

~ Kevin's Kolumn ~

Is it okay to pray, "If it be your will, Lord"?

I've heard different discussions on whether or not it's okay to pray, 'if it be your will, Lord.' Those discussions stem from the belief of praying with confidence, boldness and faith according to God's divine will (the Bible). This concept is based on what John says in 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." Some have thought that we shouldn't say, "If it be your will" when we pray. While we should constantly be reading God's Word to know and understand God's will better, it's not possible that we *completely* know and understand the will of God thoroughly. Any which way we slice it, prayer is still a human exercise. In many instances, God's will is clearly revealed to us. The more we know scripture, the more we can be sure of God's will when we pray. At the same time, we won't always completely know God's will, his infinite thoughts, ways, plans and purposes. Because God's ways are higher than our ways, his ultimate will can't always be understood by our finite, limited minds. So, when we're unsure of God's will, there is nothing wrong with praying, "If it be your will, Lord." There are certain things, however, that we know for sure because we read about it in His Word! Regardless as to *how* we do it, prayer isn't about phrasing everything perfectly or using the correct formula in the exact right way. Prayer is about deepening our relationship with the One who loves us with a love that defies human comprehension. Prayer is about communicating with God from our hearts in an honest, loving relationship. Because our hearts can (from time to time) lead us in the wrong way, it's best to pray to God through His Word which is always true, always unbiased and always dependable. Prayer is one of the most blessed gifts we could ever hope to receive from our Heavenly Father. Celebrate that gift by doing it often, in thankfulness and in reverence. If Jesus prayed, "Nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done", why can't we?

Have a blessed day and remember the One who gave it to you!

Kevin

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Happy Thanksgiving!

News and Notes

We will not be having the soup and sandwich meal on the last Wednesday of this month due to Thanksgiving. We will meet in the auditorium this month.

If you've not yet submitted names to our Shepherds for who you believe would be well-suited to be an Elder or Deacon at Whitehall, make sure you do that soon!

Volunteers Needed to Serve - If you've not had opportunity to sign up to help serve Thanksgiving Dinner at the Union Mission, please be sure to do that today. Sign-up sheets are on back table. We need folks to help clean the kitchen, prepare the food and deliver the meals. Thank you!

Free Market - Make a note of the up and coming Free Market scheduled for Saturday, December 5th! We will need folks to help set up, to help the day of and to help clean up after the event.

Save the Dates – The Senior Saints Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 6th immediately following the morning service. This is for everyone over the age of 60. If you have questions, please see Pam Jackson, Marsha Sparks or Dianne Tonkery.

Church Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 13th immediately following the morning service. More info coming soon! If you have any questions regarding the party, please see Rod & Tammy Hayhurst.

Prayer Requests

♥Please keep Pat Morris (Vicki Nuzum's father) in your prayers as he deals with Hodgekin's lymphoma.

♥Rob Blaney has ask that we pray for DeeDee Floyd as she has suffered a heart attack and had stents installed this past week in Morgantown.

♥Dolores Rager has fallen and has broken her femur bone. She had surgery this past week at UHC. She's in room 5310.

♥Continue to pray for Kim Dumire, Edwina Summers, Mary Titchenell, Harold Phillips, the Shaffer's, Bob & Holly Casto's granddaughter, Peggy Glaspell, Margaret Brand and Noah Miller.

♥Stacy Rezzler is on her way home after visiting with her daughter.

♥Deb Carpenter has bone chips in her knee. She has an appointment on the 24th of November to see what needs to happen next.

♥Nancy Jackson, Tim Jackson's aunt, had surgery at Ruby on Thursday.

♥Dave White's brother-in-law's sister passed away unexpectedly. Please keep the family in your prayers.

♥Marsha Spark's cousin's son (Malachi Hickman) has a rare blood cancer and is undergoing treatments at this time.

Thank You

Thank you to David & Sandy Tonkery for the generous donations of office