

“Prayer as Kingdom Partnership”

January 8, 2023

INTRODUCTION

What we are most passionate about is what we will pray about.

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray the FIRST things that He taught to them to *pray* about is what He wants us to be most *passionate* about.

That is, that His name be ADORED and His Kingdom ADVANCED.

Pray His Name be ADORED

In the Matthew 6 version of this prayer, Jesus says in verse 9 and following:

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

*“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name...”*

Related passages: Psalm 95:1-3; Psalm 145:21; Psalm 148; Psalm 150:6

Pray His Kingdom be ADVANCED

¹⁰ *Your kingdom come,*

*Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

What does it mean for God’s Kingdom to come? First of all, when we speak about God’s Kingdom, we are speaking of His rule or reign. Dallas Willard once described it this way, “It’s where what God wants done, gets done.” Thus, the kingdom of Satan could be described as “It’s where what Satan wants done, gets done.” And the Kingdom of ME might be described as “It’s where what I want done, gets done”

But COME! Your Kingdom. BE DONE! Your will.

The Kingdom of God at a Glance (Mark 1:14-39)

Why Do We Need to Pray?

The New Testament makes it clear that there is a rival kingdom—a rival will—in the here and now—a kingdom of darkness, not of light—under the law of sin and led by Satan.

- 3x's Jesus refers to Satan as the prince of this world
- Satan himself declared that he can give the authority and glory of the nations to whomever he chooses because it is his to give (Luke 4)
- The apostles believed that the entire world is under the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19). And that Satan is the "god of this age" (2 Cor 4:4) and the "ruler of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2)
- Jesus described His earthly ministry of deliverance as being able to tie up the strongman in order to steal what is in the strong man's possessions—that is people (Mark 3:27)
- Jesus described the unbelieving religious leaders as children of the devil, not of God (John 8:44)
- The Gospel writers described people's diseases at times as a "mastix"—or "scourging" or "whipping" (Mark 5:34)

Praying the Will of God (1 John 5:14)

Praying Through Pain

CONCLUSION

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. What do you find yourself praying about often and passionately?
2. How often do you pray that God's name be worshiped in the earth? How often do you pray that God's Kingdom would COME into specific situations? How often do you pray that God's will would be DONE in specific situations?
3. Dallas Willard described the Kingdom of God as "God in action". How does it impact you that Jesus invited/called us to participate in what He is doing in the earth to rescue people from the power of sin, the rule of Satan, and the tyranny of their own wills?
4. In what way is praying the will of God an act of war?
5. What do we need to be careful of when praying in our pain?