



FAITH ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD

a church in the World

ABSTRACT

When someone writes a will, these are the person's final instructions to their ...

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Passage

Matthew 9:27 – 31

- No significant differences in the translations (CSB, ESV, NIV, GNT)

Opening Scripture

Matthew 6:9 – 10

⁹Pray 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.*

Introduction

When someone writes a will, these are the person’s final instructions to their loved ones on what must be done with the deceased person’s estate. It is something that must be done. It is not up for debate or can only be partially carried out.

All of it MUST be done. One hundred percent.

Today, we continue studying the two blind men who beg Jesus to heal them. We will study today that their belief and faith in Jesus is not partial, but total, and what does that mean for us today, when we come to the throne of grace and beg Jesus for something we want.

Body

Scripture of the Day

²⁷ And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.” ²⁸ When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” ²⁹ Then he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.” ³⁰ And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, “See that no one knows about it.” ³¹ But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

Do We Really Believe Who Jesus Is?

One of the challenges we sometimes have is do we really believe who Jesus is? These blind men have no doubt. As we see in verses 28, Jesus asks them do you believe that I can do this and they say “Yes” and not just “Yes”, but “Yes, Lord.”

What Do We Mean When We Say Faith?

And then in verse 29 Jesus says, “According to your faith be it done to you.” We throw that word, “faith” around quite casually. We use it in songs, we use it when talking about people, we even use it when we are talking sports teams, but in a biblical context, what does it actually mean.

The Greek word is “pistis”:

- I. conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervour born of faith and joined with it
 1. relating to God
 - a) the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ
 2. relating to Christ
 - a) a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God
 3. the religious beliefs of Christians
 4. belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ, springing from faith in the same
- II. fidelity, faithfulness
 1. the character of one who can be relied on

I want to point out a word which is used repeatedly in the definition of pistis and that is conviction. When you are convicted about something it is not halfway or even 90%, it is 100% total belief. This is the type of faith that Matthew is writing about here and pistis occurs over 240 times in the NT. So when you see the word in your Bible, you need to remember this is the sort of faith that is being discussed.

Take Aways

This is the faith we need to have when it comes to our Lord. And I know that some of you who are listening to me are saying to yourself, just like I do sometimes, Lord I want to have that sort of conviction, but I know I don't sometimes.

There are two points I want to make here:

Help My Unbelief

Mark 9:21 – 24

21 And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. 22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." 23 And Jesus said to him, "If you can't! All things are possible for one who believes." 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out^[d] and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

It is natural to have doubts. Do not stay there. Ask the Lord to help you with your faith, so it becomes strong with a foundation that cannot be moved.

Wrong Motives

James 4:1 – 3

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Ahhh... this is the vending machine faith. Where we want the Lord to do what we want under the guise of I know that the Lord wants good things for me and I know what is best for me. The challenge is that we do not.

Truly Want God's Will to Be Done

The previous topic would be eliminated if we truly want what God wants. Jesus showed us this in Gethsemane.

Matthew 26:36 – 39

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." 37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." 39 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."

Jesus knew from all eternity that He was going to have to go to the cross. However, even though He knew, when that hour arrived it was almost too much for Him to bear and He asked the Father if there were any other way.

This is such a lesson for us. We do not know, but if our heart is in the right place and that place is that we want God's will above all things, then come to the Lord with your prayers, with your believed needs, just like the two blind men did.

But come like Jesus did, asking for what is on your heart, but desiring what God knows is best.