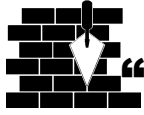


THE PETITIONER - “A Transformed Heart Prays Differently”



“Building Blocks”

1. **(“Snapshot”)** The “big picture” here is the relationship between what God says to us and we we say to Him; Revelation on His part and prayer on our part. If I truly believe that God’s will for me is “Jesusification” then “praying according to God’s will” will focus on that process.
2. **(Q1-Psalm 51)** The majority of David’s prayer here deals with *inner transformation* rather than outer behavior or deliverance from unpleasant circumstances/consequences. In fact, there is a very distinct break at verse 13, where David switches his focus from internal issues to external ones.
3. **(Q1-Mark)** There is no other conclusion one can arrive at from this passage except that Jesus’ humanity *did not want* to “embrace” God’s will at this point. But His “spirit was willing,” even though His “flesh was weak,” just like he said to the apostles in the garden. It was, in a very real sense, true of Him also. The Greek here is very helpful. The word translated “distressed” means to be struck with terror or amazement. The word translated “troubled” later in the verse is the Greek word, *adēmoneō*, which is the strongest of the three Greek words for depression! It is impossible to exaggerate how absolutely crushed Jesus was feeling here.
4. **(Q2-Colossians)** Paul uses the same word for “knowledge” here—(*epiginoskō*)—which is a thorough and intimate knowledge. He first says he is praying that they would have a completely “filled-up” or comprehensive grasp of God’s will. Paul says (implicitly) that this is a prerequisite for living a life that is pleasing to God. Then, he goes on to lay out the things that characterize this “pleasing” life:
 - bearing fruit
 - growing-up in their personal knowledge of God. The Greek word Paul uses here, “increasing,” is the word used for infants and plants growing. It is a word for what can be normally expected in maturation. Paul is *not* speaking here of accumulating information (i.e. “knowing”)!
5. **(Q3)** It is interesting that in Paul’s requests for prayer, he is asking for things related to the Gospel and his own ministry and testimony. He asks them to pray for him to have boldness, but not for stamina; for “open doors” but not comfortable quarters, etc. There is virtually no seeking prayer support for personal needs.
6. **(Q4-Romans)** One of the unavoidable and inescapable truths of this passage is how much the Father *wants* to complete the work of redemption in m life! Not only is the Spirit praying, but the Spirit too is “groaning” along with us and all of creation! There is both the ideas of grief *and* longing in *stenazō*, the word translated “groaning.”
7. **(Q4-1 Thessalonians)** This verse should be understood in conjunction with Paul’s prayer for the Colossians in Question 2. Sometimes we “mystify” God’s will to the point of it seeming to be out of reach of our day-to-day experience, or “hidden” and needing to be discovered. Here is one of the clearest statements in the New Testament about 3 things God “wills” to characterize my daily life.



“Stumbling Stones”

1. **(Q4-Matthew)** It would be tempting to restrict or relegate this series of commands to people we encounter in the midst of ministry. However, it is clear contextually that Jesus is referring to people

we meet in the ebb and flow of life (E.g. beggars, people in authority over us, etc.). This command here is much bigger than the idea of religious persecution. It is a lifestyle statement.



“Going Deeper”

2. **(Opening Quote)** What is John Owen saying here?
3. **(Q1-1 Samuel 7)** David speaks of God's intention to keep His work going beyond David's lifetime. Can one's sanctification really extend beyond one's lifetime?
4. **(Q1-Matthew)** How many actual requests are there in this prayer? How many of them are related to “creature needs”?
How does your own prayer life compare to this ratio?
5. **(Q1-Ephesians)** What is the purpose of this “power” that Paul speaks of? (I.e. to what end is it in our lives?)
6. **(Q3)** What do all of the prayers in Question 3 have in common?
7. Do you see a connection between what you wrote for Question 3-Colossians and Question 4-1 Thessalonians?