

Prepare for an

# AWAKENING

Based on the book by Stovall Weems

WEEK 3 :: MARCH 23, 2011

## Whose Will?

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

—1 JOHN 5:14-15, NIV

As a pastor, I get asked many questions about God and the Christian life. One of the most familiar questions I hear goes something like this: “Pastor, will God give me anything I ask of Him? If not, why should I even pray?”

In my answer I encourage people, if they feel confident that what they want is a good thing, to pray boldly for it. But at the same time they should be willing to submit to God’s will if He says no. More than that, they should be glad about it, for God’s will is always best.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus provided an amazing model of prayer for us. He agonized with the Father over the suffering that lay ahead for Him. He wanted to be spared it. Nevertheless, He remained submitted and obedient to His Father. Jesus’ words “Not what I will, but what you will” should be a principle of the heart for all of us.

Unfortunately most of us are more like the disciples in the garden scene. These guys couldn’t keep their eyes open. They needed an awakening—literally! If prayer is getting hard for us, we should listen more to our willing spirit and less to our weak earthly nature.

And I’ve got a promise for you: The more you live in a passionate relationship with God, the more your desires will line up with His. And consequently, the more you will see God saying yes to your requests as the two of you work together in fulfilling His great plan. What could be more exciting than that!

*If I throw out a boathook from the boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God. —E. STANLEY JONES*

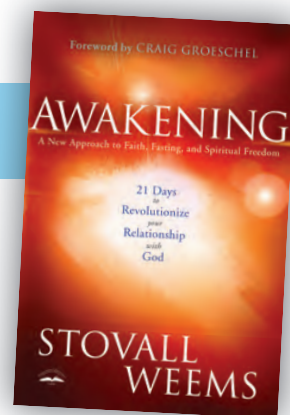
*Lord, whatever you want, wherever you want it, and whenever you want it, that’s what I want. —RICHARD BAXTER*

## Bible Reading Plan: Mark 14:32-42

### Prayer Focus:

What are the deepest concerns on your heart today? Pray for the Lord’s will to be done in them—and then give them up wholly to Him.

Based on the book, *AWAKENING: A New Approach to Faith, Fasting, and Spiritual Freedom* by Stovall Weems



### About the Author

Stovall Weems is the founder and lead pastor of Celebration Church in Jacksonville, Florida, a thriving, multi-site church with locations both regionally and internationally. In addition to being a pastor, teacher, and conference speaker, Stovall leads Awakening, a 21-day spiritual campaign of prayer, fasting, and personal devotion that takes place each January. Stovall and his wife, Kerri, have three children. Learn more at [www.awake21.org](http://www.awake21.org).