

A photograph of a paved path in a park or garden during autumn. The path is lined with trees on the left and a tall, dense green hedge on the right. The ground is covered with fallen yellow and orange leaves. The text is overlaid on a green rectangular background on the left side of the image.

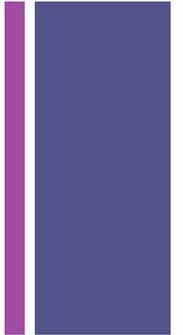
Seven Prayers
that Changed the
World and Can
Change Your
Life



**Christ's Submission to
the Cross
Matthew 26:36-46**



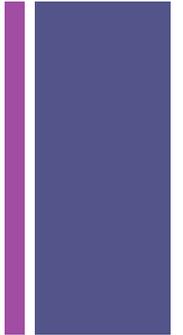
Matthew 26:36-46



Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”³⁷ And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”



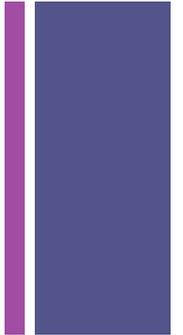
Matthew 26:36-46, continued



⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴² Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.



Matthew 26:36-46, continued

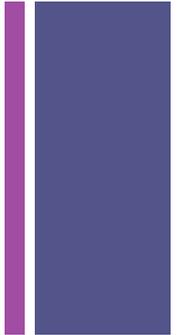


⁴⁴ So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

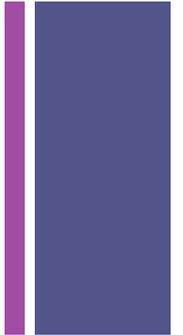


Prayers that Changed the World and Can Change You



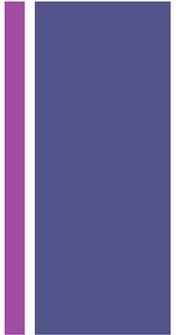
1. Lord, I trust you with the details of my life. Bless me according to Your will and plan.
2. Lord, my heart is hungry for You. Show me Your glory.
3. Lord, contemporize my faith for today. I commit my life into Your hands for You to use now.
4. Lord, make me holy through Your Word. Your Word is truth.
5. Lord, I commit my heart to passionately pursue the center of Your will in my life.

+ The test of wills: Spiritual Personality Disorder



- Manipulative people are unhappy people who make everyone around them unhappy also.
- Surrender to the will of God is a spiritually healthy thing to do – we cease to fight against God.
- Surrender to the will of God is an emotionally healthy thing to do – we have His peace.
- Surrender to the will of God is a socially healthy thing to do – it takes the edge off of our personality.

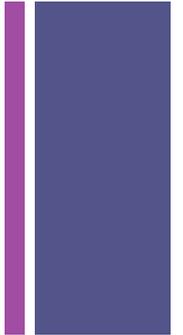
+ Christ is our



- Savior – He saves us from our sin. Through Him we have forgiveness.
- Lord – He has all authority and we should bow before Him. He leads us to victory.
- Redeemer – He heals and restores us spiritually.
- Example – what He did, we should do. As He submitted to the will of the Father, He gave us an example that we should follow.



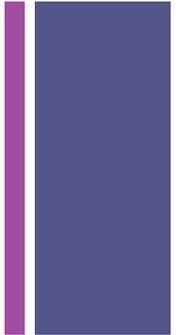
This prayer reveals the heart of Christ



- For Christ the only thing possible was God's will.
- For Christ the long view from eternity shaped His thoughts in prayer.
- For Christ prayer was an intimate experience with the Father and provided spiritual strength so that He could do the will of God.



1. The surrendered heart sees God's will as the only possible path



- He does not ask, “How much can I get away with and still be considered a good Christian?”
- Christ prayed, “Father, if it is possible...Yet not as I will, but as You will”
- He did not pray, “If it be Your will.”
- That can be an excuse for us to pray selfishly, with no concern for the will of God, and then add at the end, “If it be Your will.”

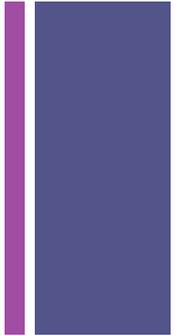
+ Danger of Living by Rules Alone



- The edge can seem as “safe” as the center.
- Our major concern will be our freedom and not God’s will.
- We will go to the edge of what is “permissible” and stay there until we cross over, and then we are enslaved again to sin.



