

## GOD'S WILL AND OURS



*Thy will be done.*

—Matthew 26:42

It is the high prerogative of God that everything in heaven and earth is to be done according to His will and as the fulfillment of His desires. When He made man in His image, man's desires were intended to be in perfect accord with the desires of God. This is the high honor of being made in the likeness of God—that we are to feel and wish just as God does. In human flesh, man was to be the embodiment and fulfillment of God's desires.

When God created man with the power of willing and choosing what he should be, He limited Himself in the exercise of His will. And when man had fallen and yielded himself to the will of God's enemy, God in His infinite love set about the great work of winning man back, and of making the desires of God his own. As desire is the great motivating power in God, so it is in man. And just as man had yielded himself to a life of desire after the things of the earth and the flesh, God had to redeem him and educate him into a life of harmony with Himself. His one aim was that man's desires would be in perfect accord with His own.

The great step in this direction was when the Son of the Father came into this world. He reproduced the divine desires in His human nature and in His prayer to yield Himself up to the perfect fulfillment of all that God wished and willed. The Son, as Man, said in agony and blood, "*Thy will be done,*" and made the surrender even to being forsaken by God, so that the power that had deceived man might be conquered and deliverance might be procured. It was in the wonderful and complete harmony between the Father and the Son when the Son said, "*Thy will [of love] be done,*" that the great redemption was accomplished.

In taking hold of that redemption, believers have to say, first of all for themselves and then in lives devoted to intercession for others, "Your will be done in heaven as on earth." (See Matthew 6:10.) As we plead for the church, its ministers, and its missionaries, its strong Christians or its young converts, and for the unsaved, whether nominally Christian or unchurched, we have the privilege of knowing that we are pleading for what God wills, and that through our prayers His will is to be done on earth as in heaven.