

The Kingdom of God is Here
Part 3: On Earth as it is in Heaven

1. Review – “King-dom” –
 - a. “What would it be like if God ruled here?”
 - b. Bring the Kingdom to people in need by bringing the King.
2. Matthew 6:9-13 *"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come (arrive, appear), your will (purposes) be done (arise, happen, appear) on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'"*
 - a. This revolutionary prayer of Jesus has been reduced to a mere formality, a script to follow or a rote prayer to recite.
 - b. We may have prayed this prayer hundreds, maybe thousands of times (esp. if you were a Roman Catholic as I was and got told during confession to say 100 Our Fathers and 500 Hail Mary's as penance for your sins).
 - c. *"The Lord's Model Prayer provides the clearest instruction on how we are to bring the reality of His world into this one."* (Bill Johnson, When Heaven Invades Earth, http://www.greatcom.org/resources/heaven_invades/chap03/default.htm)
 - d. Jesus' model reveals the top **two priorities of prayer**:
 - i. **Intimacy with God that is expressed in worship**—"holy is Your name."
 1. Worship and intimacy are the top priority, it is why we were created and redeemed!
 2. It is one of the primary functions of prayer – not just to get our needs met, but to encounter God!
 - ii. To **bring His Kingdom to earth, establishing His dominion over the needs of mankind**—"Your Kingdom come."
 1. God limits His activity upon the earth to the prayers of men. It is why we pray! (More about this later)
3. **"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."**
 - a. **The focus for prayer is if it exists in heaven, it is to be released upon earth by His people.**
 - i. **Say "By His People" Are you His people? That means YOU and ME!**
 - b. When the believer prays according to the revealed will of God, their faith becomes specific and focused, biblical and powerful – hell itself cannot stop it!
 - i. That faith leads to an invasion of heaven into the earth, which causes the here and now to line up with reality in heaven. .
 1. We ask God to bring the reality of His kingdom to bear on the earth...to bear upon a person's life!
 - ii. The critics of this view sarcastically say, So I guess we're supposed to pray for streets of gold. No!
 1. But our streets should be known for the same purity and blessing as heaven—"Let our cattle bear without mishap and without loss, let there be no outcry in our streets!" (Ps. 144:14 NA)
 2. *Everything that happens here is supposed to be a shadow of heaven.*
 3. Quotation: Bill Johnson says, *"as disciples we are both citizens and ambassadors of another world. This world is our assignment, but not our home. Our purpose is eternal. The resources needed to*

complete the assignment are unlimited. The only restrictions are those between our ears.”

4. Every revelation that God gives us of heaven is to equip us with a prayer focus for earth.
 - a. So when you get an insight into the reality of heaven, it is to help you pray it down upon the earth! That’s why I think the book of Revelation is such a powerful book to equip us to pray! You can get so many insights into the reality of heaven!
 - b. How much of heaven has God purposed to become manifest here on earth?
 - i. No one knows for sure. But we do know that it’s more than we have now.
 - ii. And we know through the Scripture that it’s even more than has ever entered our minds. (1 Cor. 2:9-10 and Eph. 3:20-21)
 - c. That is the realm called The Kingdom of God.
 - d. God, in response to our cries, our prayers, brings His world into ours just as He did when His Son walked the earth!
 - i. That is our mission! It was Jesus’ mission. It has always been God’s plan and mission! It has not changed!
 - ii. (God changes the world inside of us so that he can change world outside of us).

5. *Give us today our daily bread*
 - a. (Here is a revelation of heaven): **Is anyone starving in heaven?** Of course not.
 - i. *This request is a practical application of how His dominion should be seen here on earth*—abundant supply.
 - ii. The abuses of a few in the area of prosperity does not excuse the abandonment of the promises of God to provide abundantly for His children. God delights in meeting the needs of His children!.
 - iii. Because there is complete and perfect provision in heaven, there must be the same here.
 - iv. **Heaven sets the standard for a Christian’s material world**—enough to satisfy the desires born of God and enough “for every good work.” (2 Cor. 9:8).
 - b. Our “legal” basis for provision comes from the heavenly model given to us in Christ Jesus: “*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*” (Phil. 4:19) Do you believe this?
 - i. According to what? His riches.
 - ii. Where? In glory.
 - iii. Heaven’s resources are to affect us here and now.

6. *“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”*
 - a. Is there any unforgiveness in heaven? No!
 - b. **Heaven provides the STANDARD for our relationships here on earth.**
 - i. “*And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.*”(Eph. 4:32—5:1)
 - ii. Our debts are forgiven in heaven, so we must forgive on earth!
 - iii. These verses make it quite clear that our model is Jesus Christ...the One ascended to the right hand of the Father...the One whose Kingdom we seek.
 - iv. Once again this prayer illustrates a practical way to pray for heaven’s reality to bring an effect on planet earth.

