

The Lord's Prayer (Week 3)

This week we deliberately look at the longer version of the Lord's Prayer as given in Matthew 6, verses 9 – 13. In the version according to Luke, (chapter 11), the petition we look at this week is often omitted. However, many of the ancient Greek manuscripts do include it.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6, v.10)

As we pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God, we have to pray “Your will be done”! In praying this week's petition we are reaffirming our desire to see the Kingdom of God come in all its fullness. (see Isaiah 11, verses 1 – 11 and Revelation 21). A common theme throughout Scripture is a vision of the Kingdom of the Lord God coming in all its fullness.

Today we live in a time of “already but not yet”. A contradiction in terms but a spiritual reality. The teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ in His ministry on earth was that He was introducing the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 4, v.17 and 23.) More than that, by His very presence as “the Holy One of God” (Luke 4, v. 34) He made the Kingdom of God a present reality. (Matthew 12, v.28). We too, like the apostle Paul are called to preach the Kingdom of God and teach about the Lord Jesus Christ and the salvation that He came to bring.

So then, how do we discern “The will of God”?

For the People of God in the Old Testament, the keeping of the Law was to do the will of God. Read Luke chapter 10, verses 25 – 28. Jesus Himself said that to keep the Commandments would ensure eternal life. The problem is who can truly keep the Commandments – all of them, all the time? As Paul said “*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3, v. 23).

As the New Testament People of God, we look to the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross as redeeming us from the inevitable death; brought about by our breaking the “will of God” as revealed in the Law. The righteousness of God is given to us through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. (see Romans 3, v. 22)

“*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come*” (2 Corinthians 5, v.17) As newborn children of God, we pray to our heavenly Father, seeking His Will for us and for our world.

A key text:- read Romans chapter 8, verses 18 - 27

“... *we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience*” Romans 8, v.25. As the children of God, seeking to do His will and looking for the coming of His Kingdom, we need the assurance of the Holy Spirit; helping us in our praying, interceding for us “***according to the will of God***”. That is the key!

In our praying, how often do we seek the help of the Holy Spirit for guidance as to what we should ask? So many times I find that I do not know what to ask for in a difficult situation. If we are praying “Your Kingdom come” then our constant prayer must be “Your will be done”. We are dependent on the Holy Spirit of God to lead us in praying aright for the coming of that Kingdom.

*Spirit Divine attend our prayers,
and make this house Thy home;
Descend with all gracious powers;
O come great Spirit, come.*

Andrew Reed (1829)

Terry Brighton 29 / 7 / 2020

If, at any-time you have a question to ask, please feel free to phone me!