

Prayer - Part Three
YOUR KINGDOM COME

Matthew 6:9–13 (NKJV)

⁹In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

¹³And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

- *Jesus gave us a pattern in Matthew, Chapter 6, of what prayer looks like and how it functions.*
- *What many call “The Lord’s Prayer” is not simply something one repeats, even though one could repeat it, but it provides us with seven essential qualities of prayer.*
- *We looked at the first aspect of prayer, “Our Father in heaven” which deals with the most foundational aspect of prayer. Above all else prayer is based on our relationship with God.*
- *Prayer is solidly focused on our relationship with God as our Father.*
- *The second aspect of prayer is, “Hallowed be Your name.”*
- *“Hallowed be Your name” is not a statement of fact, but a request that this should be accomplished.*
- *We are to pray that God would empower us to live holy lives for the glory of His name.*
- *We, as Christians, are to seek God so that there would be no hidden sin or anything in our lives that would bring shame to His name.*
- *“Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven” – The third aspect is praying to see the will of God fulfilled on earth.*
- *“Our Father” —defines our relationship with God.*

- *“Hallowed be Your Name” —prepares us to do the work of God.*
- *“Your Kingdom Come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” —defines the purpose of our lives.*
- *Some Christian’s purpose is to live a holy life in isolation from others. This approach could be compared to a person who trains their entire life to run in an Olympic race without actually ever running the race.*
- *God has called us to be salt and light to this world and not to hide our light under a bushel.*

2 Timothy 2:21 (NKJV)

²¹Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

- *Holiness prepares us so that we can be used as sanctified vessels “useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”*
- *When we pray, “Your kingdom come,” then our focus has turned from being inward and self-focused. It has become upward-focused toward God and His purposes for all of mankind.*
- *If our only goal is how we can benefit from salvation, we can become an isolationist, not wanting to interact with the world, nor moved by the suffering of others.*
- *However, God has called us to reach out with boldness and confidence to see God’s Kingdom manifested and to see His will done on earth as it is in Heaven.*
- *Often Christians develop a siege mentality and feel they are on the defensive. Jesus said, “upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18).*
- *Gates are a defensive position not an offence weapon. This means we are the ones who are to push forward, and the kingdom of darkness should be retreating.*

- *The reason the Church in the West has not been as effective in transforming lives and impacting society as the Church in persecuted countries, can be summarized by a couple of points: prayer and total surrender.*
- *Prayer is the first and most important thing we can do to see the fulfillment of God's will done on earth as it is in Heaven.*
- *Prayer is the difference between seeing God's will done in our lives and failing to see the fulfillment of God's will in our lives.*
- *In the prayer, "Your will be done on earth as it is done in heaven," we can learn at least three things from this petition:*
 - *God's will is being fully done in Heaven.*
 - *God's will is not being fully done on earth.*
 - *Through our prayers God's will can be done on earth.*
 - *Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane that closely relates to, "Your will be done on earth as it is done in Heaven" is "Nevertheless not My will, but Yours be done." (Luke 22:42).*
 - *This third aspect of prayer, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" introduces another dimension to prayer—surrender.*
- *When we pray "our Father in Heaven," that prayer is an expression of our relationship with God and the reality that prayer above all else is based on our relationship with God as our Father.*
- *When we pray "hallowed be Your name" then prayer is an affirmation that God is holy and that it is our desire that we also would live holy lives to glorify His name.*
- *However, when we pray "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," prayer becomes a surrender of our will and our lives for His purposes and His plans to be fulfilled.*
- *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" provides divine purpose for our lives. This allows every event and experience to be evaluated from this criteria— "How can I see God's will fulfilled in this situation?"*

Luke 10:2 (NKJV)

²Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

- *The fulfillment of God’s will always begins in prayer which in turn leads to action. Our actions prove our faith.*
- *Christians who act, but do not pray will find they are out of God’s will.*
- *Christians who pray, but fail to act will find their lives unfruitful and unfulfilled.*
- *“Show me your faith without doing anything, and I will show you my faith by what I do.” (James 2:18, NCV).*
- *We need a balance of both prayer and action. SAVING faith is not only SAYING faith.*
- *As we study this aspect of prayer we can ask, “Why do we pray?”*
- *Our answer to this question will determine how or even if, we do pray.*

