

# Personal Devotional

(by Crystal Craig)

*"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." —Matthew 6:10*

*"Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." — Luke 9:23*

## *God's Will*

When we invite God into our home with prayer, we embrace Him with familiarity and love. He is our wonderful and holy Father. We sit down with Him, and He listens as we pour out our hearts. We share our hardship and hopes with Him, our disappointments and questions, our desires and needs. But when we talk to God, we need to be sure our hearts are in the right place.

With a world that encourages us to focus on our goals and what makes us happy, it's easy for our hearts to become misaligned with God's. We can become focused on our own wants, wishes, and expectations and miss out on opportunities to change the lives of people around us.

Our Heavenly Father has a will and a purpose for all that He's created, one that involves reshaping the world to be like His Heavenly Kingdom—a place where love, joy, peace, and Truth abound. As Christians, our prayers should be more than just a list of earthly wants and expectations; they should be a moment to huddle close to God and discuss His game plan:

"What do you desire of me, Lord? What can I do to bring Your kingdom to those around me? Who can I help in Your name?"

God cares about our needs and even delights in blessing us with some of our desires, but we need to remember that, ultimately, it's not about us—it's about God.

## *Self-Reflection*

- When was the last time you had a deep conversation with God?
- When you pray, what do you ask of God?
- Do you think your prayers focus more on your desires or God's?
- Who was the last person you prayed for outside of yourself and your family?
- Who is someone you can and **will** pray for this week?

## *Prayer*

Heavenly Father, I know that my will is not always Your will, but You know what is best for me even when I don't. Help me to trust that You will provide for my needs and the needs of my family so that I can keep my focus on You and Your kingdom. Lord, I want to be Your hands and feet, spreading your message whenever and wherever I can. When those opportunities arise, give me the courage to step up and the words to speak. Show me who I can pray for and how I can show love to them today.