

“Asking for What You Want”

(T-9.I)

You are the will of God.

“The will of God...is what you are” (1:4). Three times in Chapters 7 and 8 we were told “You are the will of God.”

As an extension of His will, your will is the same as His.

This means that your true will wants the exact same things God wants.

Fear of the will of God, therefore, is an odd belief that amounts to fear of your own will and your own reality.

“Fear of the will of God is one of the strangest beliefs that the human mind has ever made” (1:1).

“The very fact that the will of God, which is what you are, is perceived as fearful to you demonstrates that you are afraid of what you are. It is not, then, the will of God of which you are afraid, but *yours*” (1:4-5).

Believing God’s will is different than yours results in feelings of abandonment and retaliation

- Abandonment: The atheist believes he is alone, having been abandoned by God.
- Retaliation: The martyr (which includes anyone who thinks God asks for sacrifice) believes God is crucifying him as punishment for his sins.

When you pray for things in the belief that your will is different from God’s, beneath the surface you are asking for abandonment and retaliation.

“The truth is, very simply, that no one wants either abandonment or retaliation. Many people seek both, but it is still true that they do not want it. Can you ask the Holy Spirit for ‘gifts’ such as these and actually expect to receive them?” (9:1-3).

You are asking for what you don’t want. What kind of request is that?

“How sensible can your messages be when you ask for what you don’t want? Yet as long as you are afraid of your will, this is precisely what you *will* ask for. You may insist that the Holy Spirit does not answer you, but it might be wiser to consider the kind of asker you are” (6:1-3).

You are asking for what would hurt you. But since nothing can hurt you, you are asking for nothing.

“When you ask the Holy Spirit for what would hurt you, He cannot answer, because *nothing* can hurt you and so you are asking for nothing” (11:1).

A request for nothing is not a request. It’s a non-prayer.

“Any desire which stems from the ego is a desire for nothing, and to ask for it is not a request. It is merely a denial in the *form* of a request” (11:2-3).

Why Prayer Sometimes Doesn't Work

Surface request

Ego goal: "I want more recognition at work."

(But your true will does not really want this.)

Hidden request

"I want retaliation and abandonment by God
(because I think my will is different from God's)."

(But you don't really want what hurts you, and it's
a request for nothing, since *nothing* can hurt you.)

God's will/your true will

(What you really want,
but this is not part of the request.)