

HC 123 – Praying for God’s Kingdom to Come

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **Those who are not Christians work hard to build their own little** – or big – kingdom. They are want **power, influence, adoration, and love**. Christians don’t focus on those things. **You work hard to build Christ’s kingdom** and you want **people to love Christ and be joined to his kingdom**. You focus on the glory of Christ. (And the truth is, people may **take away your power, try to negate your influence, condemn you, and hate you.**)

But as we build God’s kingdom, we pray. Specifically, we pray that God would:

Rule us by his Word and Spirit

Build us into a strong church

Protect us from our enemies

These are our headings.

Our goals are: That **you will know what it means to build Christ’s kingdom and be moved to pray for God’s help to build it.**

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 (反叛) against you and every conspiracy (阴谋) against your Word. Do this **until your kingdom is so complete** and perfect that in it you are all in all.

Rule us by his Word and Spirit

1. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying that God will rule in his people’s hearts by his Word and by his Spirit.

This is how the building of the kingdom starts. Many expect the “other person” to be used by God and that they can be observers, but God wants to use you – all of you- 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.

a. How does God rule by his Word (and so build his kingdom) ?

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 made you after his way!

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

The Psalmist asked God to guide (rule) him. He doesn’t think that his “neighbor” needs God’s instruction and direction more than he. He desires it for himself. **Further, he knows he needs God’s Word to know** what to do and what not to do. He needs to know how to live and how not to live.

b. How does God rule you by his Spirit (and so build his kingdom)?

God’s Spirit leads you in paths of righteousness (义) ; he purifies (洁净) you. You become not only strong but clean! (Impure steel is awful.)

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 (正直) .**

Apostle Paul prayed for this as well. He wanted the Ephesians to be sanctified (使成圣) 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...**

2. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying the Devil will no longer rule you.

If Christ is ruling you, you may not submit to (顺从) another king. The Devil told you that you were “free” **behind his barbed wire (铁丝网)**. But the ransom has been paid and you were transferred to another kingdom. You are now free in 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 (不顺服) , 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 (过犯) , made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

When Christ rules in you by his Word and Spirit and brings you in his kingdom, you are **no longer under the dominion 统治 of sin**. When Christ rules in you by his Word and Spirit, **benefits will flow to you**.

Mt 6:33 **“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

3. When you pray “Your kingdom come,” you are praying to be evangelistic (传道的).

This is how the kingdom comes. You work for the one to whom you now have allegiance (忠诚) – Jesus. He rules you. You work for him. **Do you really pray that you will be more evangelistic to conquer the sinner?**

Build us in a strong church

1. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying that God will keep his church strong.

The church is a natural outcome from personal spiritual strength and purity in the lives of Christians. A strong church (where God rules by his Word and Spirit) is not one with a big building or large numbers. A strong church is where the people are **growing together in grace through faithful teaching.**

Psalm 122: 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. 7 Peace be within your walls, **Prosperity (兴旺) 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 (阴间) shall not prevail (胜过) against it.**

And you pray for this. Luke wrote that prayer was a characteristic of the church.

Acts 2: 42 And **they continued steadfastly in** the apostles' doctrine (教训, 教义) and fellowship (交接, 团契), **in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.** 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity (简单, 质朴) of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

2. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying that the church might be bold in discipleship (门徒训练) and discipline (管教).

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 cutting-off the wicked...and withholding the Lord's special food from them. Sins kept in the church will destroy it.

3. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying for the church to be strong and preach against sin and corruption 败坏.

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 害怕 by aggression from the enemy. The church must hold its head and voice up against sin Ephesians 6:18 **praying always with all prayer and supplication (祈求) in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance (坚韧) 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 (使者) in chains; **that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

4. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying for peace in the nation and for godly leadership through conversion.

Only with this peace the church is free.

1Timothy 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions (代求), and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, **that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness** and reverence.

Protect us from our 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 and Eve but was corrupted when they sinned against God. But God remained King of the earth, even though he was not acknowledged in the hearts of men. But God always had some, though men sold themselves to their new father, Satan. **The destruction of the Devil’s work started in Genesis 3.** God promised (Adam and Eve 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 (被击败) more and more. **The Devil’s kingdom started to fall apart.** Pray that this continues!

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 (显现), that **He might destroy the works of the devil.**

2. When you pray “Your Kingdom Come” you are praying for the Lord will 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...**

To pray for the destruction of God's enemies, you must **identify them** – and specifically pray: Destroy your enemies, O God. **The tricksters (使诡计者) must be destroyed.** Their destruction will cause great rejoicing in heaven. This might not be politically correct (政治正确) in our pacifistic (和平主义的) and polite society, but this is what God wants. **Pacifism against mortal threats is cowardice (懦弱).**

Revelation 12: 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser (控告者) of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

You must not 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 (与...同时) the defeat of the enemies is the grace of God.

And yet, know that as **the church preaches the Gospel, the Devil will show his opposition (抵抗).** The Devil likes to get the Bible out from hotel rooms, from the courts, from schools, and from any public place. The argument that there can be neutrality when it comes to politics and social issues is a lie from hell. You have to pray that God will be loved and honored in every part of the world and every area of society.

3. When you pray "Your Kingdom come, you are praying that God will do these things till it is time for you to go to heaven.

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

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 for God's kingdom to come in all its fullness and power. And pray this consistently. Remember, you aren't here to build up your own kingdom, but you Savior's kingdom.

Beloved in Jesus Christ: **It is easy to pray for God's kingdom to come in a theoretical 理论性的 way, but**

1. Pray that God will guide your whole life, body and soul, by his Word and his Spirit. Don't think too much of your own abilities. You would be lost without God's Word and Spirit.

2. Pray that God will keep his church strong because you are natural rebels against God's order. Pray that you will submit to his church and play your part in the building of the kingdom. Yes, pray that 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 the sacraments (合宜地施行圣礼) .

3. Pray for God's judgment on his enemies, even with knowing how terrible their end will be. Pray that God will remove or destroy leaders in the civil government and false religions that war against his people. Pray that 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.

4. Pray this way because the destruction of God's enemies is part of God's promise (and blessing) to you, the one 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 that the offer does not go on forever. May you grab hold of God's promises and enter into his eternal kingdom!