

We've spent the last four days looking at what God desires from His people. Today we're going to look at the first of three deliberate promises that God makes to those who are humble, submissive, obedient and repentant towards Him. *If My people, which are called by My name, [the choice:] shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then [the consequence:] will I hear from heaven...* God says, "I will hear..." What does it mean to you personally, to know that you can have the ear of the Almighty God? I John 5:14 *Now this is the confidence we have before Him: whenever we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked Him for.* We know that we have what we ask for when? When He hears us. When will He hear us? When we ask according to His will.

Now asking according to His will doesn't necessarily mean we understand what God's will is in a situation. But the prayer according to the will of God is not the prayer that understands God's will, but the prayer that says, "Father, if You are willing...nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done." When that is our prayer, for God's will to be done, He will always do what He desires to do. And in that way our prayer will always be answered. His will *will* be done. Now that may sound like a loophole, but did you really catch what I said? When our prayer is for God's will to be done, He will always do what He desires to do. Do you think God already does everything He desires whether or not we pray? Whether or not we yield to His will? If that were the case, why would Jesus have lamented over Jerusalem saying, "How often I wanted to gather your children together...yet you were not willing!" When our hearts are His, that is when we yield to His will, we give Him the freedom to do above and beyond all that we ask or think. In fact, Jesus told His disciples that if they know how to give good gifts to their children, "...how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matt. 7:11) When our hearts are humbled, submissive and obedient, He can do what He desires to do in us, through us, and for us. What is it you think God desires to do in your life? You would do well to obey the Word of Christ: "Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Perhaps an easier way to understand these verses: "Everyone who asks for the will of God to be done, will receive. The one who searches for God's will in a situation will find it. The one who knocks, the door—the door God wants you to go through—will be opened." (Matt. 7:7-8) There is no god like our God who hears the prayers of His people.

Scriptures for further meditation: Isaiah 30:19; I Thess. 4:3; 5:18; Romans 12:2; James 4:1-3



The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary but especially so in times of public distress and danger. The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier, defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country.

—General George Washington, *General Orders of May 2, 1778*