

The Power Of Prayer

Matthew 6:13

Years ago, a sociologist accompanied a group of mountain climbers on an expedition. Among other things, he observed a distinct correlation between cloud cover and contentment. When there was no cloud cover and the peak was in view, the climbers were energetic and cooperative, but when the gray clouds eclipsed the view of the mountaintop, the climbers were sullen and selfish.

The same thing happens to us. As long as our eyes are on His majesty, there is a bounce in our step, but let our eyes focus on the dirt beneath us, and we will grumble about every rock and crevice we have to cross.

Many times, we don't expect God to answer our prayers. What is the ground of our victory? God Himself, who has absolute authority. His kingdom cannot fail! He rules on earth and heaven.

“For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever, Amen.” Matthew 6:13

David prayed, *“Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty, for all that is in the heaven and the earth is thine, thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.”* 1 Chronicles 29:11

In a world so filled with trials, troubles and problems, it is a comfort to serve a God Who is worthy of all the praise and glory we can give Him. It is a comfort to find someone and something to rejoice about.

1. Renounce Our Authority.

“For thine is the kingdom.” Matthew 6:13

• He Is Sovereign.

When we say that God is sovereign it means ***“independent and holding complete power.”***

It comes to English from the Latin language where it meant ***“over or above.”*** That is what God is! He is ***“over and above”*** this world.

As we look around this world, it may look like Satan and the forces of evil are running the show. In fact, what we see is a visible, physical kingdom, dominated by fallen men and a creature called the devil.

What we cannot see is that there is also an invisible, spiritual kingdom dominated by an all-powerful God. A God Who is working out a perfect, eternal plan in this world.

“And put everything under their feet. In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them.” Hebrews 2:8

“Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?” Isaiah 43:13

“Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure...Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.’” Isaiah 46:10-11

“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.” Ephesians 1:11

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.” Psalm 45:6

“Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.” Psalm 145:13

When this prayer was taught, Caesar was ruling the world, with all of his royalty, his rings and robes, his power and all the pomp and circumstance of a great court. The Roman Empire stretched from the British Isles, all the way across the Mediterranean, and as far away as India. Caesar had power over every man, woman and child in the known world. But at the time he was reigning, in a little town called Bethlehem, in a stable, a man was born. Those two kingdoms paralleled: Caesar’s and Christ’s - the palace and the stable. And one day they came into an open conflict, at the conclusion of which the stable emerged victorious. **“Thine, Oh, Lord, is the kingdom!”**

When we pray this, as did the early Christians, not bowing to Caesar, but looking to God, they prayed, **“THINE is the kingdom, not Caesar’s.”**

“The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.’” Revelation 11:15

• He Is Supreme.

God rules and reigns because it is His right to do so. When man was created and placed in Eden, he was given dominion over this world.

“Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’” Genesis 1:26-28

When man sinned, he gave that dominion away. Satan, not man, is the god of this world.

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” 2 Corinthians 4:4

When Jesus Christ came into this world, died on the cross and rose from the dead, He redeemed everything the first Adam had given away. He paid the price and He stripped that evil pretender Satan of his dreams of ruling the universe. Our God, not Satan, is the Supreme being in the universe. Since that is true, He alone deserves our worship, our love, our devotion, and our allegiance. When we pray this prayer, we acknowledge His supremacy and our own subjection to Him as our Sovereign Lord. We are acknowledging that He is our King, and we are His servants. This implies that we are His and His alone.

Somehow we still use the word **“My”** to describe the things we claim to possess. **“My money, my job, my life, my house, my family, my church, my, my, my.”**

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.” 1 Corinthians 15:10

2. Rest In His Strength.

“And the power...” Matthew 6:13

- **His Power Is Enormous.**

He has the power to control things. We do not serve an anemic, weak God. We serve a God of power and ability! He can do anything He pleases to do because He holds all power. He is Almighty God!

“He is coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30

One word for power carries the sense of ability or force, coming from the same root as our English word, “dynamic,” “dynamo” or even “dynamite.” The second has more the sense of privilege or authority, and is used for example in the Lord’s statement about His “power to forgive sins” and at the end of Matthew where He said “all power is given to Me in heaven and on earth.” The difference is important because, in one case it clearly refers to a function of truth or wisdom, and in the other a function of goodness or love. The authority for any action comes from good, but the force or ability of good is exercised only through truth.

“Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.” Genesis 18:14

“I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.” Job 42:2

“One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard: ‘Power belongs to you, God.’” Psalms 62:11
“Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.” Jeremiah 32:17

“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’” Matthew 19:26

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” Ephesians 3:20

- **His Power Is Eternal.**

We are told that all these things, His kingdom, His power and His glory are **“for ever.”** Another of the great attributes of our God is the fact that He is **“immutable.”** This word means **“unchanging or unable to change.”**

“I the Lord do not change.” Malachi 3:6

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

His power today is the same as it ever has been! What confidence that should give us when we go to Him in prayer! All God has ever been, He still is, and He will continue to be!

3. Rejoice In His Goodness.

Certain groups may not acknowledge God’s existence, but His will is going to be done on earth. He is a sovereign, all-knowing, all-powerful God that is not worried about public polls or opinions. He is our shield in times of trouble, our healer, our provider, our shepherd. He knows the stars by name, and He can provide for our every need.

God will have the last word in your life. Are you serving Him like you should? If you are looking for unlimited power that can shake heaven and earth, look no further than Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords. “For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

“*And the glory.*” Matthew 6:13

- **He Alone Deserves Glory.**

Everything God is doing as He exercises His preeminence and His power is for His glory.

“*Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.*” Psalms 8:1

He does what He does so that He might be honored by His creation. He does what He does so that men might be drawn before Him in worship. He alone is glorious, and He alone deserves glory!

As we pass through this life, we will often try to accumulate glory for ourselves. However, God alone deserves all the glory.

“*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*” 1 Corinthians 10:31

“*When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.*” James 4:3

Perhaps one reason we do not see more people saved is because we do not desire that for His glory alone. Perhaps one reason revival tarries in our day is because we do not seek it for His glory alone.

Our God is a jealous God, and He will not share His glory with another.

“*Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.*” Exodus 34:14

“*I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.*” Isaiah 42:8

Not only does our Father have the authority and the ability to answer our prayers, but He also has the eagerness to answer them as well. He wants to move in His power in our lives, our homes, our churches, and our world for His glory, but He will only do so when He and He alone receives all the glory!

“*Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*” John 17:24

- **He Alone Determines Glory.**

We are told that His kingdom, His power and His glory are “*for ever.*” This is a great promise that we can rejoice in. He will ever possess the kingdom, the power and the glory.

Only those who know Him in a grace relationship will be permitted to enter into His glorious kingdom at the end of the way.

Jesus answered, “*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*” John 14:6

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

This great Model Prayer closes with the word “*Amen*.” What does “*Amen*” mean? A lot of us say it, but we really never stop to think about how we use it. Here are some interesting facts about the word “*Amen*.”

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever, Amen.” 1 Timothy 1:17

It's the last word in the Bible.

Jesus' first word in John 1:51 was “*Amen*.”

Among the last words in the life of Jesus while He was on the cross was the word “*Amen*.” – Luke 23:43

“*Amen*” is found 25 times in the Old Testament

“*Amen*” is found 125 times in the New Testament.

So when you see the word, “*Amen*,” it means, “*Yes*,” in Greek and Aramaic, or “*True*,” or, “*Let it be so*.”

“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God.” 2 Corinthians 1:20

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” Romans 8:17

Jude finished his brief letter by ascribing all honor to the Lord:

“To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” Jude 25

“O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.” Psalm 34:3

“Magnify” is a wonderful verb to describe what we do in worship. When you magnify an object, you enlarge it so that you can understand it. When we magnify God, we do the same. We enlarge our awareness of Him so we can understand Him more. This is exactly what happens in a life of worship—we take our mind off ourselves and set it on God. The emphasis is on Him. “Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.”

This is exactly the purpose of this final phrase in the Lord's Prayer. These words magnify the character of God. I love the way this phrase is translated in The Message:

“You're in charge! You can do anything you want! You're ablaze in beauty!”