

Theology Simply Explained — WSC103 “Praying for Grace to Know and Do God's Will”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 103—especially explaining how we should be praying for grace to overcome both our weakness and our wickedness that we might know and do God's will.

Q103. What do we pray for in the third petition? *In the third petition, which is, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven, we pray that God, by His grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey and submit to His will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.*

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Catechism question this week is number 103. What do we pray for in the third petition? And the answer is. In the third petition, which is thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. We pray that god by his grace. Would make us able and willing.

To know. Obey. And submit to his will. In all things. As the angels do. In heaven.

So you notice when we pray thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. We are recognizing that the doing of his will on the earth is something that needs to come by his grace. Right. We need his help. We need his help for two reasons. One is because we are weak and the second is because we are wicked.

The lord jesus needed his help. For one of those reasons in his humanity with not lick it. But he was weak. And one of the examples then that he sets for us. Is when he prays, nevertheless. Not my will, but thine be done. The lord jesus was not resisting.

The lord's will when he asked for the cough to pass from him. He was acknowledging, his dependence upon god, and the limitation of His ability and his endurance in his human nature, he undesirability of the suffering. And yet the superior desirability. Of obedience to god and the glory of god, which included, of course, the salvation of his people.

And so he prayed Um, In order to and as an action of submitting his himself to the will of god. And in order to ask Uh, for The lord to carry out his will through him. Part of his will of course is that the lord jesus. Would be able.

To yield himself to what the Lord is doing. So we have those two reasons that we need God's grace. Because we are weak. And so we pray that god by his grace would make us able And then also, A sinners, unlike christ. Because we are wicked and so, we need him by his grace.

To make us willing. These are both things. That we need from the lord. Now. We need. Uh, him to help us in our weakness and our wickedness. In order that we may know. Obey. And submit. To this will. Now, to know, his will, We need to know that will of god.

The will of god that is consistent with his character. So, all those things that he has commanded us, And he tells us about his character and he gives us his good commands. These are the revealed things that belong to us and to our children, that we may obey them that we may do them.

And so we need to know and obey. That will that is consistent with his character, his preceptive will his commandments. And then we want to know as much as he is willing to tell us. But the the will of god that is consistent, not so much with his character.

But now on this Um, You know, in this case with his plan, All that he has ordained to occur. And that's ordained to occur as actions of his which of course are always consistent with this character as obedient actions of men and eight angels, which are, of course, consistently as character.

And even those things that he has ordained to occur, even by the disobedience actions, Of fallen medicine for men. And fallen angels or demons. But many of these things are the secret things. That belong to god, we are glad for him to tell us those things. That are for us to know that he is pleased to reveal to us.

And we are also glad for for him to hide from us. The secret things that we are not to know the secret things belong, To y'all, they our god and he is carrying out his plan. So, this plan, or those things that are consistent with what he has ordained, sometimes he call that his decretive will belongs to god's eternal decree.

That's where that word comes from. And then his commandments or his perceptive. Will or prescriptive will as that, which is consistent. With. His character. Now, we obey The commandments that he gives, what we submit to? His plan. And, Well, we are Uh, then asking God to give us ability and willingness that corresponds properly to his will in those two different ways of talking about it and thinking about it both of which we see In the scriptures.

And this means not just some of the time. Make us able and willing to know, and obey and submit to his will in some things Or in many things, or in most things that is not the way that he is, his will is known and obeyed and submitted to you.

Um, in heaven, how is Will known and submit submitted to into a known obeyance emitted, to in heaven, in all things as the holy angels do. As the perfected souls in glory do. And we long to be now, in this world, as we will be In the next. So much as God's grace.

Will enable us. And will and willing us, make us willing. And so all of those things, we are praying and we pray, they will be done in earth. It doesn't heaven. We pray that god by his grace would make us Able. And willing. To know, obey and submit To his will in all things.

As the angels. And adjust solves mage perfect. But as the angels do, In heaven.