

How to Pray in Power Part 4: The Power of Anticipation in Prayer

September 10, 2023

Matthew 6:10

Matt. 6:10, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." From last week, "Hallowed," in verse 9 is a verb not an adjective. Our prayer to make God's name holy throughout the world where we proclaim His name and worth.

In verse 10 what is the kingdom Jesus is referring to? According to other passages in Matthew here are (7) Key Facts: 1) The Kingdom is coming: Matt.3:2, 4:17, both John the Baptist and Jesus proclaim the kingdom coming in urgency and immediately. 2) The Kingdom is from heaven: Matt. 22:2, not made by men but by God. 3) The Kingdom is of God: Matt. 12:28, 19:23-26, Jesus uses this term. It is a human king with a heavenly origin. 4) The Kingdom is spiritual and physical: Matt. 5 shows the attitudes and actions of a citizen of heaven. It is also physical. There is a resurrection, Matt. 22:23-33. Jesus is the King of the Jews, Matt. Ch. 27-28. 5) It will be a purified Kingdom: Matt. 13, the Parable of Wheat and Tares and Dragnet. 6) The Kingdom is prophesized in the OT: promises of land, kings to Abraham, that plan hasn't changed, Jesus is of the house of David, Matt. 1:1, and Abraham. 7) The Kingdom has not yet come: no king is ruling yet.

(4) Ways to Prayer Your kingdom come.

1. **Pray for the Success of the Gospel**: praying is a part of the work of the Gospel. Pray for the lost, use your gifts, work for the sake of the kingdom. As Paul requested in Col. 4:3 and 2 Thess. 3:1, pray for an opportunity for the Gospel to be preached.
2. **Pray for Vindication Against the Wicked**: There is a concern for God's holiness. Ps. 94:1-3, Rev. 6:9-11 call for God's vindication. The wicked speak arrogant words (94:4), have contempt for God's people (94:5-6), and no sense of accountability to God (94:7). God provides care (94:17), covenant love (94:18), consolation (94:19), certainty (94:20-23). Peter says our actions show a hastening of the Day of the Lord, 2 Pet. 3:11.
3. **Pray for the Rapture of the Church**: 1 Thess. 4:15-18, a pre-tribulation catching away or snatching of the believers. The word "harpazo" is a passive verb and it is done to you. This event is a meeting in the air. Other passages about the coming return of Christ: Rev. 3:10, 1 Thess. 5:9-10, 2 Thess. 2:1-2, 1 Cor. 15:51-54, 1 Jn. 3:2, Phil. 3:20, Tit. 2:13, 1 Cor. 1:7.
4. **Pray for the Coming of Christ**: John 14:2-3 gives us the place the Lord is taking us. Paul prayed for it to come, 1 Cor. 6:9-10 knowing who can enter and who can't (Gal. 5:21, Eph. 5:5). 1 Thess. 2:12, God calls us into His kingdom. 2 Tim. 4:1, Jesus the judge of all at His appearing and His kingdom. 2 Tim. 4:18, the Lord will deliver us from every evil work. We will be transferred into the kingdom of His Son, Col. 1:13. Other prayers simply put: Lord Jesus come quickly, Rev. 22:7, 10 (time is at hand), 12, 17, 20.

Last portion of V9, "Your will be done on earth as in heaven": God's perfect will is His decree. It is His secret will. It is His fore-ordained will. Sin is a part of the plan, by His decree, justification comes through the revelation of Jesus to us, Rom. 5:9. God's preceptive will is those commands we can obey as part of His plan to bring Him glory. Joseph tells us this in Gen. 50:20. Acts 2:23, Peter speaks of Christ who was crucified by lawless hands by the foreknowledge of God.

>>To deny God's perfect will is to deny that He is all-knowing, powerful and sovereign. To deny God's preceptive will is to ignore God's holiness and the weightiness of sinning against God. There is tension in these two truths. In heaven there is no tension, everybody, always obeys the Lord.

Further Discussion and Application

How can we labor for the success of the Gospel? What will the preaching and teaching of the Scriptures do for the sinner? What does it do for the saint? What commands from Romans 12 demonstrate our love for the Gospel and obedience to the Lord?

Praying for vindication against the wicked might be a new prayer for us or something we have seldom done. What does this prayer produce in us? Why is vengeance only ever properly placed into God's hands? Why does Scripture tell us Jesus is the judge on the Day of the Lord, 2 Tim. 4:1? Why is He the only righteous judge?

When all things are made new is an overwhelming subject. Being hard to fathom, why does the rapture of the church demonstrate God's love and concern for the bride of Christ? Why is this a great comfort to us?

What are we anticipating as a result of prayer? What have we laid before the Father and Son in prayer that only He could bring contentment for? What has the word of God, revealed by the Spirit, shown us and stirred in us? What results do we see when we wait patiently for the Lord to answer our prayers?

The coming of Christ will be a restoring of relationships, removing sin forever, for the church of Jesus. It will be bodies that are incorruptible and immortal. The best part to look forward to is always being with the Lord. What are we looking forward to in our soon coming King?

God's sovereignty over all things is absolute. How has God called us alongside Him to see His kingdom established on earth and within us?