

**News And
Information
For Perry
Hill Road
Members
And Friends**

Perry Hill Road Church Of Christ

August 7, 2016

www.perryhillroadchurch.org

Not What I Will

“And He said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will’” (Mark 14:36).

WHEN WE PRAY FOR GOD’S WILL TO BE DONE RATHER THAN OUR OWN, WE SHOULD DO THAT WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS WISDOM AND LOVE. “God is perfect love and perfect wisdom,” wrote William Temple. “We do not pray in order to change his will, but to bring our own wills into harmony with his.” Because the benevolence of God is perfect, subordinating our will to His is more a privilege than a duty. Rather than come to God with a demanding spirit, we should pray with a buoyant trust, grateful that we can simply put ourselves in His hands. It can be a delight to let Him decide what is best.



Too often we see prayer as the unpleasant, and usually unsuccessful, begging of God to do some specific thing that we want done. But as Richard Trench once wrote, “Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance; it is laying hold of his highest willingness.” We are taught to come to God confidently with our requests, and prayer that doesn’t do that is not really honest prayer. But when we pray, it is helpful to pray with what might be called a “listening” attitude. As we make our supplications to God, we are to be open to the possibility that He may have a better plan, a higher purpose. If we pray as we ought, seeking to lay hold of God’s “highest willingness,” we will come away refreshed, confident that we’ve spoken honestly with Him about our requests, but confident also that if He knows a better path for us to follow, then we’ve made some progress in discerning what that path might be.

Praying for God’s will to be done can be an agonizing experience, without question. It was so for our Lord in Gethsemane. And yet an agonizing experience is not necessarily a negative one. To let God choose which path we are to follow is, at least for us, to grow in our spirits. It is to be made more wise. “To pray is to expose the shores of the mind to the incoming tide of God” (Ralph Washington Sockman). Thus when we pray, we must seek more than some particular blessing from God; we must seek Him and whatever His will may be. True prayer is not simply about what we want; it’s about learning to want what we *should* want.

“Let not that happen which I wish, but that which is right” (Menander).

Gary Henry ... Wordpoints

Enthusiasm

How enthusiastic are you--no, not someone else--YOU, about the growth of the church? Enthusiasm means, "intense or eager interest; zeal; fervor." It sometimes appears as if this is one of the greatest failings of the people of God. Too many, including preachers, have the attitude of doing as little as possible or just enough to "get by." However, fervency and zeal are the elements of growth and warmth in any combined effort. They are especially essential in the Lord's work. The church is to be made up of those who ought to be "zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14). Words like fervent, zeal and excited should describe our lives in the service to our Lord.

1. **Fervent in Love.** Peter wrote, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto the unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." (1 Pet. 1:22). "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." (1 Pet. 4:8). Fervent love "covers" the flaws and imperfections in the lives of others. Fervent love does not unmercifully expose a flaw in another. Fault finders are not fervent lovers.

Albert Barnes on this verse: "True love to another makes us kind to his imperfections, charitable toward his faults, and often blind even to the existence of faults." Nothing can cover sins in the sense of forgiveness but compliance with God's law, but we may cover one another's faults by dealing with one another in such a way as to lead one to comply with God's law."

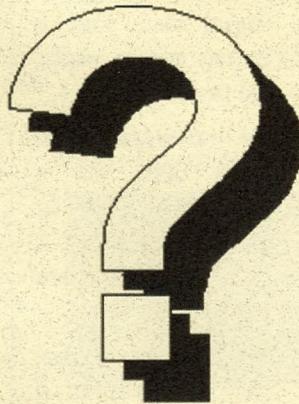
2. **Fervent in Spirit.** The apostle Paul wrote, "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord" (Ron. 12:11). "Spirit" in this verse is the human spirit in each of us. We are to be deeply excited about our responsibilities. It is our duty to do what has been commanded by the Lord (Luke 17:10). The commands of the Lord are not "grievous." (1 Jno. 5:3).

The church can and will grow in proportion to the love and spirit with which we go about fulfilling our individual duties as Christians. Thus we can ask ourselves if we are as fervent and zealous about our personal work on non-Christians as we should be. What about our fervency and zeal in visiting the sick and needy? How fervent in spirit are we in giving of our means to do the Lord's work? How fervent and zealous is our attendance and many, many more questions. An English writer, Joseph Addison, once wrote: "There is no greater sign of a general decay of virtue in a nation, than a want of zeal in its inhabitants for the good of their country." Modifying that statement without altering the thought: "There is no greater sign of a general decay of virtue in the church than a want of zeal in its members for the good of the church." *unknown*

How to Know What God Wants Me to Do?

