

## Praying the Lord's Prayer

Recap – So far, we have covered the first two topics of this 'model prayer' that Jesus gave us:

(1) 'Our Father in Heaven', focussing on our Source of life through both creation and redemption, and the One to whom we address our prayers in Jesus' name, and (2) 'Hallowed be your Name', through which we reverence our Father, and give him the honour that he is worthy of by acknowledging his character qualities revealed in the names he has given to himself, and applying them appropriately to our own lives.

Today, we come to the very practical applications that relate to God's Mission – his purpose for creating in the first place, and the role that we are to play in partnering with God in the outworking of his mission – his kingdom purposes.

This is the vital application of prayer sitting within the command post of God's communications network within his Kingdom. It is the supply line that releases God's presence and wisdom within us, empowering us to live God-honouring lives that reveal and demonstrate the 'good news' about who Jesus is and his invitation to all who are willing to respond to him.

### Topic 3 – Your Kingdom Come, Your Will be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven

This is a double-barrel request with two quite specific elements to it:

*Your kingdom come* is an active imperative – this is our active participation in God's rule over our lives today! The kingdom came with Jesus in his incarnation; it came into our lives when we said yes to Jesus; and the kingdom will fully come at Jesus' second coming.

*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven* is a passive imperative – we can have an influence within our sphere of activity, but it's main focus is on the future when Jesus returns to consummate his kingdom in the new heaven and new earth, which we have not control over.

So, how are we to understand this kingdom that Jesus is referring to?

Typically, we understand the word 'kingdom' to refer primarily to the geographical area or realm over which a king rules – i.e. 'king-dom', meaning 'the king's domain'.

This is not, however, the primary meaning behind the Greek word for kingdom – *basileia*. This means 'to reign as king'; 'to reign with kingly authority'. But secondarily, it also speaks about the realm over which he exercises his kingly authority – the *reign* and the *realm*.

So, God's Kingdom is about both his authority to reign within our lives here and now, and to rule over the entire world, bringing everything under his direct will, which will have its complete fulfilment in the new heaven and earth.

When Jesus said in Mat 6:33 – *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well*, he was not talking about a 'place' we have to find. Rather, it is our becoming aware of his 'kingship' in the relationship that we have entered into with Christ. This is all about us learning to live our lives under God's leadership and direction – doing his will daily!!!

So, how are we to apply this reality in our day-to-day lives????

It is all about acknowledging the Lordship of Jesus over our lives each day, administered through the practical priorities of the Holy Spirit in agreement with his Word, relating to specific areas of our daily lives –

Myself –

What can I thank God for today?

What external challenges will I be facing today that I need to pray into?

What internal struggles am I likely to face that I need God's wisdom and strength for?

Do I need to repent of anything, and with God's help, get my thinking right about it?

My family –

Thank God for each member of my family

Pray God's protection and blessing over my immediate family members

What specific needs are there among my family members?

Are there specific things I need to do for particular family members?

My Neighbours –

What needs do my neighbours have that I can be praying for?

How well do I know them?

Do they need God's saving grace?

My employment –

What do I need to be praying about for my job, my boss (if appropriate), my workmates?

My church –

Pray for wisdom for our church leaders

Pray for the various ministries of the church – Sunday services, small groups,  
community breakfast, pastoral care.

Pray for wisdom and direction for the church and the search for our new minister.

My community and my nation –

Pray for the needs of Chelsea and our surrounding region in which we are planted.

Pray for wisdom for our Federal, State, and Local governments

Pray for wisdom for our Prime Minister, our Premier, and our local members

Pray for our Police and Emergency Services personnel

God's Kingdom is about both his authority to reign within our lives here and now, and to rule over the entire world, bringing everything under his direct will, which will have its complete fulfilment in the new heaven and earth.

It is about a relationship of trust with God rather than a 'place' we are trying to reach!!!