

Pray for a Revolution of Love

The Lord's Prayer – Part 7

Luke 11:2; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; November 12, 2017

There is no way that Christians, in a private capacity, can do so much to promote the work of God and advance the kingdom of Christ as by prayer. – Jonathan Edwards

What is prayer?

Prayer is asking.

If you know how to ask, you know how to pray. But our problem is that we don't know what to ask for.

- That's why we have the Lord's Prayer. (Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:9-13)
- That's why we have the intercession of the Spirit. (Romans 8:26-27)

What have we seen so far?

1. We need to ask God to teach us to pray. (Luke 11:1)
2. We should come to God as a child to a loving, able Father. (Luke 11:2, 11-13)
3. We should ask that we would love God supremely above all others. (Luke 11:2; James 4:1ff)

Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. – Matthew 6:10

1. Evil and suffering in the world should move us to pray.

To pray 'Your kingdom come' is to recognize that something is terribly wrong with this world and a better world is to be longed for.

One thing that is certain to all: there is much evil and suffering in this world.

Revelation 21 highlights the kind of world that we long for – one without evil and suffering. – Revelation 21:1-8

Have you ever struggled with the so-called 'imprecatory psalms'? To 'imprecate' is to ask for evil or judgement to fall on someone. These are the psalms that call on God to judge and destroy the wicked. – Psalm 94:2-4

To pray this way is to pray 'Your kingdom come!' because that is the way evil and suffering will be destroyed. Are you tired yet of all the evil and suffering in this world? Then you are ready to pray!

2. The gospel is good news that a change is coming.

To pray ‘Your kingdom come’ is to remember that Jesus announced the coming of the kingdom of God as the good news. Do you ever wonder if things are ever going to change?

In Matthew 13, we have a discussion of the kingdom of God that emphasizes the mystery of the kingdom as something that has already begun to change the world but is yet to be fulfilled in all its glory. We should rejoice always because God is at work to bring in His kingdom even though evil may even get stronger in the process! Are you trusting God for things too wonderful to understand even in the midst of this world full of evil and suffering?

3. We should pray for the revolution of love in the reception and return of Christ.

To pray ‘Your kingdom come’ is to ask God to sovereignly work for the salvation of souls and to grant the return of Christ so that Love reigns in our hearts and in His world: Pray that Love would reign supreme. Pray for a revolution of love that overthrows rival kingdoms and fully and forever establishes God’s rule in every heart and nation so that the will of God is perfectly done on earth like it is in heaven. God’s will of demand or command of perfect love (Romans 13:8) is what is in view here. People sin. Therefore, God’s will, in this sense, is not presently done on earth as it is in heaven.

There is a personal aspect to this prayer, ‘Your kingdom come’: We are to receive Jesus as our king who loves perfectly. – Romans 1:5; 12:1-2; John 18:37; 1 John 4:18

There is a global aspect to this prayer, ‘Your kingdom come’. – Revelation 11:15-19; 19:1-21; 1 Corinthians 13:9, 13

Why is this important for believers to pray daily?

If we are not praying this way, we may be looking to this world for what we need and desire and love it inappropriately or we might be caught up in our world and indifferent to the evil and suffering all around us.

- God is the Supreme Good:* We tend to see God as an indulgent Grandfather rather than as our Great King. – John 3:36
- Man is an Idol Worshiper:* We tend to operate as little kings who want others to submit to us. – James 4:1-2
- Jesus is the Double Cure:* We tend to see Jesus as coming to save us from the penalty of our sin but not the power and presence of sin. – 1 John 3:8
- Faith is Trust in the Promises:* We tend to think of trusting Jesus in terms of forgiveness but not in terms of the promise of a new heaven and new earth. – 2 Peter 3:10-13
- Love is the Obedience of Faith:* We tend to ignore the reality of a coming kingdom and the hope of it as a powerful incentive to love like Jesus loves. – Luke 12:32-33