Dear Open Door Family,

The words to that old hymn came to mind this morning. Have Thine own way, Lord. So I looked up the words and some information about the hymn. "Adelaide A. Pollard believed the Lord wanted her to be a missionary in Africa, but she was unable to raise funds to go. In an uncertain state of mind, she attended a prayer meeting, where she heard an elderly woman pray, 'It's all right, Lord. It doesn't matter what You bring into our lives, just have Your own way with us.' At home that night, much encouraged, she wrote the word to this wonderful hymn of dedication. Here are a couple of verses. Think about the words to this hymn as you look at the verses below.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway! Fill with Thy Spirit 'till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me.

Proverbs 1:29-33 "Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, [30] would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, [31] therefore they shall <u>eat the fruit of their way</u>, and <u>have their fill of their own devices</u>. …but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster." (ESV)

Proverbs 2:3-5 "...if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, [4] if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, [5] then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God." (ESV)

I was impressed by the fact that if we seek our own way and our own direction God may choose to give us our own way. I can think of nothing more haunting than the statements "they shall eat the fruit of their way" and "have their fill of their own devices." No matter what we do in life and no matter where we go, our desire needs to be to seek out God's will. Otherwise, He may let us have our own way instead. I have made enough mistakes in my life to know I do not want to have my own way. The second passage is a challenge to seek God's will as I would seek for treasure. As I pursue God in that way, then I will learn to reverence and be in awe of God and to know Him on deep and personal level.

PRAYER: Please Lord, help me to seek out Your will and direction for my life. Please help me to seek an intimate close relationship with you. May I learn to pursue You with the same passion that I would pursue a buried treasure. Lord, may I be able to pray wholeheartedly, Have Your Way in ME today and always. May I be willing to submit to You as the clay submits to the Potter.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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