

## Thy Will Be Done

By Ronald L. Dart

The disciples of Jesus came to him one day with a request: “Lord, teach us to pray.” Jesus replied with a remarkably concise, model prayer. From endless repetition, everyone knows it by heart—we call it the Lord’s Prayer. Somehow, I don’t think repetition is exactly what Jesus had in mind. Rather, I think he gave us an outline for prayer and left it to us to fill in the details.

But in the process of thinking it through, we can find many interesting things in that prayer. For example, take this sentence: “Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.” Every time I come to that phrase, I seem to come up with new questions. For example, I realized that we weren’t praying that God would do his own will. He is quite able to do that without any encouragement from us. Of course, we can also take it that when we pray for a miracle, we acknowledge that it may not be his will to do the deed, and by praying, “Thy will be done,” we make it clear that we are willing to accept that.

### Who is the doer in heaven of God’s will?

But, thinking further about it, consider the wording: “Thy will be

done, on earth, as it is done in heaven.” My question, when I thought about it, was who is the doer in heaven of God’s will? There are 24 elders there and an innumerable company of angels who carry it out. Who carries out God’s will here on earth? Who is supposed to measure up to the heavenly standard of implementation? When I put the question that way, I come to an uncomfortable conclusion. We are the ones to carry out God’s will on earth as it is in heaven. Right here, right now.

### How do you know what God’s will is?

The problem I hear coming back from people is that they are rather unclear about what God’s will

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actually is—at least in a given situation. But let’s take something really simple. Let’s say we pray for a poor family, that they will have enough to eat. How would God answer that prayer? Would mom go to the cupboard and find—lo and behold, there is food there that was not there yesterday? Probably not. Chances are, somebody is going to have to take a sack of

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## Changing Lives. . .

The gifts given to CEM are making a difference. Read what one *Born to Win* listener said: “I just wanted to drop a line to let you know how much your online radio archives mean to my husband and I. We stumbled on to your radio broadcast (670 AM Denver, Colorado) and have been hooked ever since. Your educated and informative broadcasts have opened my eyes to a whole new view of the Bible as well a renewed relationship with Christ. We are even going to attend the Feast. . .” Check out our website and see the many things CEM offers. Your gifts are appreciated to make this possible for others.

## **You've Asked: *What Is the Scope of the Work CEM is Doing?***

- The *Born to Win* broadcast is heard on five 50,000-watt flagship stations each week, seven international stations, 55 stations that simulcast on the Internet, and 60 stations that are heard Monday through Friday. The broadcast can be heard on the radio at least 275 times every week, plus it is available on the Internet 24/7 at [www.borntowin.net](http://www.borntowin.net). It is estimated that between 100,000 to 150,000 people listen to the *Born to Win* Program each week.
- *Born to Win* has a very active website, [www.borntowin.net](http://www.borntowin.net) with an enormous amount of information you would appreciate. Watch for a much improved website coming soon.
- CEM publishes the *Living to Win* monthly newsletter.
- Among other correspondence, Ronald L. Dart writes a monthly letter offering a *FREE* CD, and four Speaker's Choice CDs for a small charge. These are offered to everyone on CEM's mailing list.
- CEM hosts an outstanding Feast of Tabernacles each year with great speakers, insightful biblical and Christian-living seminars, state-of-the-art YEA youth classes for five age groups, youth and social events (many *FREE*) for inspiration, learning, and fellowship. In 2009, more than 1100 people registered at CEM's Feast site.
- YEA, an arm of CEM, publishes full-color Sabbath School lesson books for five different age groups, spanning 17 years of a child's life. In all, there soon will be 952 different lessons. YEA also provides a summer camp for young people 13 through 19 each year.
- YEA! Let's R.E.A.C.H. online is for kids three to 20 with daily biblical, fun, and challenging activities that can be downloaded *FREE* and done at home or for homeschooling.
- CEM hosts a Family Weekend Bible Retreat in the spring each year with an outstanding sermon, seminars, YEA classes, and a variety of social events.
- CEM also offers an email newsletter and an email first of the month letter.
- CEM offers an online Friday Night Bible study that can be listened to any time. One hundred different Bible Studies, covering books of the Bible and other important subjects, are already available online. About 500 people listen to this study each week.
- CEM offers a worship service with live streaming each Sabbath at 2 p.m CT. As many as 100 computers have tuned in for a given Sabbath service with several watching on some of these computers.
- CEM has a prison ministry for which it transcribes sermons, broadcasts, and offers Bible Study Notes.
- CEM publishes the *Living Waters* Bible study course.
- CEM also uses Google AdWords to introduce youth who are not of our tradition to Christ. A follow-up system is in place to contact respondents twice a month.
- Ronald L. Dart is personally involved 24/7 in this ministry. Many broadcast listeners write or email him and are surprised that he personally answers the mail and emails he receives from the broadcasts and participates on forums. He has his own website, [www.rondart.com](http://www.rondart.com).
- The CEM Bookstore offers ten books Ron has written, 32 CD albums of complete books of the Bible, timely subjects that he has covered on the air, YEA and Bible Study lessons, MP3s and CDs of broadcasts, and more. Call CEM at 903-839-9300 for a *FREE* catalog.

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groceries by the house and give it to the family.

And then we come face to face with an uncomfortable question. How can I pray that God will provide food for that family when I am not motivated to actually do something about it? Now that is not exactly the point I want to make, but it is a provocative question nonetheless. My question is a step back from that one.

