



September 20, 2026

How to Pray: According to God's Will

Free Grace Presbyterian Church

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.

Søren Kierkegaard

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

Psalms 143:10

It's one thing to pray, "God, your kingdom come; your will be done; there's a lot of bad guys out there, and they need to be changed." But if we have a Christian heart, a born-again heart, we think, "O, Lord, would you start with me? Would you start with us? Would you start with our church? Would you show us our disobedience?"

Kevin DeYoung

Senior pastor of Christ Covenant Church (PCA), moderator of the PCA's 52nd General Assembly. NOTE: This quotation and many others from him are from the 4th book in the "Turning Table" track which we welcome you to join if you have not yet begun.

Grant us grace to bear willingly all sorts of sickness, poverty, disgrace, suffering, and adversity and to recognize that in this your divine will is crucifying our will.

Martin Luther

From his personal prayer book

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

Job 1:20-21

Unless we are profoundly certain God is our Father, we will never be able to say, "thy will be done."

Tim Keller

Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." 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 26:38-39

GOD SUMMONS US BY HIS GRACE

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Psalms 19

People: **The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.**

Leader: The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

People: **The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.**

Psalms 145

Leader: My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,

People: **And let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**

We sing praises to our God and Father

"Immortal, Invisible"

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise; in
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light; nor
3. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light, nor
thine

5
light in - ac - ces - si - ble, hid from our eyes; most
want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might; thy
an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; all

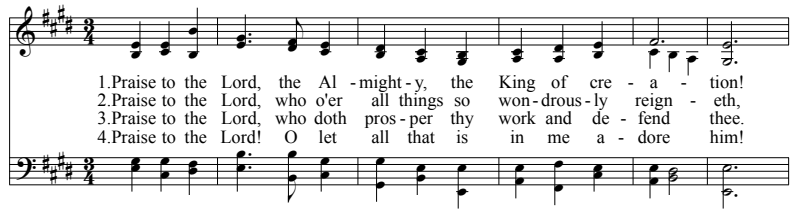
9
bles - sed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, Al -
jus - tice like moun - tains, the high soar - ing a - bove; thy
praise we would ren - der; O help us to see 'tis

13
migh - ty, vic - tor - ious, thy great name we praise!
clouds which are the foun - tains of good - ness and love.
on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

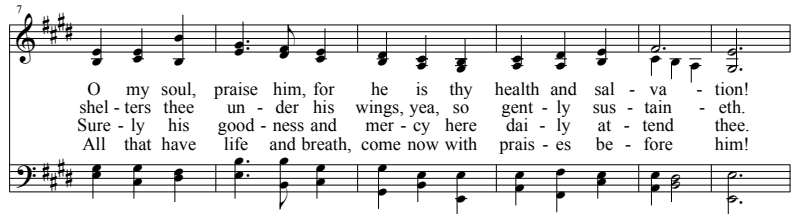
To the King of the
ages, immortal,
invisible, the only
God, be honor
and glory forever
and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 1

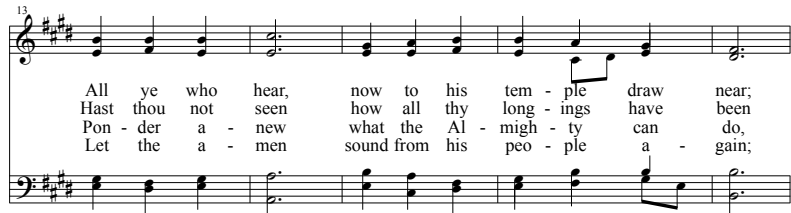
"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-eth, thee.
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend thee.
 4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal-va-tion!
 shel-ters thee un-der his wings, yea, so gent-ly sus-tain-eth.
 Sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-tend thee.
 All that have life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him!