Matthew 6:8 (NKJV)

⁸“Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

- *Some people pray as if God doesn’t know their needs and prayer becomes a list to inform God of their needs.*
- *Prayer that is focused on trying to inform God of the situation will result in prayer that becomes mundane and devoid of faith.*

Luke 12:32 (NKJV)

³²“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

- *Some people pray as if they have to overcome God’s reluctance to help, or save, or bless. Their prayer sounds more like pleadings to an uncaring master than petitions to a loving Father.*

Matthew 6:7 (NKJV)

⁷And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

- *Some people see prayer as a means of winning God’s favour so He will answer their requests. Prayer becomes a meaningless religious ritual comprised of a mixture of superstition and hollow, repetitive prayers.*

Matthew 7:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?

¹¹If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

- *Some see prayer as going to a “divine vending machine” to have their requests granted.*
- *People who see God as a divine vending machine say things like, “Be careful what you ask for,” as if God just mindlessly gives us anything we ask for, or even worse as a cruel prankster who gives us things that would harm us.*
- *The Bible teaches us that our God is a good Father who gives His children only good things.*
- *Some Christians are afraid if they surrender fully to God and say, “Your will be done,” then God will ask them to do things which will be painful or very difficult. However, by surrendering they will enter into the most wonderful and beautiful thing in the Universe—the will of God! His will is “good, acceptable, and perfect.” (Romans 12:2).*
- *When we pray, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” our prayers are meaningful to see God’s will done on earth. The question is, “Why does God need us to pray for His will to be accomplished?”*
- *Since God is good, all-powerful, and all-knowing, why doesn’t He just do what He knows needs to be done?*

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV)

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

- *“let them have dominion over ... all the earth” – When God created man, He gave him authority over all the earth. Therefore the authority over the earth*

does not lie with God or Satan, but with man. God has given believers authority over Satan because of Jesus Christ's victory.

- *Although God gave man authority over the earth it does not mean that God created him with the power to fulfill all that he wishes.*
- *Power would be the ability and strength to carry out all that one desires to do. Man is a limited, created being, meant to rely on God's power and strength.*
- *When we pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," it is an act of agreement as we exercise our authority to see God's power released in our lives and in the circumstances around us.*
- *Throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation we see the theme of agreement.*
- *As we study the Bible, we find many examples of people having to choose to agree with the lies of Satan or the truth of God's Word.*
- *Each person has the choice of whose word he or she is going to agree with.*

Joshua 24:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

- *"choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve" – We have the authority to decide whose power will be manifest in our lives; either the flesh, the devil, or God.*
- *"But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." – Joshua chose to agree with God. As a result God used him mightily to fulfill His will in the nation of Israel and to vanquish the enemies of God and His people and to bring Israel into the Promise Land of God's purposes.*
- *The first time we see the importance of agreement is in Genesis, Chapter 3.*
- *In this story we see the spiritual battle which takes place as Adam and Eve must decide with whom they will agree.*

- *Adam and Eve initially chose to agree with Satan's words and gave him "building rights."*
- *We can see the importance of agreement and how that one choice changed the course of history for mankind with devastating consequences.*
- *For Satan to get Eve to turn away from God's Word and agree with his lie he had to distort the Word of God in Eve's mind.*
- *We must first have a strong confidence and clear understanding of God's Word. Then we must choose to agree with the truth by acting upon it.*
- *One way we act in agreement with God's Word is through prayer.*
- *We don't have the power in our words to change our lives, but we do have the authority by prayer and our words to choose whose power will be manifested in our lives and on the earth.*
- *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" is not a theological statement, but a request to God, as one having authority on the earth to see God's Kingdom and will established on the earth as it is already perfectly manifested in Heaven.*
- *God will not change us unless we come into agreement with Him.*
- *Jesus Christ's message, the message throughout the Bible, and the message of the gospel is about agreement, "repent and believe."*
- *Repent—stop agreeing with the sin nature and the lies of Satan.*
- *Believe—come into agreement with God and His Word.*
- *The power of agreeing with God is released in a number of ways in our lives. One of the most important ways is in prayer.*
- *Throughout history God has been looking for men and women to come into agreement with Him, so His kingdom would come and His will would be done on earth as it is done in Heaven.*

