

Theme:

Jesus teaches us in the third petition that our prayer should be for spiritual revival.

A Prayer of Confession

A Prayer of Restoration

"...so we may wish nothing from ourselves but his Spirit may govern our hearts; and while the Spirit is inwardly teaching us we may learn to love the things that please him and to hate those things which displease him."—John Calvin, Institutes, 3.20.43

Conclusion: Aiming for Perfection

Q. 192. What do we pray for in the third petition?

A. In the third petition,

(which is, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven,) acknowledging, that by nature we and all men are not only utterly unable and unwilling to know and do the will of God, but prone to rebel against his Word, to repine and murmur against his providence, and wholly inclined to do the will of the flesh, and of the devil: we pray, that God would by his Spirit take away from ourselves and others all blindness, weakness, indisposedness, and perverseness of heart; and by his grace make us able and willing to know, do, and submit to his will in all things, with the like humility, cheerfulness, faithfulness, diligence, zeal, sincerity, and constancy, as the angels do in heaven.

"Such perfection as in this life cannot be attained to, may be aimed at. For it is not possible for any on earth to be so perfect as they who are in heaven; yet must we aim at their perfection, and endeavor after it. For Christ exhorteth us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect."—William Gouge