All ye who hear, now to his tem-ple draw near;
 Hast thou not seen how all thy long-ings have been
 Pon-der a-new what the Al-migh-ty can do,
 Let the a-men sound from his peo-ple a-gain;



praise him in glad ad-or-a-tion.
 grant-ed in what he or-dain-eth?
 if with his love he be-friend thee.
 glad-ly, for, aye, we a-dore him.

Bless the LORD, O
 my soul, and all
 that is within me,
 bless his holy
 name!
 Psalm 103

GOD SANCTIFIES US BY HIS GRACE

God proclaims that our wills are contrary to his

Thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, and you said, "No!"

Isaiah 30

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Joel 2

We confess that our wills are divided

Leader: Almighty and merciful Father, You call us to love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

People: But our wills are divided, and our hearts are not fully devoted to You.

Leader: We doubt Your wisdom, withhold our affections, and misuse our strength.

People: Forgive us, Lord, for failing to love You with our whole being.

Leader: Lord Jesus, You loved the Father perfectly—in mind, heart, and body. You understand our weakness and intercede for us.

People: Realign our lives by Your grace. Shape us by Your wisdom, stir our hearts by Your Spirit, and make us living sacrifices for Your glory.

Leader: Restore us, O God, that we may walk in Your ways and reflect Your love.

People: We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Confession is like a declaration of bankruptcy. God requires perfection. The slightest sin blemishes a perfect record.
R.C. Sproul

We use this time in God's presence to confess our sins and our need for God's grace, silently, personally, before him alone. We invite you to join us in sorrow over your sin and joy in his grace and mercy in Jesus Christ.

God assures that he hears our prayer through his Son who always does the Father's will

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

Colossians 1

In response to his grace, we come to Christ

"Jesus, I Come"

1. Out of my bon - dage, sor - row, and night, Je - sus, I come;
 2. Out of my shame - ful fail - ure and loss, Je - sus, I come;
 3. Out of un - rest and ar - ro - gant pride, Je - sus, I come;
 4. Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Je - sus, I come;

7
 Je - sus, I come. In - to thy free - dom, glad - ness, and light,
 Je - sus, I come. In - to the glo - rious gain of thy cross,
 Je - sus, I come. In - to thy bless - ed will to a - bide,
 Je - sus, I come. In - to the joy and light of thy home,

13
 Je - sus, I come to thee.
 Je - sus, I come to thee.
 Je - sus, I come to thee.
 Je - sus, I come to thee.

17
 Out of my sick - ness in - to thy health,
 Out of earth's sor - rows in - to thy balm,
 Out of my self to dwell in thy love,
 Out of the depths of ru - in un - told,

21
 out of my want - ing and in - to thy wealth,
 out of life's storms and in - to thy calm,
 out of de - spair, in - to rap - tures a - bove,
 in - to the peace of thy shel - ter - ing fold,

25
 out of my sin and in - to thy self,
 out of dis - tress in - to jub - i - lant psalm,
 up - ward for - ev - er on wings like a dove,
 ev - er thy glo - - - rious face to be - hold,

29
 Je - sus, I come to thee.
 Je - sus, I come to thee.
 Je - sus, I come to thee.
 Je - sus, I come to thee.

But for me it is
 good to be near
 God; I have made
 the Lord GOD my
 refuge, that I may
 tell of all your
 works.
 Psalm 73

We pray together that God would teach us his holy will

“Speak, O Lord”

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to you, to re - ceive the food of your
2. Teach us Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly re - ver - ence, true hu -
3. Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights of your

4
ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and
mi - li - ty. — Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the
plans for us. — Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, that will

7
fash - ion us — in your like - ness. That the light of Christ might be
ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty. Cause our faith to rise, cause our
e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by grace we'll stand on your

10
seen to - day in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
eyes to see your ma - jes - tic love and au - thor - i - ty.
prom - is - es; — and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.

13
Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us — all your
Words of pow'r that can ne - ver fail; let their
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built, and the

15
pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
earth is filled with your glo - ry.