7. *“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”*
 - a. There is no temptation or sin in heaven. Neither is there any presence of evil.
 - b. *Keeping separate from evil is practical evidence of our coming under our King’s rule.*
 - i. This kind of praying is also important because it requires us to face our need for grace.
 - ii. It helps us to align our heart with heaven— to the posture of absolute dependency on God.
 - iii. **God’s Kingdom gives us the standard for the issues of the heart.**
 - iv. This prayer is actually a request for God not to promote us beyond what our character can handle. **Sometimes our anointing and gift are ready for increase of responsibility, but our character isn’t.** When promotion comes too soon the impact of our gift brings a notoriety that becomes the catalyst of our downfall.
 - c. The phrase deliver us from evil, as it is traditionally rendered, actually means, deliver us from the evil one.
 - i. A heart modeled after heaven has great success in spiritual warfare.
 - ii. That’s why it says in James. 4:7, *“Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”*

8. *“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* (Matthew 6:33)
 - a. This verse is not in the prayer model that Jesus gave in verses 9-13. But it is in the context of His overall message of the Kingdom in the Sermon on the Mount. In it He establishes the priority that encompasses all Christian values and objectives. Seek His Kingdom first!
 - b. Understanding this prayer helps us to **realize the intended goal of all prayer—that the Lordship of Jesus would be seen in all circumstances of life.**
 - i. As the Kingdom of God confronts sin, forgiveness is given and change comes to the nature that had only known how to sin.
 - ii. When His rule collides with disease, people are healed.
 - iii. When it runs into the demonized, they are set free.
 - iv. The Kingdom message’s nature provides salvation for the whole man— spirit, soul, and body. That is the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - c. It has always seemed to me that the phrase “and all these things shall be added to you” meant that if my priorities were correct He’d make sure I got what I needed.
 - i. After understanding the model prayer better, I’m not so sure that was His intent.
 - ii. He was saying that, if we seek His Kingdom first, we’ll find His Kingdom comes fully equipped.
 - iii. It brings with it His answer to our material and relational needs, and in our fight against evil, in our co-quest to destroy the works of the devil!

9. **Why Pray for the Kingdom to come?**
 - a. If these things were going to happen anyway, what would be the purpose of prayer?
 - b. God has given Himself a self-imposed restriction—to act in the affairs of man in response to prayer. God has chosen to work through our prayers and declarations.
 - c. We are His delegated authority on planet earth, and prayer is the vehicle that gives occasion for His invasion.
 - d. **Those who don’t pray allow darkness to continue ruling.**
 - i. This has huge implications for everything!

1. We wonder why evil, disease, sickness, poverty exist in the world and in our neighbors lives? Because we haven't brought the kingdom of God to bear upon them! God isn't going to "do" it until we ask/declare for Him to do so.
- ii. The enemy's greatest efforts at deceiving the Church are centered on the purpose and effect of prayer.
 1. Satan isn't bothered that God's word is fulfilled in heaven (it already is) just as long as it is never fulfilled in the earth! As long as Christians write off the inactivity of God toward sickness, lostness, as the sovereignty of God, the devil rules!
 2. Until we begin to believe and act upon that belief that God is waiting for His people to pray...nothing will change! Evil will continue to dominate in people's lives and in the world without us bringing the kingdom! **We must bring the kingdom! Say with me: We must bring the kingdom!**
- iii. The word God speaks, the will of God in heaven, cannot be fulfilled in the earth unless it is first believed. Satan's primary work is spreading "unbelief" among God's people!

10. Embassy Living and the Lord's Prayer

- a. *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."* Philippians 3:20
 - b. **We have the privilege of representing heaven in this world, so that we might bring a manifestation of heaven to this world.**
 - i. As ambassadors we live in one world while representing another.
 1. An embassy is the headquarters of an ambassador and his or her staff. It is actually considered a part of the nation it represents.
 2. So it is with the believer/ambassador. The Bible promises: "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you." (Joshua)
 - ii. Just as ambassadors of the United States have an income based on the standard of living of this nation regardless of what nation they serve in, so also ambassadors of the kingdom of God live according to the economy of heaven, though they are still on earth.
 1. All of our King's resources are at our disposal to carry out His will. That is how Jesus could speak of the carefree life!
 - iii. As an ambassador, the military of the Kingdom I represent is at my disposal to help me carry out the King's orders.
 1. If as a representative of a nation my life is threatened, all of my government's military might is prepared to do whatever necessary to protect and deliver me.
 2. So it is with the heaven's angelic host. They render service for those who would inherit salvation.
 3. The kingdom of God has come...will you DELIVER IT to people who need it the most? They are all around you. And me.
11. This weekend, 3 of us went to learn how to take the kingdom to the streets!