

## My Will or Thy Will?

Conference and NCAA basketball tournaments bring out another side of our personality. Parochialism towards our favorite team intensifies to the point that we no longer are objective. We want every call in favor of our team, regardless if it is right or not. Like the old Burger King commercial, we want to have it our way. The stakes are high, as teams try to qualify for a good seed in the NCAA tournament.



People also have a mind of their own when it comes to making key decisions. They set their mind on something and block out reality. It is all about getting their way regardless of what is right. They want to be in control regardless.

The most popular prayer in the world is The Lord's Prayer. It is regarded as the perfect prayer, taught by Jesus Christ as part of The Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 6:9-13*). Nearly everyone who has ever set foot in a church knows it from memory. Notice, I didn't say "by heart." By heart infers that we believe it wholeheartedly so much that we will follow it unconditionally.

Why am I so hard on questioning whether people really believe what they say when they recite The Lord's Prayer? Unfortunately, we conveniently overlook or minimize portions of the prayer to fit our own desires. We readily know the phrase, *Thy will be done*, but often downplay the next line, *on earth as it is in Heaven*. Thy Will is OK when we refer to the abstract of God's home court, Heaven. Our own home court, however, is earth, where we resist giving up control. It is OK when God's Will matches our own, but when it doesn't, we'll hold on for dear life for what we want. With white knuckles and two hands forming a death grip, we'll often keep insisting our way is the only way. We don't want to listen for or accept God's Will.

On the basketball court, coaches display angry behavior when things don't go their way. If a close call goes against them they vehemently protest in hopes of getting the next call. It's called gamesmanship, which is an attempt to be in control. As a fan we are powerless to control the game so we hope video replays will justify our biased opinions.

If we ask for the Lord's guidance we can rest assured that God's call is right every time. God has something much better than instant replay. God has the benefit of knowing what will happen in the future. His vision is for long term gain, so if we follow God's Will, good will happen.

There are all kinds of situations where we don't want to listen for God's will that may differ from our own: a loved one or friend is sick and in great pain. Our agenda is for the person to live regardless of what that means for the person. A job is going badly and we are afraid to look for

another in spite of the stress it is causing us. We don't want to face up to a situation because our will might be in conflict with God's will. Who do you think knows what is best in the long run, you or God? Do you really trust God with your life?

Pray to understand God's Will, and trust that it is better than our own tunnel vision. In the game of life, accept God's Will and it will lead you to a triumph: a place on the victory stand called Heaven. Assured of victory, you can cut down the net as you enter the biggest dance imaginable -- Heaven.

**Scripture:** *This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go" (Isaiah 48:17).*

**Question:** What do you do to determine God's will for situations in your life, and how do you act if His Will is different than your own desires?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, we tend to want things our way, often without regard for what is right in the long run. Help us to seek and follow Your Will when we make key decisions in life. We trust You with our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.