

**Volume 2 – Day 20: Pray for What God Wants
Not Your Own Sympathy**

Praying is most often different from praying in the will of God. Even when we end our prayers with, "... if the Lord wills" does not make our prayers **in His will**. Most prayers are stimulated by our misery or our own desire to help others or to be somehow useful to God. Such prayers have associated with them, a personal sympathy. Even if I am praying for something good to happen in another's life, that may not be God's **perfect** will in the situation.

Most of the time what God wants in the circumstance is not at all what we are praying for. The primary reason for this is that most people are not intimate enough with God to really know what God wants. Most prayers are selfish in that they satisfy **our human** sympathies. The key to praying **in the will of God** is to know for certain what that is.

If you desire to offer up effective prayers, you must become intimate with Him. When I am intimate with another (even God) I truly know what he or she desires and I am consumed with pleasing them. If God's purpose in bringing cancer into the middle of my mess is to draw someone to His love, then I will pray that the family and friends of the one inflicted, will come closer to God. If the martyrs of the faith had been **praying for humanly good outcomes, they would not have sacrificed themselves!**

My Confirming Scriptures:

Aligning Experiences: