

Legit

Authentic faith in an age of pretension
■ Matthew 6 ■

Thy Kingdom Come...

Matthew 6:10

"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven"

As we pray the Model Prayer of Jesus, these two phrases are meant to be taken together. "Thy kingdom come" is a parallel to "Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." To say one is to say the other. God's Kingdom is where his will is done. When we pray this, we are praying for our families, our friends, our community, even the whole world to submit to God's will. At the very same time, we are offering an intensely personal commitment. We are plainly saying to God that our own lives are surrendered to his will. Notice the order, submission precedes petition for daily needs. Today, we see that Jesus is teaching us how to pray and ultimately, how to live.

1) When you pray for God's will, you are making a profound commitment.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will. — Romans 12:1-2

The Covenant Prayer of John Wesley (1703–1791)

I am no longer my own, but Thine.
Put me to what Thou wilt, rank me with whom Thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed for Thee or laid aside for Thee,
exalted for Thee or brought low for Thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to Thy pleasure
and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit,
Thou art mine, and I am thine.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

"My will wants to go its own way, but being in the kingdom means my will is bent to God's will. It means repentance." — R. Kent Hughes

2) When you pray for God's will, you get a new agenda.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. — Matthew 5:6

"Seek blessedness before righteousness, and you will have neither; Seek righteousness before blessedness, and you will have both." — Timothy Keller

3) When you pray, are you fighting God or seeking God?

See the story of Jacob in Genesis 32:22-32

"The end of all God's promises is to draw us to do his will. The promises are loadstones to obedience." — Thomas Watson