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
Hebrews 4

GOD SPEAKS WITH US BY HIS GRACE

Matthew 6:5-15

[5] “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. [6] But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

[7] “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. [8] Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. [9] Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

[10] **Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

[11] Give us this day our daily bread,

[12] and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

[13] And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

[14] For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, [15] but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Adam Lee

How to Pray: According to God's Will

Intro:

Scriptures referenced during introduction

Rom 7:18

Job 21:14

Rom 8:7

Num 14:2

Eph 2:2–3

Because God's will and his ways are just, right, and true, we must pray:

1) **That he transform our wills**

Point I

Jer 31:18

Matt 26:40–41

Jer 31:19–20

Ep 3:16

Ps 119:112

2) **That he transform our minds**

Point II

2 Cor 4:3–6

Eph 1:17–18

Ps 119:18

3) **That he transform our affections**

Point III

Jn 6:26

Jn 6:51

Jn 6:60–61

Matt 16:24

Job 1:21

Matt 26:39

Heb 12:2

Jms 1:2

Ps 103:20

We proclaim our desire to have our wills aligned with God's will

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - cra - ted,
 2. Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse
 3. Take my voice, and let me sing, al - ways, on - ly,
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would
 5. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no
 6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its

7 Lord to thee. Take my mo - ments and my days;
 of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be
 for my king. Take my lips, and let them be
 I with - hold. Take my in - tel - lect, and use
 lon - ger mine. Take my heart, it is thine own;
 trea - sure store. Take my self, and I will be

14 let them flow in cease - less praise,
 and swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.
 it shall be thy roy - al throne.
 e - ver, on - ly, all for thee!

1, 3, 5.
 G

23 Take my life, all I am; take my life and make it thine.

I appeal to you
 therefore,
 brothers, by the
 mercies of God, to
 present your
 bodies as a living
 sacrifice, holy and
 acceptable to
 God, which is your
 spiritual worship.

Romans 12

GOD STRENGTHENS US BY HIS GRACE

We celebrate the Lord's supper, coming to Jesus who did his Father's will

We celebrate God's free grace to us in Jesus Christ by observing the Lord's Supper each Sunday. We invite to the Lord's Table all who are baptized followers of Jesus Christ under the authority of Christ and his body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the cup, you are acknowledging that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation. If you have any doubts about your participation, please speak to one of the elders after the service.

"Man of Sorrows! What a Name"

1.Man of Sor - rows! what a name
2.Bear - ing shame and scoff - ing rude,
3.Guil - ty, vile, and help - less we;
4.Lift - ed up was he to die,
5.When he comes, our glo - rious King,

for the Son of God who came
in my place con - demned he stood,
spot - less Lamb of God was he;
"It is fin - ished!" God was his cry;
all his ran - somed home his to bring,

ru - ined sin - ners to re - claim: Hal - le -
sealed my par - don with his blood:
full a - tone - ment! Can it be?
now in heav'n ex - al - ted high:
then a - new this song we'll sing:

7
lu - jah, what a Sav - ior!

Union with Christ reminds us that the real reward of prayer is not what were asking God for. The real reward of prayer is communion with God, made possible by our union with Christ.
Rankin Wilbourne

We profess together the work which God is doing in our lives as he transforms mind, will and affections

Westminster
Short Catechism
Question 33

Leader: What is justification?

People: Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Westminster
Short Catechism
Question 35

Leader: What is sanctification?

People: Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

Westminster
Short Catechism
Question 36

Leader: What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification?

People: The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

Prayer is not about
getting our will
done in heaven
but about getting
God's will done on
earth.
James White

In prayer, we submit our wills to our Father in Heaven whom we trust

*During this time we live in faith, trusting in the power of his grace,
placing our lives and our church in his hands.*

We ask that he would work in us and through us for his glory.

