

# The Power of Prayer: God's Kingdom & Will

# Matthew 6:9-13

**“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven,**

- 1. YOUR name be hallowed**
- 2. YOUR kingdom come,**
- 3. YOUR will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**
- 4. Give us today our daily bread.**
- 5. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**
- 6. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”**

**Prayer is  
based on an  
assured  
Relationship  
With our Heavenly Father**

## **Matthew 6:8**

**“...your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”**

## **Matthew 6:26**

**“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”**

# Matthew 7:7-11

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

**Prayer should come  
from a heartfelt  
relationship  
of dependence  
on a caring  
Heavenly Father  
whose honor is  
the highest concern.**

**So we begin praying by asking with a sense of conviction and urgency...**

- 1. YOUR name be Honored**
- 2. YOUR kingdom come,**
- 3. YOUR will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

\* **Aorist Imperatives** – (commands) a call for decisive action and conveying a sense of urgency.

**But what do we mean  
when we pray about  
God's Name, Kingdom  
and Will?**

# Honor for God's name focuses on...

- His reputation
- His glory
- His character

(Always in contrast with seeking honor for my name, my kingdom or my will)

**In the final sense, we are praying that the words of God will be fulfilled....**

**Malachi 1:11** – “My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets.”

**Isaiah 29:23** – “...they will keep my name holy... and will stand in awe of God...”

**Isaiah 45:23** – “Every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will declare allegiance to me.”

# **We are praying for the time when...**

**Philippians 2:9-11** - at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

**Daniel 2:44** – “the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.”

# We are praying for the time when...

- **Daniel 7:13-14** – “...one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”
- **Revelation 11:15** – “The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.’”

(cf. I Corinthians 15:24-25)

**Praying for God's Kingdom to come -**

**- extended from the first request and defined by the third request.**

**His Name is honored - in the establishment of His rule and by the doing of His will on earth as it is in heaven**

**A few thoughts  
about praying for  
God's Kingdom and will**

# God has always been the sovereign King

**David prayed** – “Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you, you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.” (I chronicles 29:11-12; cf. Psalm 103:19)

**Yet the Bible also presents God's kingdom as yet to come.**

**The distinction is between rule over the earth with rule on the earth.**

**God's kingdom is not yet established in its fullness on the earth in human history.**

# At the first coming of Christ the kingdom has drawn near...

- Jesus is born a king (Matt. 2:2) and for this cause He came into the world (Jn. 18:37).
- Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom of heaven was near (Matt. 4:17) and preached the gospel of the kingdom.
- Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for shutting up the kingdom against men and not entering themselves (Matt. 23:13).
- He opened his sermon on the mount, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3)
- And Jesus teaches his disciples to “... seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

# In the person, ministry, and teaching of Jesus

- There was an *already/not yet* presentation of the kingdom in blessing and judgment.
- Jesus spoke of the kingdom as something **past**- Luke 13:28; **present**- Matthew 5:3, 10; 11:12; 12:28; 19:23; Luke 17:21; and future – Matthew 6:10; 21:43; 25:31-34; Acts 1:6-8.
- The phrases “kingdom of heaven” and “kingdom of God” are interchangeable. Both are used in Matthew 19:23-24.
- Compare also Matthew 19:23 w/ Mark 10:23. (Entering life and entering the kingdom are also used interchangeably - Mark 9:45, 47; Matthew 25:31-34, 46)

# Expectation of the Kingdom at this time...

**A reigning, sovereign Messiah ushering in God's Kingdom and crushing all godless earthly kingdoms fit their worldview.**

**A serving and suffering Messiah was foreign to them and even repugnant. So much so that in an angry rage they so forcefully rejected Jesus before Pilate that they said, "We have no king but Caesar" (John 19:15).**

**Think of Kingdom as.....**

**A Relationship  
and  
A Realm**

**Doing God's will is evidence of  
one's relationship  
with the King**

**Matthew 7:21** - “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

# The example of our Lord

- **Matthew 12:27-28** – “Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”
- **Matthew 26:38-39** – Jesus said, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

# The examples of others

- **John 21:18-19** – “Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.”
- **Philippians 1:20** - “I eagerly expect and hope that ... I will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

# On a deeply personal level.....

- I look at the world and I look at the condition of my own heart and a clear heaviness comes over me because of how I see that God's rule is not honored and His will is not done.
- I know God is grieved at the rebellion of those whom he has created and the suffering that comes from it. and I especially grieve at my participation in that rebellion and suffering.
- I know that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us, so I wait and pray with eager expectation for the time when all things will be liberated from bondage to decay and be brought into freedom and glory.

- **My prayers are an emotional combination of inward groaning and patient but eager expectation for our full and final adoption to sonship and the redemption of our bodies.**
- **When I pray this way, I eagerly await a Savior from Heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.**

- **Currently, we are commissioned by the one who said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matthew 28:18).**
- **And we believe in a day when this will be visibly true - when every knee bows to Him.**
- **We know that we cannot bring this day in ourselves but we can work for visible expressions of it as we yield our lives and call others to honor the rule and will of our great King.**

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does his successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.