“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

When I was a young boy, the craze among boys my age was something called the “mini-bike.” It was a small framed “bike” powered by a 3 horsepower Briggs and Stratton engine. My next-door neighbor had one and I desperately wanted one also. I begged, promised, and pleaded with my parents to buy me a bike. I even offered to work a job and earn the money. But, I never got a mini-bike. My father believed it was too dangerous and that I could get seriously injured on a mini-bike. So, I never got one.

That experience taught me an important lesson. Good parents do not give their children everything they want. Good parents give their children what they need. There is a difference between a child saying “I want that,” and a parent knowing whether or not a child “needs” what is being requested.

It is much the same with God. Contrary to what some modern television preachers might say, God does not give us everything we want. Nowhere in the Bible are Christians ever promised wealth, luxury, good health or anything of the sort. But, the Bible is very clear that God does give us what we need.

There can be a difference between God’s will and your will. You may want something, much like the mini-bike when I was a child. But God knows whether or not we actually “need” what we may want. And, thankfully, God’s wisdom is much broader and deeper than ours!

**Life question:** What is the difference between what you want and what you need?

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for providing for my needs and for your wisdom to say “no” to the things I may not need. Help me to focus on your will for me rather than my own selfish desires. Amen.

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