

**If God is all-powerful, all-loving, and already knows what we need before we ask, then why pray?**

JAMES 5:16-18, 1 THESS 5:16-18, PHIL 4:6-7, JAMES 5:14-15, 1 JOHN 5:14-15, COL 4:2-4, EPH 6:18-20, 1 TIM 2:1-2, JAMES 1:5-7, HEB 4:16

**I Can't Change God or His Mind – BUT God Wants Me to Change His Course:**

*Because I Honor His Will, Because I Share in His Kingdom,  
Because He has Given Me Jurisdiction, AND I CAN INVITE HIM INTO IT.*

PSALM 115:16 NIV

The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but **the earth he has given to mankind.**

GENESIS 1:27-28; 2:15,19 NIV

...God created mankind **in his own image...** “**Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over...every living creature...**” God took the man (Adam) and put him in the Garden of Eden **to work it and take care of it...**whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

ROMANS 5:17-18 NLT

...**the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule...**but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.

COLOSSIANS 2:13-15 NIV

When you were dead in your sins...**God made you alive with Christ.** He forgave us all our sins, having **canceled the charge of our legal debt...**nailing it to the cross...having **disarmed the powers and authorities,** he made a public spectacle of them...

*AUTHORITIES* ἐξουσία (*exousia*) n.

*refers to power or ability to do something, also describes the right to exercise authority or rule*

“DISARMED THE AUTHORITIES”:

JESUS TOOK AWAY **SATAN’S RIGHT TO EXERCISE HIS RULE.** (SEE ALSO 1 JOHN 3:8)  
**SATAN IS NOW DOING BUSINESS WITHOUT A LICENSE!** SITTING ON A THRONE OF LIES!

**WOW! BE SURE TO READ EPHESIANS 1:18-2:8**

JOHN 1:12 NIV

to all who did **receive...**who **believed...**he gave the right to become **children of God...**

JOHN 3:3 NIV

Jesus replied, “...no one can see **the kingdom of God** unless they are **born again.**”

LUKE 22:29 NKJV

“...**I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me...**”

MATTHEW 16:19 NIV

**I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**”

MATTHEW 28:18-20 NIV

Then Jesus came to them and said, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**”<sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”

**JESUS WAS ALL ABOUT THE KINGDOM:**

- |                                    |                                                            |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>ANNOUNCED</b> THE KINGDOM    | MT 4:17 “...the kingdom of Heaven has come near...”        |
| 2. <b>DEMONSTRATED</b> THE KINGDOM | MT 12:28 “if I drive out demons...the kingdom has come”    |
| 3. <b>DESCRIBED</b> THE KINGDOM    | MT 13:33 “...the kingdom of heaven is like yeast...”       |
| 4. <b>PREVIEWED</b> THE KINGDOM    | LK 9:1-2 ...he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom...    |
| 5. <b>SECURED</b> THE KINGDOM      | HEB 2:9 Jesus...now crowned...because he suffered...       |
| 6. <b>OPENED</b> THE KINGDOM       | MT 6:9-10 “Our Father...your kingdom come...”              |
| 7. <b>ENTRUSTED</b> THE KINGDOM    | LK 22:29-30 “...I bestow upon you a kingdom...”            |
| 8. <b>COMMISSIONED</b> THE KINGDOM | MT 28 “All authority...has been given to me. Therefore go” |

## WHAT SHOULD STOP A GOOD DAD FROM HELPING HIS KIDS?

1. **THEY ARE CAPABLE.** THEY'LL NEVER DEVELOP IF HE STEPS IN TOO SOON. IT'S OFTEN BETTER FOR THEM IF HE DOESN'T HELP.
2. **THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE.** AUTHORITY FOR THE JOB INCLUDES THE DECISIONS FOR HOW TO HANDLE IT. WIN OR LOSE.
3. **THEY DON'T WANT HIS HELP.** EVEN IF THEY SAY THEY DO - DO THEIR ACTIONS SHOW OTHERWISE? HE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL HE'S WANTED.

