

HC Q&A 123– Praying for God’s Kingdom to Come

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Non-Christians work hard to build their own kingdom. They want to build their kingdom because they want power, influence, wealth, and adoration.

But Christians don’t focus on those things. You work to build Christ’s kingdom. You want people to join Christ’s kingdom. You want Christ’s power to spread.

You do this because you want Christ’s name to be hallowed (praised, honored, respected) everywhere!

To get the help to build God’s kingdom everywhere, you pray for 3 things: You want Christ to:

Rule you by his Word and Spirit

Build you into a strong church

Protect you from your enemies

These are our headings.

Our goals are: That you will be moved to pray for God’s kingdom to come and for help so you can build his kingdom.

123 Q. WHAT DOES THE SECOND REQUEST MEAN?

A. *Thy kingdom come* means, Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you. Keep your church strong, and add to it. Destroy the devil’s work; destroy every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your Word. Do this until your kingdom is so complete and perfect that in it you are all in all.

Rule You by His Word and Spirit

1. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying God will rule your heart by his Word and Spirit.

Many expect the “other person” to be used by God and they can be observers of that other person, but God wants to use you –you personally- for the building of his kingdom.

1Peter 2:4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being

built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

2. For God to rule you, you must submit to his Word and feast on his Sacraments.

God directs you to his Word to receive **his promises** by faith. This will **cause you to grow into better, stronger “stones”** in his kingdom.

He will mold you and make you after his will. God instructs you with truth.

You are never uncertain about what to do! Long for this nourishment like the psalmist.

Psalm 119:5 Oh, **that my ways were directed** to keep Your statutes!

The Psalmist doesn't think his “neighbor” needs God's instruction and direction more than he. He desires it for himself. **He knew that rules and punishment kept him safe!**

3. For God to rule you, you must submit to his Holy Spirit.

God's Spirit leads you in paths of righteousness; he purifies you. You become not only strong but clean!

(Impure steel is awful – like in the Indian space rocket program.)

Psalm 143: 10 **Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.**

Apostle Paul wanted the Ephesians to be sanctified by the Spirit to grow in grace.

Ephesians 3:14 For this reason **I bow my knees to the Father... 16** that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, **to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man...**

Without the Spirit of God, **you will crack under pressure.** When **people insult you,** you won't be brave. **When you children rebel,** you will say: **“I can't handle this anymore.”** Without him, you are in danger.

4. For God to rule you, you must fight against the Devil's attempt to rule you.

The Devil likes to tell you you are “free” **behind his barbed wire.** But the ransom has been paid and you were transferred to another kingdom. You have open green pastures.

Ephesians 2:2 in which you **once walked according to the course of**

this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...

Build You into A Strong Church

1. When you pray "Your kingdom come" you are praying God will make his church strong.

And remember, a strong church is not one with a big building, a big budget, big numbers, or big influence.

The multiplicity of the programs doesn't make a church strong.

The fame of the pastor doesn't make it a strong church.

A strong church is one where there is peace and prosperity...real peace...real prosperity...

Psalm 122: 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. 7 Peace be within your walls, **Prosperity within your palaces.**" 8 For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "**Peace be within you.**" 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God **I will seek your good.**

Jesus affirmed **his desire to build** a strong church, and **your duty is to pray and work for it.**

Matthew 16: 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**

2. For the church to be strong you must faithfully teach truth in spite of pressures to adjust to the changing times. (There are no magic beans to make the church grow.)

You must preach against sin and corruption. Preaching is the mortal enemy of the Devil.

So pray for our preaching before you come to church each Sunday!

2Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brethren, **pray for us, that the word of the**

Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,

The church must not be intimidated by aggression from the enemy but hold its **head and voice** up against sin—even if there is suffering or even if people leave the church. (If fact, you can expect people will leave!)

Ephesians 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, **that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel**, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; **that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

Only faithful teaching will cause the church to be strong.

