

# Praying the Lord's Prayer

Today, we come to the final topic of Jesus' model prayer:

## **Topic 7 – For yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, amen!!!**

There is some doubt that this postscript was spoken by Jesus, but it appeared very early in the post-apostolic era (70-135 AD) in both some early copies of Matthew, and in the Didache, understood to be compilation of the teachings of the Apostles not long after the end of the first century. Whatever its origin, it rounds off the Lord's Prayer in a powerfully complete way, that is totally in line with what Jesus had already said.

We began with praise and thanksgiving for who God is, and we end with praise and thanksgiving for what God will do, with the confident expectation of God acting on our behalf in response to our faith and obedience in coming to him in prayer.

### **i. For yours is the kingdom**

Our thanksgiving here refers to our Father's right to reign in both the world and our hearts through his Son and his Spirit simply because of who he is!!!

Topic 3 of Jesus' prayer was our request to our Father that his kingdom come, which basically means that we his followers are learning to surrender to his kingdom reign and his will being increasingly done here on earth in our hearts and actions, just as is happening at God's throne.

Let's cast our minds back to when Jesus launched his public ministry in Mark 1:14-15, he began by preaching about God's good news regarding his kingdom:

*<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!'*  
(Mark 1:14-15)

Jesus began re-establishing the kingdom of God on earth through his personal ministry as God the Son, which he has now handed to the church, his body of believers here on earth, to continue that ministry of manifesting his kingdom under his direction. That, of course, will not be completed until he returns as King of kings, when he will have put all enemies under his feet, including death (1Cor 15:20-26), and ushers in the new heaven and new earth.

Paul sheds some further light on this for us:

*<sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. <sup>24</sup> Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put*

*all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*  
(1Cor 15:20-26)

The Apostle John paints an amazing picture of what this involves for us – what a future!!!

*Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death" or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' <sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'*  
(Rev 21:1-5)

This is what God has been working toward from before the creation of the world!!!

## **ii. And the power**

Inherent within the kingdom of God resides the power that brought about the universe and all that it contains. This power belongs to God, not to us. This is God's power to effectively rule his universe and our lives in his sovereignty.

The Greek word used here is *dunamis* – power; the ability to and capacity perform!!!

*<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. (Lu 1:35)*

But the amazing grace of God is revealed to us in that he graciously shares his power with us in ways that we are able to learn to partner with him with under his wisdom and guidance.

## **iii. And the glory**

The glory of God is really beyond our capacity to comprehend – perhaps it is best thought of as the bursting out of all his perfections in stunning brilliance.

Jesus prayed to his Father in John 17:

*<sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*  
(Jn 17:4-5)

Jude pulls it all together revealing the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – all working together in this amazing gift of life and salvation, climaxing in the fulfilment that God has always planned for his redeemed creation.

*<sup>20</sup> But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.... <sup>24</sup> To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great*

*joy – <sup>25</sup> to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen.*

(Jude 20-21 & 24-25)

**iv. Forever, Amen!!!**

He alone has the authority and the ability to bring it to pass, from Creation to New Creation, so we give him the glory that he alone deserves. Our journey into eternity holds a breathtakingly amazing future that we simply can have no comprehension of as yet!!!