

Parental Perspective

If you've been a believer for more than ten minutes, you know that prayer isn't a simple matter of getting whatever you ask for. God isn't obligated to grant our every request. He's a Father, not a genie. And as any parent knows, children don't always ask for the right things. They can ask, demand, and insist on things that are going to be detrimental to their well-being

God possesses this parental perspective, and so He doesn't guarantee to do whatever we ask of Him. However, He does promise to respond to requests that are "according to His will."

Here's a truth that is 100 percent true 100 percent of the time: God's will is always good for us.

It may not always feel good, but it will always be good. And so when we pray God's will, we're praying for what's best for us, and that's precisely what our Heavenly Father wants for us.

Your requests need to be filtered through an understanding of God's will. Otherwise, you can waste a lifetime asking for things that He's never going to give you. And if you should happen to find yourself in a rut like that, you'll grow bitter, disappointed, and angry with God . . . even though He's only doing what's best for you.

Therefore, be wise when it comes to what you pray for. Know what God's will is, and ask along those lines. When you do, you'll see Him work in ways that you never thought possible.

"And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him" (1 John 5:15 NKJV).

Take time today and dig into 1 John 5:14-15, asking yourself, "Where does your confidence in prayer come from? What are you asking for that is outside of His will for you?"

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