We all face important decisions. These decisions will often have a great impact on us and our families. It may be a question about what job to take, or where to live, or what school to attend, etc. What should we do? Does God offer any help or guidance in making such decisions? We believe the answer is YES! How does God give this guidance? In many ways:

1) **Through the Word.** The vast majority of answers are here. There are positive commands that tell us what we should do. For example, Matthew 28:19 instructs us to teach the gospel to others. You don't have to wonder if God wants you to speak to your neighbor about salvation. He does, and He said so! There are also negative commands that tell us what to avoid. If, for instance, you are praying about whether or not you should honestly report your income taxes — save your breath! God has already given that answer (Eph. 4:25). Don't be looking for additional guidance in areas where God has already said "no" or "yes."



2) **Through prayer.** Christians are to be consistent in prayer (1 Thess. 5:17). God promises to answer our prayers. We ought to approach Him with petitions for help with our important decisions (1 Peter 3:12). If you don't believe this will work, then don't bother to ask! (James 1:5-7).

3) **Through circumstances.** In the Old Testament, Joseph suffered a number of awful and unjust things. In the end, he was wise enough to realize that God had used those circumstances to accomplish His will (Gen. 45:7,8). Be careful here - this 'guidance through circumstances' is sometimes hard to detect, and some are quick to jump to false conclusions.

4) **Through the counsel of others.** The many commands that urge us to exhort and encourage our fellow Christians (Heb. 3:13, Gal. 6:2) demonstrate that God intends for us to help one another with the difficult things in our lives. - by *Greg Gwinn* -

Keep In PRAYER

[When you have updated data,
please call John Burch-202-
6518]

Prayer List (Updated: 08/06/16).

Betty League, the mother of Charlie Boren, and member at Helena church of Christ was recently diagnosed with Liver cancer.

Jess Hart continuing to recover from open heart surgery.

Stephen Guy - has stage 3B chronic kidney disease plus other problems. Please pray that Stephen will soon be provided relief from his pain.

WHEN LIFE IS ROUGH

PRAY

WHEN LIFE IS GREAT

PRAY

www.ApelSims.com

Coordinators: Bob Trefethen/John Demas

Ushers: Ron Kochik / Bob Trefethen

Sound System: Keith Hollis

Sunday Morning Worship

Announcements: John Burch

Scripture: Chris Lloyd

Lead Singing: David Sims

1st Prayer: Craig Sims

Communion

Curt Williamson Doug Williamson

Nathan Smith George Smith

Blake Boren Gary Hart

Sermon

Marshal McDaniel

Closing Prayer: Ragan Ingram

Sunday Evening Worship

Announcements: John Burch

Ushers: Stephen Guy/Chris Lloyd

Scripture: Charles Painter

Lead Singing: Neal Smith

1st Prayer: Bill Knighten

Sermon: Marshal McDaniel

Lord's Supper: David Turner

Closing Prayer: Todd Thayer

Sound System: Kerry Lashlee

LORD'S Supper Preparation

08/07 Vaughn Thayer 08/14 Morgan

Thayer 08/21

Wednesday Bible Study

Ushers: Darrell Puckett/ Bill Knighten

Announcements: John Burch

Lead Singing: Kenny Roberts

Opening Prayer: Harold Mustin

Invitation: Daniel Jones

Closing Prayer: David Sims

Sound System: Bud Porter

Count Contribution: Keith Hollis, Curt Williamson, Kerry Lashlee

To our visitors:

- The people who assemble at Perry Hill Road are simply a group of Christians who belong to Christ and are devoted to serving God.
- Our aim is to glorify God by following the Bible, His inspired word, which is our only guide in worship and service.
- Our commitment is to preach Christ, who is man's only hope for eternal life, and live in such a way so that others may see Christ in us.
- We encourage an open study and discussion of the Scriptures in all our Bible classes and extend to all a sincere welcome.
- Personal studies are available upon request.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9 AM

Worship 10 AM

Evening 5 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7 PM

**Records You Helped Make
For the Week of
July 31, 2016
Attendance**

Sunday Bible Class.....	104
Sunday Moring Worship	138
Sunday Evening Worship.....	90
Wednesday Bible Study	70
Contribution.....	\$5,555

Care Group 2

*Serves this month ...
meeting tonight in the
Library / Resource room*

care groups



**Congratulations to Jessica and Shane Lucas.....
Alistair Shane Lucas born Wednesday morning . He weighs 7 pounds**

11 ounces and measures 21 inches!!