GOD SENDS US BY HIS GRACE

As we depart, we ask for the grace to submit to his will in all things

"May the Mind of Christ My Savior"

1. May the mind of Christ my Sa - vior
2. May the Word of God dwell rich - ly
3. May the peace of God my Fa - ther
4. May the love of Je - sus fill me
5. May his beau - ty rest up - on me

live in my heart from day to day,
in rule my life from hour to hour,
as the I seek the ev - il to - ry thing,
as I win,

by his love and pow'r con - trol - ling
so that I all may be calm see I tri - umph
him ex - alt - ing, self a - bas - ing,
and may they for - get the chan - nel,

all I do and say,
on - ly through his pow'r,
sick and sor - row - ing,
this is vic - to - ry,
see - ing on - ly him.

Whatever we worship will make us like itself. This is true for idols, and it is also true for the Lord. If we bow to the one true God He promises us that He will transform us so that we reflect His image.
Jerram Barrs

God declares that he will do his work of grace in our entire being and never stop

Leader: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it... He has loved you with an everlasting love; therefore he will continue his faithfulness to you.

People: Amen

Please stay and join us for a time of enjoying each other's company.

*This is a time to share in life together as the gospel calls us
as we reconnect with those we know, and as we meet someone new.*

1 Thessalonians 5

Jeremiah 31



Welcome to Free Grace

We are a broken church full of broken people. We know we need God's free grace. Some of us have accepted this grace, some are exploring what it's all about. All of us are still trying to understand it. We are a church that seeks to proclaim this free grace of God with both our words and our lives. Not satisfied with simply talking about it, we want to live it out. We invite you to come, explore, and live God's free grace with us.



Our Connections

Free Grace is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a family of churches that seeks to be faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

Our Leadership

Free Grace is lead by her elders, men called by God and set apart by the church to care and lead her as individual members, families, and as a whole. Our elders are:

Brian Cosgrove
Rev. Adam Lee
Ken Morris
Ben Van Dyke



Credits

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Jake Paris, *guitar*; Abigail Lee, *violin*; Shannon VanDyke, *voice*

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Our Daily Worship

A through-the-week devotional



The following pages are provided for you with a desire to “lead you beside still waters.”

May they assist you in your walk with Christ through week, as you practice his presence, feed upon his word, and reflect upon how both impact your weekly life.

WHY MEMORIZE THE CATECHISM?

From time to time I am asked, "Why encourage memorizing the Catechism instead of Scripture?" The answer is simple: we are not choosing between them. We encourage both. One of the great strengths of the Catechism is that it teaches us to ask questions we might not think to ask on our own. Many Christians have memorized Bible verses, which is a wonderful thing. Yet it is possible to know Scripture without ever stopping to ask how those passages answer the practical and theological questions of the Christian life. The Catechism helps us make those connections.

For example, many Christians have heard the phrase, "sin is sin," and would assume that all sins are equal in every respect. Yet when the Catechism asks, "Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?" the answer may surprise us. The beauty of that moment is that one who is working through the catechism should ask, '*Wait, what? Why?*' And then proceed to look up the Scripture references.

The Catechism is not a replacement for the Bible. Rather, it is a guide that helps us organize, understand, and apply the Bible's teaching to the whole of life. For that reason, every answer is supported by Scripture references.

As you work on memorizing this week's question and answer, take time to study the passages listed below and see how what we confess is derived from God's Word. **If you do not have a copy of the Catechism with Scripture proofs, please speak with an elder and we will gladly provide one.** It will be easier to have a copy because these verses will all be printed out in their entirety.

Psalm 145:17
Psalm 104:24
Hebrews 1:3
Nehemiah 9:6
Ephesians 1:19-22
Psalm 36:6

SUNDAY

Scripture: Matthew 6:10

Reflection: As we pray, *“Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,”* we are asking God to transform us so that our wills, minds, and affections increasingly align with his. But why should we want his will rather than our own? Because God's will and his ways are just, right, and true. We often judge what is good by what seems best to us—what makes sense, what feels fair, or what gives us the life we hoped for. But Jesus first teaches us to whom we are praying: our Father, whose character is good and whose ways are right. Before we can sincerely pray, *“Your will be done,”* we must learn to trust the God whose will we are asking to be done. Today, let's consider the character of this Father and the ways by which he governs his people, as revealed in Scripture.