- *Those men and women who have come into agreement with the will of God have been used by God to bring forth His kingdom and have impacted the history of mankind for the glory of God.*

Genesis 22:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—

¹⁷blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

- *Abraham’s act of obedience and faith by offering up Isaac his son to God resulted “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.”*
- *Abraham’s willingness to agree with God’s will resulted in the Kingdom of Heaven being manifested on the earth and God’s plan of salvation being made manifest to all mankind.*

Galatians 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.

- *Abraham exercised his authority as Isaac’s father when he offered up Isaac his son. In reality, he opened the door so God could use His offspring to bring salvation to all mankind. It was through Isaac’s descendants that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born into the world.*
- *God was looking for a man who would be willing to submit his own will to the will of God, so God’s plan of salvation could be fulfilled.*
- *When Abraham gave Isaac to God, he in fact gave his offspring to God, so that God had the right to have His Son, Jesus Christ, incarnated as a man through the seed of Abraham to die for our sins. That is why God said, “because you have done this thing all the nations of the earth will be blessed.”*

Hebrews 2:16 (ESV)

¹⁶For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.

- *Why did Jesus Christ, the Son of God, have to be incarnated as a man to be the Saviour of all mankind? Why couldn't He have just appeared as God or in the form of an angel?*
- *Part of the reason Jesus had to come as man is because He had to die in our place for our sins. However, there is another very important reason.*
- *When Jesus Christ came as a human being, in the form of a descendant of Abraham, he could then exercise the authority God had given to man.*
- *Jesus Christ, as the Son of Man, came into full agreement with the will of God so that the Father's will could be done on earth as it is done in Heaven and so that His kingdom could come upon the earth.*
- *When Jesus Christ came as a man it was the first time in the history of mankind that a man had fully submitted and come into full agreement with the will of God. As a result, Satan was defeated and the way of salvation was opened to all mankind.*
- *Jesus Christ exercised full power as the Son of God and full authority as the Son of Man. The gates of Hell were not able to prevail and the results were the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ.*
- *Now through Jesus Christ we can agree with God to see His kingdom come and His will done.*

Luke 17:21 (ESV)

²¹nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

- *When the Jews were looking for the kingdom of God, Jesus told them that the kingdom of God was in their midst. Jesus Christ is the kingdom of God and He was in their midst, but they failed to recognize who He is.*

Luke 17:21 (NKJV)

²¹nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

- *Luke 17:21 can be translated from the Greek in a second way, "for indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."*

- *The moment we prayed and repented, received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and were born again, something happened that is marvelous beyond description.*
- *Jesus Christ entered and joined with our spirit in the new birth and the kingdom of God literally is within us!*
- *The moment we received Jesus Christ, the answer to our prayer, “Your kingdom come” was fulfilled in one aspect, in that His kingdom came down and is within us.*
- *When we received Jesus Christ and prayed, “Your will be done on earth as it is done in Heaven” it also was fulfilled because He saved us.*
- *Now we must continue to pray to see His will done in our lives and those around us.*
- *For our prayers to be effective we need to be grounded in the Word and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, because through the Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit, God will reveal His will to us so we can pray in agreement with His will. The Holy Spirit’s leading will always agree with God’s Word.*

1 John 5:14 (NKJV)

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

- *When our prayers line up with God’s will then we will see God’s will released in our lives and those around us.*
- *When we pray according to God’s will, our prayers will be like well-placed arrows hitting their intended target. They will bring forth eternal results.*
- *If we do not come into agreement with God’s will in prayer, we will not see God’s will done in our lives.*
- *Some Christians don’t seek to know God’s will. Others fail to pray into God’s will, even when it is revealed to them.*
- *Some Christians speak about freedom, but fail to agree with God in prayer until that freedom is fully manifest.*