2. The surrendered heart is spiritually oriented, not earthly

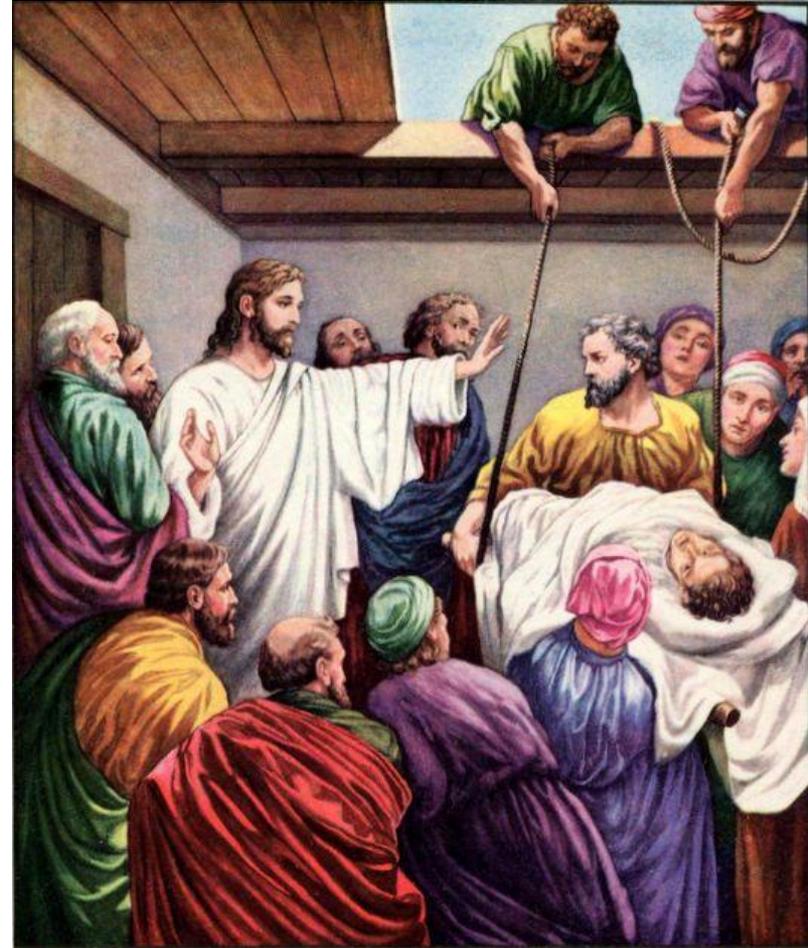


- Christ entered into prayer seeking to know the mind of the Father, and He prayed accordingly.
- Christ taught us to pray for our “daily bread” but He first taught us to pray “Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”
- A heavenly orientation prays not just for the short-term felt needs, but it also searches the heart of God and prays with the long view in mind.



Healing the Paralytic in Capernaum

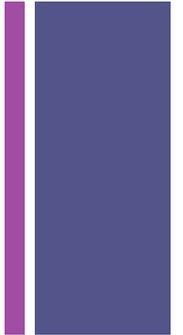
- His friends were concerned for his physical condition.
- Christ saw a greater need, “Son, your sins are forgiven” (Mark 2:5).
- Powerful pray-ers are concerned with God’s perspective about earthly problems.



The Healing of the Paralytic by Rekha Mathew, St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, San Francisco, CA



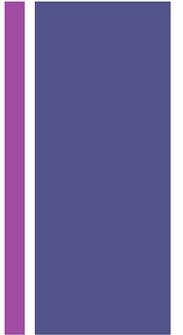
“If it is possible...”



- “For nothing is impossible with God” Luke 1:37.
- “For it is impossible that God should lie” Hebrews 6:18.
- It was not possible for the cross not to happen. The love of God and the righteousness of God demanded it.
- “We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us” (1 Cor. 2:12).

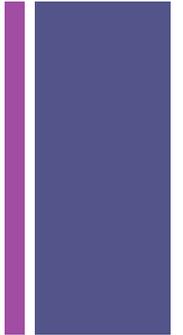


3. The surrendered heart gains strength through prayer



- The disciples underestimated the power of temptation
- They overestimated their strength to resist
- They neglected spiritual resources.
- For Christ prayer was enjoyable – an opportunity to pull away from the world to fellowship with the Father. Through prayer He learned what was on the heart of God.

+ Praying to Know God's Will



- Be careful about asking, “What is Your will for me?”
- When we add those last two words, “for me,” we will have significantly altered the question - no longer concerned about God's will, but for our own comfort or experience. We will focus on being in the right place, rather than having the right heart.
- The right question to ask is, “What is Your will?” When God shows us what is on His heart then it is an invitation for us to join Him in what He is doing. Until our hearts desire His will, He cannot use us as He desires to.

+ As Christ prayed, so we are to pray

“Lord, I surrender my heart to You, to passionately pursue the center of Your will in my life, the spiritual priorities you have for me, and an intimate relationship with You.”