Our Common Weakness: We are prone not to trust God—forgetting he is a good Father.

Christ Connection: Jesus knew the father perfectly, and trusted his will in all things; and through him we are brought near to God as our Father and learn to trust his will.

Psalm 145:1–21

According to verses 3–9, what does David say about God's character and works? What reasons does he give us for trusting God's ways?

Look especially at verses 13–17. What do these verses reveal about how God exercises his rule and cares for those he has made? How does verse 17 summarize the character of all his ways?

Where are you presently finding it difficult to trust God's will or providence? How would remembering the truths of this Psalm help you pray, *“Your will be done,”* with greater confidence in your Father?

Prayer Heavenly Father, you are righteous in all your ways and kind in all your works. Your wisdom is perfect, your purposes are good, and your faithfulness never fails. We praise you that we can entrust ourselves to you as our Father, knowing that you always do what is right. Teach us to remember these truths, especially when your ways are difficult for us to understand. Help us to rest in your goodness and gladly pray, *“Your will be done.”* Amen.

<<<<<Catechism Corner>>>>>

Q. What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Adults: Read the Q/A aloud three times. Do not try to memorize it yet. Simply listen for the main truth being taught.

Parents: Read it with your child. Ask if they have questions. Explore those together, and let their questions guide your study this week.

MONDAY

Scripture: Matthew 6:10

Reflection: When we pray, *"Your will be done,"* we are asking for more than a change in our circumstances. We are asking God to change something within us. We want to become people who sincerely desire what our Father desires and willingly walk in the ways he has appointed. Yet we know how divided our wills can be. Sometimes "the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." We may genuinely want to obey God and still find ourselves struggling to follow through. Thankfully, our Father does not leave us to manufacture either the desire or the strength to obey him. As we turn to Philippians today, consider where both the willingness and the power to obey God ultimately come from.

Our Common Weakness: On our own, our wills are weak and easily drawn toward what we desire rather than what God desires.

Christ Connection: Christ does not merely command our obedience; by his Spirit he changes our hearts, strengthening weak wills and making us willing and able to follow him.

Read Philippians 2:5–18

5–11: How does Paul describe the extent to which Christ was willing to obey the Father?

12–13: In light of Christ's obedience, what are believers called to do, and what does verse 13 teach us about where both our **willingness** and **ability** to obey ultimately come from?

14–18: What begins to characterize a life in which God is working "to will and to work for his good pleasure"?

Prayer Heavenly Father, forgive us for the ways our wills resist yours. We are weak and easily drawn toward what we desire rather than what pleases you. Thank you that Christ does not merely command our obedience, but by his Spirit works in us both to will and to work for your good pleasure. Turn our wandering desires, strengthen us where we are weak, and make us increasingly willing and able to follow you. May your will be done in us, for the glory of Christ. Amen.

<<<<Catechism Corner>>>>

Q. What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Adults: Write the answer twice. Notice the commas and use them to break the answer into smaller parts. Work on one part at time and bring each new part in as you are ready.

Parents: Write the answer with one word missing. Let your child fill it in. Repeat with different words.

TUESDAY

Scripture: Matthew 6:10

Reflection: When we pray, “*Your will be done,*” we are asking God to give us a *willingness to know his will*. That may sound strange. Why wouldn't we want to know what God desires? Because knowing his will may confront what we desire. Sometimes it is easier not to ask, not to search the Scriptures carefully, or not to listen too closely, because we suspect the answer may require us to change. By nature, we would rather determine what is good for ourselves than have God tell us what is good. So part of this petition is a prayer for a heart that truly wants to hear from God—whatever he may say. As we turn to Psalm 119 today, notice the eagerness with which the Psalmist seeks to know God's ways.

