

The Lord's Prayer: Praying With Confidence *"Your Kingdom Come"*

Goal for this series on the Lord's Prayer: That we pray with confidence.

Your confidence can be built by understanding the Lord's Prayer...not just the content but the concepts. It helps us to know that we have been authorized by Jesus to command God to do some things at our request. Jesus has invited us to join God in His Kingdom work.

A good question to ask is ... What is the Kingdom?

The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. Psalm 103:19

The Kingdom of God is His rule over everything. This is more than the sovereignty of God. This is God's ability to work out His saving purposes in our world.

The New Testament describes the reality of the Kingdom of God as good news. In and through Jesus, God the King is establishing His saving rule. The coming of the Kingdom is a reversal of the Fall. The big three that the Kingdom of God seeks to defeat are: the devil, sin and death.

"The time has come, the Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news." Mark 1:15

Repent and believe. This is the entrance into the Kingdom.
Repent = change your mind. Believe in Jesus = trust Jesus.

Jesus is saying God's rule is now beginning to deal with satan, sin and death in a way that will be final. This was just the beginning. The Kingdom is now in that Christians are in it. The Kingdom is not yet in that God's grace is not yet perfectly displayed in this world. There are still those who do not submit to the rule of the King.

Through Jesus, The Kingdom of God has defeated satan.
Through Jesus, The Kingdom of God has defeated sin.
Through Jesus, The Kingdom of God has defeated death.

When you pray, "Your Kingdom come", you are not asking God for a change in politics or laws.
You are not asking God to make the Church more popular.
You are asking God to increase His rule in the lives of people.
You are asking God to save people and to sanctify people.

When you pray, "Your Kingdom come", you are engaged in intercessory prayer. You are praying for individuals and nations to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Jesus has authorized you to command God that He rule your life so fully that your desires are His desires.

Here's the hard part. To pray, "Your Kingdom come" with sincerity means you need to be willing to say, start with me.

You can't pray, "Your Kingdom come" with sincerity and be someone who fudges the truth. Or lives for yourself. Or ignores God's Word. Or carries around unrepentant anger.

The Kingdom of God includes God's rule in your life. The Kingdom of God is within you. (Luke 17:21)

Maybe you need to take a step back from the Lord's prayer and say,
"Do I really mean this? Do I really want this to happen?"

"Am I submitting to Jesus as my Lord and my King?"

Here are some ideas of what praying for God's Kingdom can look like when you pray for others.

- Have a short list of people you pray for on a regular basis
- Include on this list people who are far from God
- Pray for some things that are out of reach or seem impossible without God's intervention
- Ask God to build His Kingdom in and through you

Jesus has authorized you to command God to do things in response to your command.