Questions concerning Broken – 7 "Christian" Rules

Question on Prayer: You stated that humans cannot alter God's will. Yet we are told to pray in hopes of changing His will. Maybe the prayers should be more not how I can change His mind but how I can accept/adapt to His will. Maybe I need to adjust my thinking.

Answer: When thinking about prayer, it is always good to go to Luther's Small Catechism and read how Luther explains the Lord's Prayer. The Lord knows what is going to happen because He is omniscient, and He has already planned what will happen through His eternal will. Nothing we can do will change God's mind. We pray because He has asked us to bring all our cares to Him. It is a test of our faith as to whether we will try to solve our problems in our own way or rely on Him. We must always condition our prayers for non-spiritual items based on His will. Often God tests us, as when He threatened to destroy the people of Israel to give Moses the opportunity to pray for them. Our prayers show what is important to us. God arranges events in our lives so that we have opportunities to learn to trust Him more. God always answers our prayers in ways that are good for us. As we learn more about God's will through the Scriptures, we also learn how to frame our prayers better to make them less self-centered and more directed toward His will. He is interested in us changing our wills, not in Him changing His. Our prayers do not directly strengthen our faith, but they show us that our faith needs to grow so we will be more in step with asking things according to the good and gracious will of God.

Question of using the word "claims": Under point **a**, you identified the LORD with appropriate explanation and Bible passage. Then, under point **b**, you state He claims to be omnipotent. In point **c**, you again use the term "claims". Anyone could claim to be omnipotent or to have omniscience (and no doubt some have done this), but that does not make it so. With God, it is so, because He is God. I don't see anything in the Bible passages provided that supports this being a claim vs. a statement in Scripture that this is who He is and what He has done. I think it is more accurate to say He is omnipotent and omniscient.

Answer: This is the issue. When the Bible says, "God is omnipotent," this is really second-hand information. Although controlled by the Holy Spirit, the statement nevertheless contains a human element, namely, the style of the writer. This does not affect its truthfulness to the Bible-believing Christian, but others might say, "That was only the writer's opinion." When the biblical writer quotes God directly, he is removing that human element. God is directly asserting something, and the Holy Spirit is having the writer record the claim made by God. Theologians have always regarded the direct words of God on an issue as making that issue more important as an article of faith. In either case, the Holy Spirit bears witness to the truthfulness of the statement, but a direct quotation more strongly affirms a teaching.