

“When the going gets tough... the tough get going”

- What journeys can get tough or challenging?
- When the going gets tough, what keeps us going?

When following God gets tough, what helps us keep going?

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Our Victorious Warrior

Luke 22:39–46

bib.ly/Lu22.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts

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When reading the Bible: Always check the context...

Before this passage: **There are tough times ahead**

- The Last Supper: “This is my body, given for you... this is the new covenant in my blood (my death)”
- One of the disciples will betray Jesus
- Satan will attack them

>> **In the place of such trouble, what are we to do? <<**

After this passage: **And people will fail Jesus**

- Judas betrayed Jesus
- Disciples fought with a sword to prevent Jesus’ arrest
- Peter denied even knowing Jesus
- Jesus was mocked and beaten plus a fake trial

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Luke 22:39-46

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, “**Pray that you will not fall into temptation.**” He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and **prayed**, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet **not my will, but yours be done.**” An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in **anguish**, he **prayed more earnestly**, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and **pray so that you will not fall into temptation.**”

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agonia: only used in the Bible this one time

- It looks like “agony” → “extreme suffering”
- But in Greek: “The struggle to win the prize in a contest”

agonizomai (verb form): “to contend, fight, strive earnestly”

- “**Make every effort** to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.” *Luke 13:24*
- “To this end I **strenuously contend** with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.” *Colossians 1:29*
- “**Fight** the good **fight** of the faith.” *1 Timothy 6:12*

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Jesus was **not** passively suffering or fearing death

Jesus was **fighting to the death to do the will of the Father**

- Jesus consciously, voluntarily, and obediently followed the Father’s plan to save us...at the greatest possible cost

Sweating drops of blood:

as warrior who was fighting faithfully until victory in death

The question of Jesus’ life:

Would He be faithful to God all the way until death?

In His death, we have the proof:

He was “obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

That is His great victory! He never turned back from God’s plan

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Jesus died on the cross, following the relentless attacks of Satan, the failures and attacks by His friends, the attacks of the people He came to save, and the wrath of the Father against Him for our sin, **yet He never once sinned or failed to love**

Jesus was victorious!

- In the greatest battle
- For the greatest victory
- **Through prayerful submission to the Father**

And He said to His disciples (twice):

- “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

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The Big Idea

Following God through tough times
comes as we seek His will through prayer

Praying is a key means...

To know God's will: desire, plan, purpose

To accept God's will: instead of our own

To have the strength to follow God's will

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A false choice: pray or do something

- We can only **do** what we are called to do through **prayer**
- In this passage, **One prayed** and **the others slept**
- And in the hours that followed...
 - One faithfully submitted to the Father even to the death
 - The others gave in to temptation
- **Doing without Praying won't endure in God's ways**

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The GPS: Global Position System

Which I try to follow above My internal GPS → “MyPS”

