



HOW DO WE PRAY?

AN 8 PART STUDY ON INTIMACY WITH GOD

Session 3: Your Kingdom Come

Aligning our lives with the mission and will of God

Introduction – When Prayer Becomes Surrender

The Lord's Prayer begins with relationship.

Our Father in heaven.

Then it moves into worship.

Holy is Your name.

Now the prayer turns in a new direction.

Jesus teaches us to pray:

“May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.”

This part of the prayer changes the focus completely.

Until now we have acknowledged **who God is**.

Now we begin aligning our lives with **what God is doing**.

This prayer is not only about asking God to act.

It is about **submitting ourselves to His purposes**.

When we pray these words, we are saying:

“God, let your rule be established — and let my life participate in it.”

Scripture Reading

Read the Lord's Prayer slowly.

Scripture: Matthew 6:9–13

⁹Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. ¹⁰May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today the food we need, ¹²and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. ¹³And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.

Notice the progression of the prayer:

Relationship

Worship

Submission

Participation

Prayer gradually moves us from **acknowledging God** to **joining His work**.



Key Idea

Praying “**Your Kingdom come, Your will be done**” is an act of surrender.

It aligns our lives with God's purposes and invites us to participate in what He is doing in the world.

Movement 1 – What Is the Kingdom of God?

The phrase “**Kingdom of God**” was central to Jesus’ teaching.

Scripture: Matthew 4:17

¹⁷From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

Scripture: Mark 1:15

¹⁵“The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”

The Kingdom of God is not primarily a physical place.

It is the **rule and reign of God**.

- Where repentance (living in agreement with what God says) becomes central...
- Where God's authority is recognized...
- Where God's justice and mercy are present...
- Where lives are restored and transformed...

There the Kingdom of God is breaking into the world.

Jesus demonstrated the Kingdom through His actions.

He healed the sick.

He forgave sinners.

He restored the broken.

He confronted injustice.

These actions showed what life looks like when God reigns.

When we pray “**Your Kingdom come,**” we are asking for God's reign to be made visible in our world.

Movement 2 – The Kingdom Is Already Here and Still Coming

The New Testament teaches that the Kingdom of God is both **present now** and **still coming**.

Jesus declared that the Kingdom had already arrived.



Scripture: Luke 17:20–21

²⁰ One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will the Kingdom of God come?” Jesus replied, “The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. ²¹ You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you.”

Yet Scripture also points toward a future moment when God's Kingdom will be fully established.

Scripture: Revelation 11:15

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: “The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.”

This means believers live between:

what God has already begun
and
what God will ultimately complete.

Praying for God's Kingdom is therefore a prayer of hope.

It acknowledges that the world is not yet as God intends it to be.

And it asks God to continue His work of restoration.

Movement 3 – What Does It Mean to Pray “Your Will Be Done”?

The prayer continues:

“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

These words represent one of the deepest acts of surrender in the Christian life.

Human beings naturally want life to unfold according to their own plans.

Yet Jesus teaches His followers to pray something very different.

Instead of asking God to align with our will, we ask to be aligned with **His will**.

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5–6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Scripture: Romans 12:1–2

And so, dear brothers and sisters I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ^[b] ² Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new



person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Submission to God's will means trusting that His wisdom and purposes are greater than our own.

Prayer becomes the place where our desires begin to change.

Movement 4 – Three Dimensions of Submission

Submission to God's will touches several areas of life.

This prayer invites us to surrender at least three important things.

1. Submitting Our Plans

We often approach life with our own goals and expectations.

Praying **“Your will be done”** means allowing God to redirect our plans when necessary.

Scripture: James 4:13–15

¹³ Look here, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.” ¹⁴ How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone. ¹⁵ What you ought to say is, “If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.”

We learn to say:

“If the Lord wills...”

2. Submitting Our Priorities

The Kingdom of God reshapes what matters most.

Jesus teaches His followers:

Scripture: Matthew 6:33

³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Seeking God's Kingdom means allowing His priorities to become our priorities.

3. Submitting Our Participation

Submission does not mean passive waiting.

It means becoming willing participants in God's work.

Praying for God's Kingdom means asking:

“Lord, how do you want to use me?”



Movement 5 – Prayer and Participation

Jesus gives a powerful example of this principle.

Scripture: Matthew 9:37–38

³⁷ He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. ³⁸ So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”

Jesus tells His followers:

“The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”

But the people praying that prayer are the same people Jesus sends.

In praying for workers, they become the workers.

The same principle applies when we pray:

“Your Kingdom come.”

We are not merely observing God's mission.

We are offering ourselves to be part of it.

Prayer prepares our hearts to say:

“Here I am, Lord.”

Movement 6 – Living as Citizens of the Kingdom

To pray for God's Kingdom also means living in ways that reflect it.

Jesus describes the character of Kingdom citizens.

Scripture: Matthew 5:3–10

³ “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

⁴ God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

⁶ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice for they will be satisfied.

⁷ God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

⁹ God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Kingdom life includes:



- humility
- mercy
- peacemaking
- righteousness
- compassion

When believers live in this way, they become visible signs of God's Kingdom in the world.

Prayer shapes our hearts so that we begin to desire what God desires.

Summary – Your Kingdom Come

When Jesus teaches us to pray **“Your Kingdom come, Your will be done,”** He invites us into a life of surrender and participation.

This prayer acknowledges that:

God's purposes are greater than our own.

The world is still being restored.

Believers are invited to participate in God's mission.

Prayer becomes the place where our lives align with God's will.

Reflection Questions

1. What do you think Jesus means by the Kingdom of God?
2. Why do you think this prayer comes before personal requests?
3. What areas of life are hardest for you to surrender to God's will?
4. How does prayer prepare us to participate in God's work?
5. Where might God already be working around you?

Personal Notes

(Use this space to record thoughts, questions, or insights.)

Practice for the Week

Begin your prayers this week with the words:

“Your Kingdom come. Your will be done.”



Then ask:

Where is God already at work around me?

How might I participate in what He is doing?

Look for opportunities to show:

- compassion
- service
- reconciliation
- encouragement

Prayer prepares the heart to join God's mission.

Closing Thought

Praying “**Your Kingdom come**” is not simply asking God to change the world.

It is offering ourselves to be part of that change.

We are saying:

“Lord, establish your rule here — and let my life serve your purposes.”

When we reach **Session 5**, the prayer will shift again to:

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

And that movement will introduce **dependence on God for provision**, which becomes another major spiritual formation theme.

