

MATTHEW 6.9-15

THIS IS HOW YOU SHOULD PRAY

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH . . .

Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it?”

MARK 4.35

“I have brought You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave me to do.”

JOHN 17.4

- ▶ The subjects of the Kingdom of God and the will of the Father dominated the teaching of Jesus; any understanding conveyed by the First Testament had been obscured and lost. It is for the revelation of these that Jesus directs us to pray in the second and third petitions.

HOW DOES THE KINGDOM COME?

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

MATTHEW 4.17

► Four dimensions of the Kingdom—

- Eschatological - the return of Christ and his eternal kingdom
- Discipleship - the influence of the kingdom in our hearts
- Cultural - living out the values of the kingdom as our witness
- Gospel - the proclamation of the Word and the gospel

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

MATTHEW 6.33 NLT

YOUR WILL BE DONE . . .

“My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may Your will be done.”

MATTHEW 26.42

- What is the will of God for which we should be praying? It is by definition the interests and determinations of the sovereign and eternal God, and these should (and must!) take priority over our own concerns. Jesus specifically addressed the will of God in two very understandable and yet critical aspects—both which have eternal consequence. By knowing these, we know what to pray and how to evaluate the accomplishment of the will of God in our lives.

YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

(1) The salvation of people, resulting in their resurrection and eternal life

“For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. For it is my Father’s will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day.”

JOHN 6.38-40

(2) The teaching of the kingdom, i.e. the Sermon on the Mount

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

MATTHEW 7.2



What do we pray for in the third petition?

Answer: In the third petition (which is, *Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*), acknowledging that by nature we and all men are not only utterly unable and unwilling to know and to do the will of God, but prone to rebel against his word, to repine and murmur against his providence, and wholly inclined to do the will of the flesh, and of the devil: we pray, that God would by his Spirit take away from ourselves and others all blindness, weakness, averseness, and perverseness of heart; and by his grace make us able and willing to know, do, and submit to his will in all things, with the like humility, cheerfulness, faithfulness, diligence, zeal, sincerity, and constancy, as the angels do in heaven.

Westminster Larger Catechism, *Question 192*

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it.

The world and all its people belong to Him.

PSALM 24.1

- ▶ God's great concern is all the earth; as Creator and Sustainer, it all belongs to Him. As the God who "so loved the world" and as the "Savior of the ends of the earth" His heart's desire is for all people to know Him, be right with Him, experience his peace and blessing. As His children, the same concerns and desires should characterize us.
- ▶ The heavenly realm is populated by many beings who carry out God's will, but none have been more faithful to the Father's purposes than the Son. As he lived for the glory of the Father's name (John 17.26), so must we.