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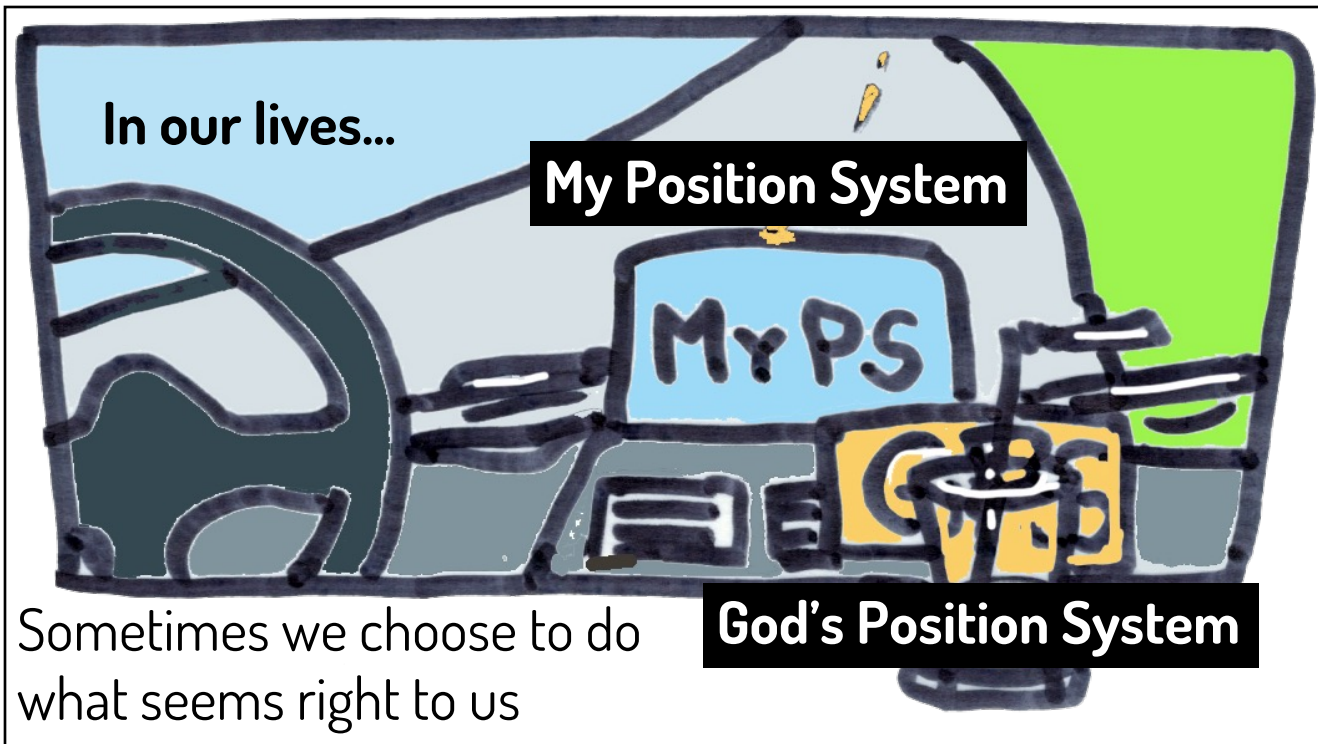


Sometimes we choose to do
what seems right to us (better or worse)

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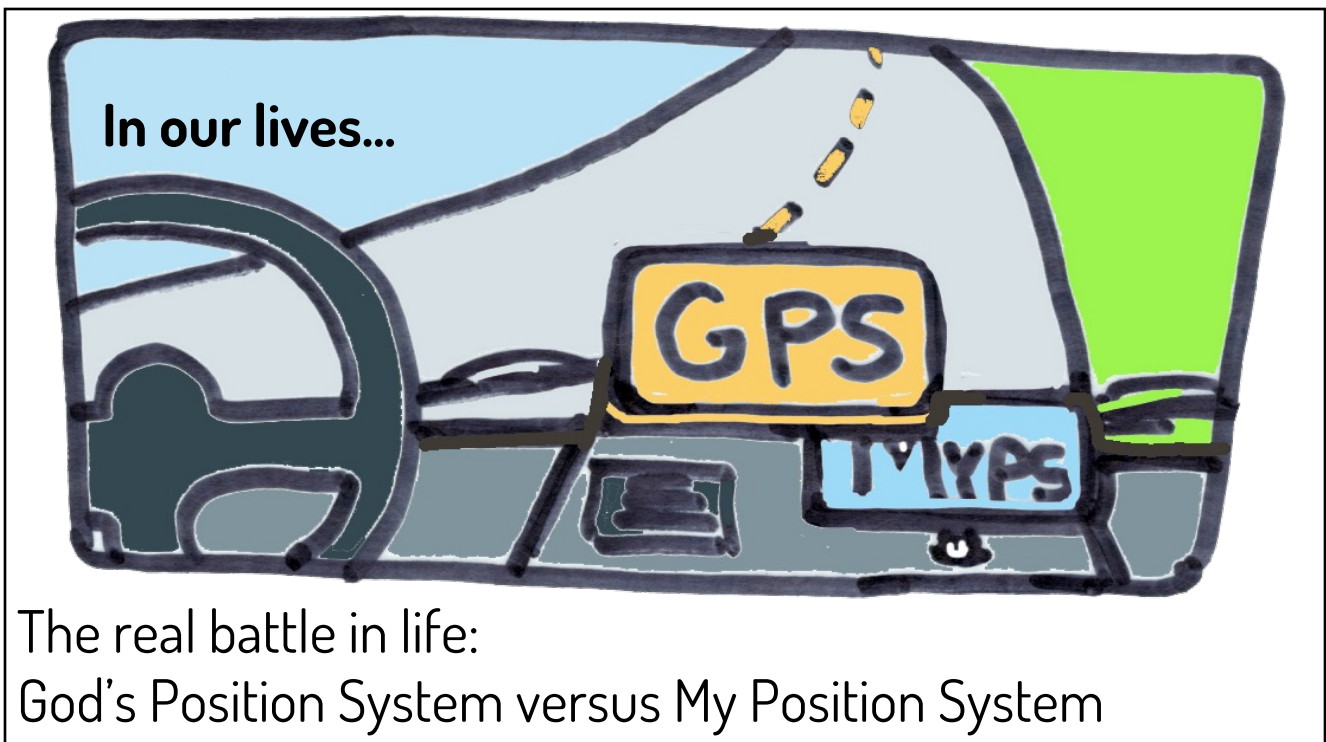
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Our greatest battle...

