

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Your Kingdom Come



-- Review

-- Part 1 – “Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

-- How we pray matters.

-- The Lord’s Prayer is so important because it is God’s perfect framework for prayer.

-- Part 2 – “Our Father in Heaven” (v. 2a)

-- Main idea: Pray affectionately, like a child to His Father.

-- All prayer begins with the knowledge that God cares.

-- Part 3: Pray reverently as a worshipper to his God.

1.) Effective prayer is an expression of reverence.

-- While prayer begins with the understanding that God is our Father, it never forgets that our Father is holy.

2.) Effective prayer is an expression of submission.

-- We cannot set apart God as holy without setting apart His will as our priority.

-- Jesus illustrates this truth supremely when He is looking ahead to the cross.

3.) Effective prayer is an expression of worship.

-- The ultimate purpose of all prayer is to bring glory to God.

-- Effective prayer is, therefore, God-centered prayer.

-- Self is removed and God is revered.

-- **Big Idea: Pray victoriously as a warrior to his King.**

-- v. 2 – “*Your kingdom come...*”

-- This is a prayer for God to do through us whatever advances His kingdom. It is a submission to pursue God’s Kingdom and His glory and not our own.

- “*Your kingdom come*” means that our passion ought to be the eternal kingdom of God, not temporary kingdoms on earth.
- God’s Kingdom is not of this world.
 - John 18:36 – “*Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.’*”
- Kingdoms of this earth will always come and go.
 - Historians tell us there are probably 21 or 22 great world civilizations that have come and gone and disappeared into the ashes and into history.
 - In the Bible we see this with Egypt, Syria, Babylon, the Medes and the Persians, Greece, Rome.
 - More recent collapses: Hitler’s Germany, Russia, and now the United States
 - It all comes down to Proverbs 14:34 – “*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.*”
 - The course of all kingdoms on earth is basically this: God allows a nation to rise to power; their triumph begets pride; national pride begets indifference toward sin, indifference begets a culture of sin, and a culture of sin begets the death of the nation.
- Too many Christians have their kingdoms confused.
 - Far too many Christians will talk about politics with anyone but haven’t shared the Gospel with anyone in years.
 - Too many Christians never miss a chance to vote in an election but have never voted in a business meeting at church.
 - Where does our allegiance lie, and whose kingdom are we fighting for?
 - We all ought to care about our country, and it is a good thing to be patriotic. (In fact, we have voters Guides on the Welcome Center and a patriotic service each July.)
 - However, we ought to care about America for the glory of God, not for the glory of people or political parties.
 - I don’t care if you call it Republican, Democratic, Independent, or Tea Party.
 - The much better question is this: Is it biblical? Can I legitimately call it Christian? Does glorify God?

- Does a candidate believe in abortion on demand? That's not biblical; don't vote for him!
- Does a candidate believe in homosexual marriage? That defiles one of God's most sacred institutions God; don't vote for him!

What motivates you: The praise of God or the purposes of people? Political parties or the Prince of Peace? Governments or the Gospel? Kingdoms on earth or the kingdom of God? Jesus here tells us to pray according to what should be our chief priority: the Kingdom of God. And so, when asked, "*Lord, teach us to pray,*" Jesus says, "*When you pray, say...your Kingdom come.*"

-- v. 2 – "*Your kingdom come...*"

-- Literally, in the Greek, this means "Your kingdom, let it happen, let it actually occur"

-- In essence, when we pray, "*Your kingdom come,*" we are saying, "Lord, Let what matters to You matter to me, and let Your purposes happen in and through me for Your glory."

-- "***Your kingdom come***" is a call to battle!

-- There really are only two kingdoms: the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan.

-- Luke 11:23 – "*He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.*"

-- In all that we are and do, we are fighting on behalf of one or the other. There is no middle ground. We either serve God, or we serve Satan.

The church is no social club; it is an army of God... We are not called to be spectators; we're called to be soldiers... The church is not meant to be a cruise ship; it is a battleship under the command of the Lord Jesus Christ... The church is not for wimps; it is for warriors.

-- Ephesians 6:11-12 – "*Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*"

- The outcome of this battle is not in doubt; the Kingdom of God will triumph. God has promised it, and it will come to pass.
 - We are certainly not praying, “Oh, Lord, could you possibly come down here and do a little something about this big mess.”
 - We are praying, Lord, fill me, guide me, strengthen me, use me to be a part of the victory that you have already won in Christ.
 - All of have been given this one life to prepare for eternity. What are you fighting for in the days you are given?
- All that we are must be entirely committed to God’s Kingdom and engaged in the battle for His glory.

- How do we wage the battle of God’s Kingdom through prayer?

1.) Pray for redemption in Christ.

- Psalm 14 – *“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. Will evildoers never learn—those who devour my people as men eat bread and who do not call on the LORD? There they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous. You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge. **Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!** When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!”*
- Psalm 67:1-4 – *“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us...that your ways may be known on earth, **your salvation among all nations.** May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.*
- 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 – *“Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not*

having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”

- We pray victoriously when we pray for salvation.
 - The kingdom of God advances through evangelism.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 – *“And [God] has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.”*
 - The war against Satan is waged with the Gospel.
 - Romans 1:16 – *“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”*
 - God's glory in Christ is magnified when the lost are redeemed.
 - 1 John 5:4-5 – *“Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”*
 - Baptism is a picture of victory in Christ.
 - Romans 6:3-5 – *“Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.”*
- Praying “*Your kingdom come*” means praying with passion that the lost are redeemed through faith in Christ.

- We not only are praying that God's kingdom will come to others, but also that His kingdom will come alive in us. Therefore, praying, “*Your kingdom come*” means that we must...

2.) Pray for renewal in Christ.

- Psalm 139:23-24 – *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

- We pray victoriously when we pray for sanctification.
- The Kingdom of God advances through holy living.
 - Romans 14:17-18 – *“The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.”*
- The war against Satan is waged through the battle for spiritual growth.
 - Romans 8:13-14 – *“If you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”*
 - Spiritual growth simply means that God’s Kingdom is taking over more and more of all that we are and do.
- God’s glory in Christ is magnified when His people are transformed.
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18 – *“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”*
 - Matthew 5:14-16 – *“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”*
- Praying *“Your kingdom come”* means praying with commitment that we will be transformed into the likeness of Christ.

3.) Pray for the return of Christ.

- The Kingdom of God comes through the redemption of the lost, it is cultivated through the renewal of God’s people, and it culminates in the return of Jesus Christ.
- We pray victoriously when we pray for the second coming of Christ.
 - Revelation 22:20 – *“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”*
 - The Day of Christ’s return is a certainty, and when He comes, the victory of His people will be made complete.

At a moment we cannot predict, Jesus Christ will come to gather His church and bring His absolute, righteous judgment on this fallen sinful world. On that

day, He will inaugurate the all-encompassing glory of His Kingdom in all and over all. There will be no corner of the earth that God's glory and wisdom will not fill. He will rule over all people with all authority. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. The abolished Kingdoms of this world will be entirely overcome by the Kingdom of Christ forever. The universe we know will disintegrate, and God will create a new heaven and new earth. All tears, suffering, pain, and fear will be no more, and we will dwell in the Kingdom of God forever.

"Your kingdom come" is the battle cry of warriors in God's Kingdom. It is a prayer for God's Kingdom to advance through redemption in Christ, renewal through Christ, and the return of Christ. It is a prayer to battle for the Kingdom and the glory of God.