.

What is God’s will for us? Scripture gives us guidance that encourages us to lead purposeful lives.

### **Doing Good**

Ephesians 2: 10

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Titus 3: 8 gives further clarification to this,

“This is a trustworthy saying. And I want to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.”

Doing good in this context is not that we earn our way to heaven but that we are seeking to proclaim the way of salvation through believing in Jesus as the Son of God and building His kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. Is that not a wonderful thing to be part of? It should also encourage us to see that doing HIS WILL is excellent and profitable and gives us the greatest fulfilment in life.

### **A Prayerful Life**

Another way that we can follow God’s will for our lives is through prayer. This is an area that many Christians find hard as the distractions of this world can deflect us from spending time in prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5: 16 – 18

“Be joyful always; **pray continually**; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is GOD’S WILL for you in Christ Jesus.”

We can pray with confidence for 1 John 5: 14 – 15

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to HIS WILL, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him.”

In leading a prayerful life we will find joy and when we give thanks for all the blessings we have through our daily walk with the Lord we will find contentment and a peace that this world cannot give.

I have seen the answer to prayer when it has been focussed on God's will. I remember sharing with my mother that I had made a commitment to follow Jesus. She responded by saying that her prayer for me was that I would be led according to the Lord's will. What better prayer could a mother pray for her son! My response is Praise the Lord!

### **An Enabled Life**

Many of us often feel inadequate to do anything meaningful for the Lord and we recognise our human frailty.

James 4: 15 "If it is the LORD'S WILL, we will live and do this or that."

What an encouragement this is to know that if it is HIS WILL He will give us the enabling to do the tasks He has planned for us.

This is confirmed in Philippians 2:13

"For it is God who works in you to WILL and act to His good purpose."

He works in us and that enables us to do HIS WILL.

### **God's Will is for us to be Sanctified**

1 Thessalonians 4: 3

"It is GOD'S WILL that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality."

What does it mean to be sanctified? The dictionary says, consecrate, set apart or observe as holy; purify or free from sin – make productive or conducive to holiness. By being set apart and seeking to live a sin free life we will be productive for the Lord. We need to recognise the importance of holiness as we affirm YOUR WILL BE DONE in our lives.

It is interesting that 1 Thessalonians above, emphasised the need to avoid sexual sin and this is important in the context of the times in which we are living where the culture runs counter to the Biblical teaching on sexual behaviour. The leading of a sanctified life is not easy but one we should strive for in order to do His Will. We do it not on our own but we will have the help of the Holy Spirit.

What is our response? Do we really pray YOUR WILL BE DONE?

Are we like David when he says in Psalm 143: 10

“Teach me to do YOUR WILL, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.”

In Psalm 40: 8 “I desire to do YOUR WILL, O my God; your law is within my heart.”

David is teachable, willing to be led by the Spirit, to have God’s law in his heart and a desire to do God’s will. Scripture presents us with a challenge - are we going to follow the example of David and really mean YOUR WILL BE DONE in all aspects of our daily walk with the Lord?

**Prayers:**

Father we ask that by the power of your Holy Spirit You will speak to our hearts and re-clothe our minds as we study Your Word. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

Loving Father thank You that Your Word gives us practical help for the way we live our lives; that You want us to have life and have it to the full. So help us to fulfil Your will in our lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

**Song:** Take my life, and let it be

Verse 5 “Take my will, and make it Thine”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of4I5bTdZ8M>

**Blessing** Ephesians 3: 20 - 21

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work with in us, to Him be glory in the church and in Chris Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”