- Not:
 - A world gone astray
 - Christians who are deceived or wrongheaded
 - Opponents of Christianity
- Rather:
 - The battle in me: my will or God's will
 - Jesus is our model: "Not my will, but yours be done"
 - Following God when His way seems best
is not really following
 - **Following God when His way is more costly
is the way of Christ, and it only comes with prayer**

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The Lord's Prayer

"Our **Father** in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, and not mine
your will be done, and not mine

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,  **but deliver us from the evil one."**

**whatever pulls me
away from God &
His will**

Matthew 6:9-13

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The Big Idea

Following God through tough times
comes as we seek His will through prayer



To know

To accept

To have the strength to follow

And sometimes, that's why
we don't want to pray!!!

It takes courage!

A band director...

Someone I don't want

to love

His will: To love Him completely
To put others before ourselves
To forgive when hurt and to love when hated

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Application

Pray

- What to pray? That we will fully submit to the Father
 - "Protect us from situations that pull us from You"
 - "Strengthen us to remain faithful even when tempted"
- It is good to ask God to consider our plans (our will)
- Even more: **Ask for His help to follow His plan, not ours**
 - Jesus' model: the Son of God lived in dependence upon His Father, praying so that His work was in God's ways by God's strength

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Application

Pray

- Pray the heart changing prayer: Your will, and not mine
- You decide: when and where will you pray, and in what form
- → **just pray!**
 - Jesus' repeated command and example:
"Pray so that you won't fall into temptation"
- By prayer...
 - Jesus learned the Father's will, accepted it, and was strengthened to follow it
 - **Let's follow Him**

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Application

Worship our Savior: the victorious warrior who is also compassionate and merciful

- **Victorious Warrior**
 - "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" *Philippians 2:8*
- **who is also compassionate and merciful**
 - "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." *Hebrews 4:15-16*

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Application

**Worship our Savior: the victorious warrior
who is also compassionate and merciful**

- **Jesus was victorious through courageous prayer!**
 - In His humanity, His victory came because He fought through prayer
- And He calls us to do the same

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When following God gets tough, what helps us keep going?

Following God through tough times
comes as we seek His will through prayer

Praying is a key means...

To know God's will: desire, plan, purpose

To accept God's will: instead of my own

To have the strength to follow God's will

That's how Jesus did it!

Should we expect anything different??

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The Lord's Prayer

“Our **Father** in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, **your will be done,**
on earth as it is in heaven.

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but deliver us from the evil one.”

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Maybe we know the battle between our will and His will

Maybe we don't

Either way, we should pray!