If we accept that we are the doers, the instruments of God to do his will on earth, how are we supposed to know God's will so we can do it? Actually, it is a little complicated, because life is complicated, but it is not that hard to know the will of God. Let me give you an example: "Do not spread false reports" (Exodus 23:1 NIV). Is it God's will that you spread rumors? Plainly not. Do you see what I mean when I say it is not that hard?

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Try another, same source: "Do not help a wicked man by being a malicious witness." An interesting side note on this: We are able to discern that a man is wicked, and we are not to advance his cause by slanting our testimony. It is God's

will that we not do things such things as this.

I realize this is obvious, but why is it obvious? Is it because in reading the Bible, we have come to that conclusion on our own? Read on: "Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd" (v. 2). It is God's will that I be a person of character, that I think for myself and not allow myself to be swept along by the crowd. As a member of a jury of 12 people, don't just go along. Stand up for what is true, "and do not show favoritism to a poor man in his lawsuit" (v. 3).

This may seem odd, but you can't pervert justice for what you deem to be a good cause. It is God's will that we help the poor, but not with someone else's money. Here is another example of God's will for man: "If you come across your enemy's ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to take it back to him" (v. 4). It is God's will that we respect the property of others and that we do so regardless of our relationship with the person. "If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help him with it" (v. 5). It is obvious that we should stop and help our neighbor. It may not be quite so obvious that it is God's will that we do it for an enemy.

"Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits" (v. 6). This is why we appoint public defenders for poor people. You may want to look this up and read it in context. It is an astonishing and plain illustration of God's will that

we pray every day should be done. It is all too easy to forget that we are not merely the prayers, but the doers.

By now, I think you get my drift. We can learn God's will from the Bible. We learn it from the Law. We learn it from the prophets. We learn it from the teachings of Jesus. It isn't hard, but it doesn't just happen. We have to apply ourselves in two important ways: We have to read it, and we have to think about it.

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So, when you are wondering what God's will is, the first question to ask is: Do I already know it? Is the problem that you don't know, or that you don't want to do? For indeed, we are supposed to be the doers of his will, aren't we? Now, why is it necessary to think about the Law of God? Isn't it enough just to do it? Well, it is a little more subtle than that. The Law is not as much regulatory as revelatory. Let me explain what I mean by that. Here is a simple example: "If you see your brother's ox or sheep straying, do not ignore it but be sure to take it back to him. If the

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brother does not live near you or if you do not know who he is, take it home with you and keep it until he comes looking for it. Then give it back to him” (Deuteronomy 22:1-2 NIV).

I may not have to worry about that. No one in my county has either an ox or a sheep as far as I know. That said, what if I find my brother’s bird dog wandering around? The letter of the Law says nothing about a dog. Well, I am not so stupid that I overlook the principle underlying this Law. Which is why, when a strange dog joined our walk one day and followed us home, I didn’t just keep her. She was a recognized breed and valuable. I suspended my other activities and went to work to find the owner—who turned out to be on a cruise, having left the dog with a sitter. I conclude

from this Law that I must respect the property rights of others. It is not “finders keepers.” Not only must I respect the property rights, I must actively protect them. This is precisely what is involved in doing the will of God. So when you pray, “Thy will be done,” go forth determined, to the best of your ability, to do God’s will in the world.

### **Learn more from a FREE CD**

There is much to be said on this theme, and I developed it much more in a recent radio program titled, *Thy Will Be Done*. For an *FREE* audio CD of the program and a bonus program that comes with it, just check the box on the enclosed card and send it back to us. There is no charge and no obligation. We realize in these hard times that you may not have much

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to give. But we think it is God’s will that we send it to you anyhow, so don’t hesitate.



### ***Radio Update***

**Philadelphia, PA  
& Trenton, NJ  
WCHR 920 AM  
M-F 11:30 a.m. & 2:00 a.m.  
Sunday 9:30 a.m.**

## **Calendar of Events**

**Memorial Day Family Retreat, May 28-31, 2010** - Join us at the Radisson Hotel, 120 South Wildwood Drive, Branson, Missouri, beginning Friday evening, May 28, for refreshments and a Meet and Greet. Register your children, aged three to 20, for state-of-the-art YEA classes each morning at 10 while you go to a seminar given by such presenters as Ronald Dart, Larry Watkins, and Paula Hughes. Ronald L. Dart will be giving the sermon on the Sabbath. Fun social events are planned to help you get acquainted and bond with friends in the faith. This retreat ends Monday noon with a farewell talk by Ronald L. Dart. For reservations call 1-800-395-7046 and tell them you’re with CEM so you can get our discount. Also check out [www.borntowin.net](http://www.borntowin.net) for other information.

**Feast of Pentecost** - Watch our website for time and location.

**Summer Camp 2010** - Camp Wewoka Woods, near Wewoka, Oklahoma from June 20 to 27. It is open to all teens, regardless of their church affiliation, who will be 13 by the time camp ends and have not yet turned 19. Scholarships are available for those who cannot afford the tuition. Call Larry Watkins at 1-888-BIBLE-44 for further information.

### *Christian Educational Ministries*

PO Box 560  
Whitehouse, Texas 75791  
**phone:** 1-888-BIBLE-44  
**fax:** 903.839-9311  
**e-mail:** [adm@borntowin.net](mailto:adm@borntowin.net)  
**website:** [www.borntowin.net](http://www.borntowin.net)

*That the man of God may be proficient  
and equipped for every good work.*