

Theme: God answers prayers that "hallow" His name – and those prayers change us. God answers prayers that seek His kingdom and rule – and those prayers change the world.

Background: Know our prayers are heard because they are set before our Father. We know our prayers will be answered when we pray for His plans and purposes to be fulfilled.

Introduction: Every presidential candidate has a plan for the nation. Thankfully, there is one to Whom their plans are all subject.

I. The Kingdom of God

A. His Rule

1. God is the King! (Psalm 110:2; Hebrews 1:8)
2. He is the Sovereign One
 - Not a republic or a democracy but a Theocracy
 - Not a shared power. (Deuteronomy 4:35; 1 Kings 8:60; Isaiah 42:8; Isaiah 46:9)
3. King over Heaven and earth! (2 Chronicles 20:6; Deuteronomy 4:39)

B. The Power

1. Does all that He pleases (Psalm 135:6; Daniel 4:37)
2. All others reign by His permission (Proverbs 21:1; Proverbs 19:21)

C. The Nature of His Kingdom

1. The Kingdom of Christ!
 - Every knee bow, tongue confess (Philippians 2:10-11)
 - King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 17:14 & 19:16)
 - To rule in our hearts
 - To rule in every heart
2. Revealed in the Church
 - Christ rules over all for the church (Ephesians 1:22)

D. God's Kingdom and our Prayers (Proverbs 16:3)

1. We called are to pray!
NOTE: We pray because God's kingdom is moved forward by prayer (2 Chronicles 20)
2. The necessity of prayer
 - Bringing down Christ's rule
 - Changing the world

II. The Will of God

A. God has a plan

1. He is active in it (Ephesians 1:11; Hebrews 1:3; Acts 17:28)
2. Working with a purpose
 - Nothing is left to chance (Isaiah 46:10)
 - Aside: Trouble comes when we don't want His plan.
3. We are part of that plan
 - God's plan at work in us?
 - Prayer that I would be actively obeying His will – as He has made it known. By me and through me.

-Prayer that I would patiently submit to His will when I am not given the reasons for the trial, suffering, and struggle. And therefore, in me!

- God's plan at work through me

B. God's Will (In two parts)

1. Hidden and Revealed

a. Secret – decreative will (Deuteronomy 29:29)

- Plans and purposes hidden from us

b. Revealed/perceptive will

- All that He has made known

2. Both are at work in prayer

- Praying in accordance with His revealed will

- Serves to fulfill His secret will

C. Establishing Prayer's Work

1. God's sovereign plans and our prayers

- He has established prayer as means to His ends

- If we pray "Your will be done" we know it will be done!

2. Your kingdom come, Your will be done

- This is what we must pray

- That the fruit of His Kingdom would be poured out on us

III. The Provision of God for Prayer

A. God has planned to use our prayers!

B. What do trials accomplish?

- They force us to pray, pressing us into His arms, into His will.

C. He has taught us to pray

D. He is at work both in the one who prays and in the answer

Step into the realm of God's mystery and power. Pray that His kingdom come upon us and the world.

Pray that His will be done – as perfectly as it is in heaven – in us, through us and throughout the world.