3. For the church to be strong it must be bold to discipline.

Acts 4:29 -"Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that **with all boldness they may speak Your word...**

When there is sin in the church, it must be exposed and dealt with...even cut-off of the wicked from fellowship! You must withhold the Lord's special food from them. Sins kept in the church will destroy it.

Sin is like cancer. You have to cut it out or it will weaken and kill the whole body.

5. For the church to be strong you must be evangelistic and work for the conversion of the lost.

This is how the kingdom comes. You work for the one to whom you now have allegiance— Jesus.

Do you really pray that you will be more evangelistic to conquer the sinner?

Protect You from Your Enemies

1. When you pray "Your kingdom come" you are praying for the Lord to destroy the Devil's work.

God's kingdom on earth started with Adam but was corrupted when he sinned against God. But God remained King of the earth, **even though he was not acknowledged as such in the hearts of men.**

The destruction of the Devil's work started in Genesis 3. God promised (Adam believed) Christ would come to save man from his sins. By believing in a coming Savior, man was saved, and the Devil's rule in men's hearts was defeated. **The Devil's kingdom started to fall apart.**

Pray that this continues so we will be safe!

1John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that **He might destroy the works of the devil.**

For the church to be protected the Lord must destroy the Devil's people.

Psalm 68:1 Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him...

These are the people whom the Devil uses. Don't be afraid to pray for the Lord to destroy his enemies.

2. To pray for the destruction of God's enemies, who must be destroyed, you must identify them.

(Make sure they are not YOUR enemies.) Their destruction will cause great rejoicing in heaven. This might not be politically correct in our polite society, but this is what God wants.

Pacifism against mortal threats is cowardice.

Don't pray for God's rich blessings on his enemies. He didn't. Pray for their salvation.

John 17: 9 "I pray for them. **I do not pray for the world but for those whom** You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10 "And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

Romans 16:20 And the God of peace will **crush Satan under your feet shortly.** The **grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.** Amen.

But concurrent with the defeat of the enemies is the grace of God.

The Devil likes to get the Bible out from hotel rooms, from the courts, from schools, and from any public place.

The argument there can be neutrality when it comes to politics and social issues

is a lie from hell. You have to pray God will be loved and honored in every part of the world and every area of society.

3. The church must be protected till it is time for you to go to heaven.

Romans 8: 22 For we know that the **whole creation groans and labors** with birth pangs together until now. 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it...

Obviously, this will not be accomplished overnight. But you have God's promise. Keep praying without ceasing for him to rule in you, in his church, and throughout the world, to the end of the world.

1Corinthians 15: 28 **Now when all things are made subject to Him,**
then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things
under Him, that God may be all in all.

Conclusion:

Glory comes to God when his kingdom comes, **so pray and work** for his kingdom to come in all its fullness and power. Pray this consistently. You aren't here to build up your own kingdom, but your Savior's kingdom.

Beloved in Christ:

1. Pray God will guide your whole life, body and soul, by his Word and his Spirit and help you to work for the building of his kingdom.

2. Pray God will keep his church strong because you are natural rebels against God's order. Pray you will submit to his church and play your part in the building of the kingdom.

Yes, pray God will remove leaders in the church who refuse to preach the whole Bible, or who refuse to discipline, or who refuse to properly administer sacraments.

3. Pray for God's judgment on his enemies, even with knowing **how terrible their end will be.**

Pray God will remove or destroy leaders in the civil government and false religions who war against his people.

Pray God will destroy the work of the Devil, his demons, and his people – as they will attack the preaching of the Gospel and try to destroy the Word of God.

Pray that when they see his judgment, they will run to him for rescue.

Pray this way because the destruction of God's enemies is part of God's promise (and blessing) to you, the ones he saved by his Son's blood, and pray for these things because this is how his kingdom will come.

Finally, **God's kingdom is going to come in its fullness with or without you.** But God offers a full and free invitation for you to come into his kingdom and enjoy its benefits. Like all who lived before and died, they know the offer does not go on forever. May you grab hold of God's promises and enter into his eternal kingdom!