



VIDEO DISCUSSION | WEEK 2

Sermon: January 18, 2026

PRAYING FOR THE KINGDOM: ALIGNING WITH HEAVEN (MATTHEW 6:9-13)

Kingdom ground is gained when our prayers align earth with heaven's priorities.

HOOK

MAIN POINT: *Kingdom ground is gained when our prayers align earth with heaven's priorities.*

Q: Have you ever been terrified during the landing portion of a flight? Why?

Airplanes require great skill to pilot. Large jetliners are controlled by a frightening number of instruments in the cockpit. Landing such a vessel necessitates that a pilot has critical knowledge, experience, precision, etc. The plane obviously needs to be aligned with the runway to land safely. The unique aspect of this dynamic is that there is a lot of variance on the part of the plane, but the runway doesn't move. Its alignment is stationary.

Like the airplane, it is critical that all our instruments (heart, mind, hands, eyes, etc.) are oriented in a way that we are aligned with the priorities of God and his Kingdom (the runway). God's character, promises, and plans are unchanging. We have a responsibility to align with him in all that we do. Thankfully, we have the living Word of God and the Holy Spirit to assist us in our piloting efforts.

BOOK

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Begin the video now, pause when prompted, then walk through the discussion points below

Talking Point 1: Prayer is submission to the will of God

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-10

The Lord's Prayer is one of the most memorized and recognized passages of the Bible. In Jesus' modelling of prayer, there are several themes that should appear in our own prayer life. One key theme that is seen particularly in verse 10 is that of submission to the will of God. Take just a moment to consider the real-world impact of God answering this prayer:

- Q: If we were to pray these words, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," what might we be truly asking God for?
- Q: What aspects of His Kingdom do we want here?
- Q: And if His will is done, how does that affect you and me? Do I simply yield my desires and plans to God, or do I need to take an active role in the will of God?

Scripture: Colossians 3:1-4; Philippians 4:6-9

Use these questions to connect these two passages from the great Apostle Paul back to our talking point on submission to the will of God:

- Q: Why does our new life in Christ necessitate a focus on heavenly things?
- Q: What is the connection between Philippians 4:6-8 and submitting to the will of God?

Resume the video

Talking Point 2: Prayer clears the ground before the work begins

Scripture: Nehemiah 1:4-11

Nehemiah was the focus of our last lesson, but we did not get a chance to analyze this prayer that came after he learned about the poor state of Jerusalem, but prior to him seeking the King's approval to go rebuild the wall.

- Q: What parts of Nehemiah's prayer stand out to you? In what way is he "clearing the ground before the work begins"?
- Q: Why is it so important that we dedicate time to prayer before our Gaining Ground project begins?
- Q: When it comes to earthly/material projects, how do we still ensure that we are setting our "minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."?

Resume the Video

Talking Point 3: Prayer depends on God's provision

Scripture: Matthew 6:11-13; Philippians 4:10-11

- Q: What can we learn from Paul's method of dependence on God?
- Q: How have you seen God's provision in your own life?
- Q: How does God's provision impact the way you choose to live or the way you choose to interact with others?



MAIN POINT: Kingdom ground is gained when our prayers align earth with heaven's priorities.

Spend a few minutes discussing the practical applications of today's passage:

- Q: To "align earth with heaven's priorities," how do we discern the priorities of God?
- Q: What are your prayer habits? Where are you lacking?
- Q: Where are you still trying to "pilot the plane" on your own rather than aligning with the priorities of God? What will it take for you to relinquish control?
- Q: Where does Gaining Ground fit within today's main point?

Spend time as a Group praying for our individual hearts, and the heart of our church, to align with the priorities of God. As a recommendation, schedule a time to prayer walk with your Group this week, either around the campus of the church, or in a local neighborhood that might be better reached as a result of Gaining Ground.