## WHEN SHOULD A GOOD DAD GLADLY HELP HIS KIDS?

1. **THEY'VE CHOSEN TO INCLUDE HIM.** HE IS AUTHORIZED WHEN AND WHERE HE IS INVITED. HELPING TOO SOON IS CONTROLLING.
2. **THEY REALLY VALUE HIS HELP.** UNTIL THEY VALUE HIS HELP, HE'S RESTRICTED IN HOW TO ENGAGE. HELPING TOO SOON IS IRRITATING.
3. **THEY ARE PAST THEIR CAPABILITY.** UNTIL THEY GENUINELY NEED HIM, HIS HELP ISN'T LOVE. HELPING TOO SOON IS ENABLING.

### **PRAYER IS INVITING GOD INTO MY ASSIGNED JURISDICTION:**

*"FATHER, I NEED YOU AND WANT YOU. YOU HAVE GIVEN ME THIS HEART, THIS FAMILY, THESE FINANCES, THIS JOB, THESE ABILITIES, THIS MESSAGE, THIS HOME, THIS CHURCH, THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, THIS CITY AND THIS MISSION. I HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL, DILIGENT, AND OBEDIENT BUT I AM PAST MY CAPABILITY. I'M PAST MY WISDOM. I'M PAST MY OWN STRENGTH. I NEED YOUR SOLUTION, YOUR RESOURCES, YOUR POWER, YOUR GUIDANCE, AND YOUR PERSPECTIVE. HAVE YOUR WAY! DO WHAT ONLY YOU CAN DO!"*

### **Kingdom Now AND Later?**

Two things seem clear: 1. **There will be a LATER, future, glorious, ultimate fulfillment of the Kingdom,** here on earth, with Jesus in complete unrivaled authority, reigning in righteousness, and 2. **We are NOW able to begin glimpsing, embracing, reflecting, and experiencing that Kingdom's** power, values, and economy.

#### **KINGDOM LATER**

MATT 25:31-34	THE FULL INHERITANCE OF THE KINGDOM SEEMS TO BE AT THE END
1 COR 15:24-28	THERE'S A FULLY FORMED KINGDOM THE SON DELIVERS TO THE FATHER
ACTS 14:22	THE IMPLICATION IS THAT WE HAVEN'T YET FULLY ENTERED
REV 11:15/REV21-22	SEEMS TO BE KINGDOM FULFILLMENT AT THE END OF TIME

#### **KINGDOM NOW**

MATTHEW 11:12	JESUS DESCRIBES CURRENT KINGDOM PROGRESS AND INTERACTION
COLOSSIANS 1:13	WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN BROUGHT INTO THE KINGDOM! THIS IS PAST TENSE
JOHN 3:3	IF A PERSON IS BORN AGAIN, CAN THEY BEGIN TO SEE THE KINGDOM?
1 PETER 2:9	DESCRIBES PRESENT REALITY OF OUR NEW KINGDOM IDENTITY
MATTHEW 12:28	JESUS WORKS ARE KINGDOM PROOF, SENDS HIS FOLLOWERS TO DO SAME
LUKE 17:20-21	JESUS EMBODIES THE KINGDOM - HIS BODY, THE CHURCH, REFLECTS IT
ROMANS 14:17-18	WE SERVE GOD NOW W/KINGDOM VALUES, A PRESENT FORESHADOWING
1 COR 4:19-20	PAUL LABELS HIS APPROACH AS TYPICAL EVIDENCE OF THE KINGDOM
HEBREWS 12:28	WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF RECEIVING - THE INHERITING HAS BEGUN!
HEBREWS 4:16	WE APPROACH THE THRONE, IMPLYING INTERACTION IN KINGDOM ACTIVITY
ACTS 8:12	LEADERS PREACHED KINGDOM, LEADING TO KINGDOM SURRENDER
HEBREWS 2:9	KINGDOM VERBIAGE BASED ON THE CRUCIFIXION, NOT RETURN, OF JESUS
MATTHEW 6:9-10	JESUS TAUGHT US TO PRAY FOR OUR DAILY LIFE & THE KINGDOM TO COME
LUKE 22:29-30	JESUS SPEAKS PASSING KINGDOM RESPONSIBILITY TO HIS FOLLOWERS
MATTHEW 28:18-19	JESUS USES KINGDOM JARGON TO SEND FOLLOWERS INTO THEIR MISSION

**READ FROM OTHERS** THAT REFLECT SOME OF THESE SAME CONVICTIONS:

*Irenaeus, Athanasius of Alexandria, Oscar Cullmann, George Eldon Ladd*