- *Every revival, whether recorded in the Bible or in the history of the Church, was birthed through people waiting on God and continuing to pray, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” until it was fulfilled.*

Acts 1:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

- *The birth of the Church on the day of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on that day, the first revival meeting of the Church, were birthed in prayer. Jesus’ disciples spent ten days in prayer waiting in the Upper Room for the promise from the Father.*
- *The culmination of all the events that led up to the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world was not the sole result of Abraham’s faith and obedience. Many men and women who prayed and interceded during the centuries to see the will of God advance.*
- *We see in Scripture men and women who advanced the will of God, such as Moses, faithful Ruth, Boaz, David, and the prophets who all had a part to play in seeing the fulfillment of the birth of Jesus Christ.*

Luke 2:25–30 (NKJV)

²⁵And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.

²⁷So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law,

²⁸he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

²⁹“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;

³⁰For my eyes have seen Your salvation

Luke 2:36–38 (NKJV)

³⁶Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity;

³⁷and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

³⁸And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

- *In these verses we observe that the birth of Jesus Christ didn't simply happen. God revealed His will to godly men and women, such as Simeon and Anna, who dedicated their lives to pray and interceded in agreement with the will of God for the birth of the Messiah.*
- *How many untold others were also praying in agreement with the will of God to see the fulfillment of the prophecies about the Messiah? We don't know their names, but their names are well known in Heaven!*
- *With the birth of John the Baptist, who was a forerunner to prepare the way for the Messiah, we see a wonderful example of how persistent prayer results in God's kingdom coming and His will being fulfilled on earth as it is already in Heaven.*

Luke 1:5-25 (NKJV)

5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

- *Both Zacharias and Elizabeth walked righteously before God, but Elizabeth was barren.*
- *Sometimes we may experience apparent setbacks or disappointing circumstances even though we are seeking to walk with God and agree with His will. God will use these very circumstances to bring forth the glorious purposes of His will and kingdom if we are willing to persistently agree with Him in prayer.*

8 So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division,

9 according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

10 And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.

11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

- “while he was serving as priest before God” —*Whether things are easy or difficult we are to continue to serve the Lord and continue to trust in God’s faithfulness.*
- “his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.” *When we are seeking to serve God what may appear as random chance or an apparently insignificant encounter can actually be the hand of the Lord positioning us to be in the center of His will.*
- “Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.” - *During what appeared as another typical day of service to God turned out to be a life changing experience.*
- *We need to constantly cultivate an atmosphere of expectation in our hearts of what God is doing. This will keep us spiritually focused on Christ and in an attitude of prayer.*

12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.

- “when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.” - *When we have an encounter with God it can be exciting, but also overwhelming when we’re impacted by the full reality of God.*
- “But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard” – *Zacharias’ and Elizabeth’s prayers over many years were not in vain.*
- *Their prayers were in agreement with God’s will, they just didn’t understand God’s perfect timing.*

- *Their hope for a child faded as old age overtook them, but their faithfulness and trust in God never faded.*

Galatians 4:4 (NKJV)

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

- *For us to pray in agreement with God we must also realize that He has a very specific timetable.*
- *When we pray, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” we are not only submitting to God’s plan, but to His timetable. That is why Scripture exhorts us saying, “by faith and patience we inherit the promises.” (Hebrews 6:12).*
- *Elizabeth and Zacharias had to wait many years and endure much disappointment, however their years of sorrow were not in vain. God had a very specific purpose that would be used in His plan of salvation.*
- *Zacharias and Elizabeth bore the shame and sorrows of disappointment so God’s message could go forth. What a privilege!*
- *However, Zacharias and Elizabeth’s sacrifice resulted in God’s kingdom coming and His will being done on earth as it is done in Heaven.*

16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.

17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

- *John the Baptist’s ministry was like no other before, because he was preparing the way for the Messiah.*
- *Let us set our hearts to continually pray, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” and pray into those things God has put on our hearts or those needs we see waiting to be met.*
- *Let us redouble our prayer life both personally and corporately to pray for revival and the glory of God to be manifest in our midst to bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ so many will come and find salvation and freedom.*

