

## Thy Will Be Done

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**T**he proponents of the “health and wealth gospel” stress positive thinking and sovereign human will. They teach people to demand blessings from God, refusing to take “no” for an answer, rather than humbly asking Him to give us what He thinks best.

Benny Hinn, for example, says in his book ***Rise & Be Healed***: “*Never, ever, ever go to the Lord and say, ‘If it be thy will ...’ Don’t allow such faith-destroying words to be spoken from your mouth. When you pray ‘if it be your will, Lord,’ faith will be destroyed. Doubt will billow up and flood your being. Be on guard against words like this which will rob you of your faith and drag you down in despair*” (Quoted in ***Christianity in Crisis***, p. 271).

It seems we have a choice: we can believe the likes of Benny Hinn, or we can listen to the Lord and follow His teaching and example. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*” (Mt 6:10). And in Gethsemane, even as His arrestors are on their way, Jesus prayed, “*O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will*” (Mt 26:39).

To the overly self-absorbed who are consumed with their own plans and desires, James gives this warning: “*Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.’ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil*” (Jas 4:15-16). Ball’s in your court, Benny.

To seek God’s will and be submissive to it is to defer to the judgment of a higher Being. It is an honest admission that while we may know what we *want*, we do not always know what we *need*. But God does.

Further, to seek God’s will in all things is to acknowledge God’s sovereign right to guide the affairs of men as He sees fit. We are not to be petulant children, demanding that God do things our way. We must learn to cope with the world as God has chosen to run it. We will not always get our way.

But what is the angle of Benny Hinn and others of his stripe? Why do they encourage such obviously brazen, arrogant and selfish attitudes? First, these preachers are *filthy rich*, and they promote wealth among their followers in order to deflect attention from themselves. Perhaps they should read Jim Bakker’s book ***I Was Wrong***.

Secondly, their whole money-grabbing empire is based upon the deception that they can work miracles. This can be successful only when people are persuaded that their subjective observations are really “miracles.”