Our Common Weakness: We often fear knowing God's will, preferring to remain in the dark.

Christ Connection: Jesus never turned away from the Father's will, but delighted to know and do it; all the way to the cross, for our redemption and healing.

Read Psalm 119:9–32

9–16: What do these verses reveal about how much the Psalmist *wants* to know God's Word?

17–24: The Psalmist is surrounded by people who disregard God's ways. What keeps him from turning away with them, and what does he desire from God instead?

25–32: Notice the repeated requests for God to **teach, give understanding,** and **enlarge** his heart. How does this provide instruction on how we should pray?

Prayer Heavenly Father, give us hearts that truly desire to know your will. Make us eager to hear whatever you have spoken, even when your Word challenges what we desire for ourselves. Teach us your ways, give us understanding, and enlarge our hearts so that we delight to know the path you have appointed. By your Spirit, make us willing to hear you and ready to receive your Word, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<<<<<Catechism Corner>>>>>

Q. What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Adults: Write the first letter of each word on paper. Use those letters as prompts and see how far you can get without looking at the answer.

Parents: Have your child draw a picture of one truth contained in the Q/A. Discuss it together, then recite the answer.

WEDNESDAY

Scripture – Matthew 6:10

Reflection: Yesterday, we considered our *willingness* to know God's will. But when we pray, “*Your will be done,*” we are also acknowledging something about our *ability* to know it. Sin has not only made us unwilling; it has left us spiritually blind. As you consider those whose names you may write on your prayer card, remember that this is true of them, just as it once was true of you. Pray that God would open their eyes to see the truth and beauty of Christ. Yet even those who are in Christ still need God to illuminate our understanding. Our eyes can be dull, and so whenever we approach his Word, we should pray that God would help us see and understand what he has revealed.

Our Common Weakness: Sin blinds us to God's truth, so that even as believers we must pray for the illumination of God's Word.

Christ Connection: In Christ, God has made himself known, and by his Spirit he opens our eyes to see and understand the truth he has revealed.

Ephesians 1:15–23

15–17: What does Paul ask God to give these believers, and what does he desire them to know more fully?

18–19: What does Paul pray would be “enlightened,”? What does he want them to see?

20–23: How does Paul's prayer ultimately direct their attention to Christ?

Prayer Heavenly Father, open our eyes that we may see and understand the truth you have revealed. Give light to those who remain spiritually blind, especially those for whom we are praying, that they may see the glory of Christ and come to know him. Give us wisdom as we read your Word, and enable us to know your will more clearly and the power to do it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<<<<<Catechism Corner>>>>>

Q. What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Adults: Try writing out the answer with no prompts. Go as far as you can. If you need to peek, go ahead. Then try again until it becomes easier.

Parents: Ask your child if they have questions about the answer. Say it three times together in a comfortable rhythm, then pray for God to help you understand this truth.

THURSDAY

Reflection: When we pray, “Your will be done,” we are also asking God to transform the way we respond to what he appoints. What happens when God's will becomes known to us, and it is not agreeable to us? Scripture does not teach us to pretend that suffering is pleasant or that disappointment does not hurt. We may rightly pray for suffering to be removed and difficult circumstances to change. But when God answers “no,” our prayer must also become, “Father, change me.” We ask him to transform our affections so that we humbly and cheerfully submit to what he has appointed. As we turn to Paul's experience today, notice what changed when his circumstances did not.

Our Common Weakness: When God's providence is painful or contrary to our desires, we are prone to murmur rather than submit to his will.

Christ Connection: Jesus willingly submitted to his Father's will through suffering, and now gives us grace sufficient to trust him in whatever he appoints.

2 Corinthians 12:7–10

7–8: What did Paul want the Lord to change, and how earnestly did he ask for it?

9: How did Christ answer Paul's prayer, and what did Paul learn was more important than the removal of his suffering?

9–10: What change do you see in Paul's attitude toward the very circumstances he had asked Christ to remove?

What pain or struggle has God chosen to allow in your life? Are you only praying for him to remove it, or are you also asking what he would teach you and how he would change you through it?

Prayer Heavenly Father, we praise you that you do not leave us unable and unwilling to obey you. In Christ, you have redeemed us from our rebellion, and by your Spirit you make us willing and able to know, do, and submit to your will. Your grace is sufficient for us, even when your providence is difficult. Thank you that you are at work within us, transforming our wills, minds, and affections so that we may increasingly obey you with gladness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<<<<<Catechism Corner>>>>>

Q. What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Adults: Try writing out the answer with no prompts. Go as far as you can. If you need to peek, go ahead. Then try again until it becomes easier.

Parents: Ask your child if they have questions about the answer. Say it three times together in a comfortable rhythm, then pray for God to help you understand this truth.

FRIDAY- CATECHISM PRACTICE AND REVIEW

Use today for strengthening what you have practiced throughout the week. Do not worry if you cannot remember the answer perfectly at first. Try to recall as much as you can, use the helps provided, then try again. Memory grows through repeated, prayerful practice. Parents, engage your children by asking them to “help” you remember.

Fill in the blanks:

Q. What are God’s works of providence?

A. God’s works of _____ are, his most _____, wise, and _____ preserving and _____ all his creatures, and all their _____.

First-letter prompt:

Q. What are God’s works of providence?

G____ w____ o____ p_____ a____ , h____ m____ h____ , w____ , a____
p_____ p_____ a____ g_____ a____ h____ c_____ , a____
a____ t____ a_____ .

Write it from memory (attempt 1):

Write it from memory (attempt 2):

Look Back: Long-term memory grows through review. After practicing this week’s question, go back and review **Q# 5 and Q# 10** from previous weeks. Try to recite each answer from memory before looking. If you need help, read it once, then cover it and try again.

This Week In Focus:

Today

Sunday Small Group Study Kick-off – *“Your Walk With God is a Community Project”* – 6-8pm at the Pauley’s

Saturday, September 26

Ladies Brunch/Planning Meeting – 9:00am, at Sarah Lee’s home

Upcoming Events

Friday, October 2

First Friday Fellowship – 5:45pm at the Lees

Saturday, October 10

Men’s Breakfast – 8:00am, at the church

Saturday, November 7

Pie Luck – 6:00pm, at the church – Come have fun...invite a friend if you’d like!

Regular Rhythms of Grace

Sunday Small Group Study – *“Your Walk With God is a Community Project”* – 6-8pm weekly at the Pauley’s

First Friday Fellowship – 5:45pm – Location to be announced each month

Second Sunday Discussion – 2nd Sunday, 15 minutes after worship ends – (Family-style conversations on a rotating topic.)

Second Saturday Men’s Breakfast – 2nd Saturday, 8:00am, location to be announced each month

Praying for Prodigals – 3rd Sunday, 8:30am in the pastor’s office

Don’t Forget

- If you would like to begin **the discipleship journey of the Turning Table**, ask any elder and the material will be provided. Simply read the book and/or listen to the podcasts, schedule a time to meet and discuss over coffee/tea, and then keep moving through the journey. You can start anytime.
- If you do not know **the address of any event, or the contact information for any event**, please contact either Pastor Adam at adam.lee@freegrace.us or Linda at the email address below.
- If you would like to be **added to our church-family email** where you can keep in touch through the week, or if you would like to be **added to the church directory**, please email Linda at linda.morris@freegrace.us
- If you are a member of Free Grace and are not using the **church directory app**, you are missing out on a very useful tool. Please reach out to Linda to see how to download it to your phone.

broken people
bound together in Christ
for God's glory