

gravely ill and the doctors told us she was going to die. There was no hope. He told us not to waste a lot of money but to just love her and make her comfortable in the time she had left.

She said she didn't do it. They tried a lot of cures and she begged God for months to heal her. She lived four more years confined to a bed and endured bed sores and a few broken bones. The lady said, "Pastor, I believe she suffered because I would not say "Thy will be done."

Now folks, I am not good enough or wise enough to say if God hurt that mother because her daughter did not pray right. I don't believe He did. But one thing I do believe is that when God tells us "no", we need to believe He knows best and pray, "Thy will be done."

TO TEST OUR SUBMISSION

Matt. 26 / 6:5-15

"Jesus said, Not as I will Father, but Your will be done." "When you pray, say, "Our Father who art in heaven / Thy will be done."

When God is silent and leaves us in a bad situation, we need to keep on praying, keep on obeying and see if He is telling us "no" or "wait'. While doing this He is testing our submission to His will. We must never forget,

"Prayer is not our way of getting God to do what we want; it is God's way of getting us to do what He wants."

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus tells us to pray "Thy will be done" before we talk about our needs (daily bread) and wants. And his example in Gethsemane where God left him in his painful situation, we are to pray this after we have prayed for what we need or want

TO TEST OUR LOVE

"Peter, do you love me? {*After Peter said he did, Jesus said*} "When you are old / they will dress you, you will stretch out your

hands and they will take you where you do not want to go.' Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death he would die." (Jn. 21)

The Bible does not tell us about Peter's death but ancient traditions say his wife was crucified in front of him. When they came to him he asked to be crucified upside down because he was not worthy to die the same way his Lord died. Peter's love for and submission to Christ was tested and he passed the test

Soon after I came to one of my churches, I got to know a fine Christian family, very active in the church. Their teen-age daughter never came. One day I asked why and they told me when she was younger, she loved to go to church. In her teens she had a dog that was her constant companion. When he got sick, she pleaded with God to make him well. They said, "Brother Bob, when her dog died, she lost all interest in church.

Too many of us have a "You scratch my back and I'll scratch Your back" relationship with God. In Daniel 3 three young Hebrew men were threatened with being burned alive if they did not bow before the king's statue. They told him God could deliver them but even if He didn't, they would not bow down.

Years ago, I really wanted something and prayed for it over and over and didn't get it. I was hurt and tempted to believe God had let me down. The Holy Spirit led me, in my mind, to the cross with all of its horrors. Jesus looked like a piece of butchered meat. I got the message, I turned to God and told Him because of what You did for me on the cross I will serve You for the rest of my life, if You never answer another prayer of mine or do anything for me again. [Ask yourself - Is the cross enough for you?]

God always wants to know what we treasure most, His hand or the coin in it.