

## **THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, THE GLORY**

**Matthew 6:9-13; Revelation 5:6-14**

**Intr.:** This morning I am wrapping up a series of messages I have been sharing with you based on the Lord's Prayer. I began by focusing on the context of the Lord's Prayer in both Luke 11 and Matthew 6. In the context, Jesus gave some additional instructions about prayer: avoid hypocritical praying, avoid pagan prayer practices, pray persistently, pray passionately, and remember to whom you are praying. Then we saw how Jesus instructs us to address God as our Father in Heaven and to pray that His name be treated as holy. After that we are told to pray that God's' kingdom would come and His will would be done on earth as it is in heaven. Next we are to pray for our daily bread recognizing our daily dependence upon God. Following that we are to ask for forgiveness for our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Jesus doesn't want any sin in our lives to interfere with our relationship to God and He wants us to have a forgiving spirit. Then we are to pray for God's protection, that He would lead us away from temptation and deliver us from the evil one.

The final part of the Lord's Prayer, which I will focus on today, is called the doxology and consists of the phrase "For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen."

**Main Thought:** We can develop more powerful prayer lives by incorporating the components of the Lord's Prayer.

### 1. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

1) The final part of the Lord's Prayer is not found in the earliest Greek manuscripts. If you look carefully you will note that these words are not found in the text of the New International Version. It is in a footnote at the bottom of the

page along with the explanation that it is found in "some late manuscripts." It is in the text of the King James Version, however. The New American Standard Bible keeps it in the text but puts brackets around it and includes a footnote that also says these words were not found in early manuscripts. The reason for this discrepancy is the fact that the KJV was translated from the best Greek Manuscripts that were available in 1611 AD. Since that time, older Greek Manuscripts of the NT have been found which do not include the doxology as part of the Lord's Prayer which has led Bible scholars to believe that it was likely added at a later date.

2) Jews of Jesus' day always ended their prayers with a doxology. This may explain why early Christians with a Jewish background added the doxology as they made the prayer part of their worship services. It makes sense that if the Lord's Prayer began with God it should conclude by focusing on God. *"For yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever."*

The doxology is given as the reason for our praying. The word "for" ties it, not just to the prayer for deliverance, but to the whole model prayer. Why pray? The answer is here, for if God isn't God, if life doesn't come from him and go to him, if this world is without a Creator and moral Ruler who not only hears and answers prayer but to whom we are accountable for our lives... then there's not much use praying at all! But, specifically, why pray **like this**? The answer is here. It is because the Kingdom, Power and Glory belong to God that we want his name to be kept holy, his Kingdom to come and his will to be done. This is also the conviction that motivates our petitions for daily bread, for forgiveness, for freedom from temptation and deliverance from the evil one.

### 3) The themes found in this doxology are Biblical.

1 Chronicles 29:10-13, “<sup>10</sup>David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, LORD, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. <sup>11</sup>Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. <sup>12</sup>Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. <sup>13</sup>Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.”

Revelation 5:9-14, “<sup>9</sup>And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. <sup>10</sup>You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." <sup>11</sup>Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup>In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" <sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" <sup>14</sup>The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.”

This doxology, though not found in the earliest Greek Manuscripts is quite harmless. It contains no false teaching. All of its ideas and phrases are found elsewhere

in the Bible. So we will treat it as a practical, if not an historical, part of the Lord's Prayer.

## 2. THE KINGDOM

1) The "kingdom" refers to God's reign and rule over all things. There are other rulers in the world, but God reigns over them all by virtue of the fact that He created the world and everything in it. When we say, "yours is the kingdom" we are acknowledging His rule and reign and our submission to it.

The central theme of the teaching of Jesus is the coming of the kingdom of God. In the gospel of Mark we read that after his baptism Jesus went "preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:14-15). When Pontius Pilate questioned Jesus about what kind of king he was, Jesus responded, saying, "My kingdom is not of this world." He told His followers, "the kingdom of God is within you" but he also taught that kingdom of God was a future reality as well. It appears then that the kingdom of God has come in a spiritual sense through the ministry of Jesus on earth but will come in all its fullness at the second coming of Christ. When we pray "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven," we are asking God to advance and expand that kingdom in the hearts of people, and we are anticipating the day when that kingdom literally comes when Jesus returns.

2) When we pray "yours is the kingdom," we are acknowledging that God is in control and we submit to Him.

### 3. THE POWER

1) God has absolute power over all things. That's what we are saying when we say, "Yours is the power."

The Bible calls Him "Almighty God." Genesis 17:1, "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your number." Abraham was still waiting for an heir at the time. His wife was well passed child-bearing age. They laughed at Him. Yet, nothing is too difficult for Almighty God. Genesis 18:14, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

That is a refrain we encounter in various places in the Bible.

(1) Jeremiah 17:32, "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."

(2) Matthew 19:26, "Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Rich man entering heaven)

(3) Luke 1:37, "For nothing is impossible with God." (Mary becoming pregnant by the Holy Spirit)

(4) Ephesians 3:20-21, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."

Again and again the Scriptures remind us that "*our God is able...*" For the most powerful earthly ruler, there are still a

great many limitations. He may go to war with a large measure of confidence, yet the outcome is never entirely guaranteed. He has "power" in a relative sense, but only God has "the Power" absolutely. We can boldly take our prayers to God knowing that by His power, He is able to answer them.

2) When we pray "yours is the power" we are acknowledging that God is able to answer our prayers. We have to trust in His love and wisdom to answer our prayers for our best good which may not always be the way we would like them answered.

#### 4. THE GLORY

The goal of our praying and of our living is not our self-satisfaction, but the glory of God. This is what our lives were designed to be. This is what we have failed to reach because of sin (Rom. 3.23, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.")

1) Glory refers to exalted honor, praise, and adoration. God's glory is seen in the perfection of His character and attributes and His actions.

2) God deserves glory because of who He is.

(1) God is great, Greater than anyone or anything else. Psalm 95:3, "For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods."

(2) God shows loyal love. Psalm 118:1-4, "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

(3) God is holy. Isaiah 6:3, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory."

(4) God is good. Psalm 106:1, "Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; his love endures forever."

(5) God is righteous. He conforms to the standards of His own perfection. Psalm 145:17, "The Lord is righteous in all His ways and loving toward all he has made."

(6) God is truth. John 17:17, "Sanctify them by the truth, your word is truth." (Jesus praying for those who would follow Him)

3) God deserves glory because of what He does. We see God's Glory in his Rule established and in his Power made visible.

(1) He watches over us, cares for us and provides for us.

(2) He speaks to us through His Word and His Holy Spirit.

(3) He has provided salvation to us through the death of Christ on the cross.

(4) He has created the universe and the world in which we live. "The heavens declare the glory of God."

4) We are called upon to glorify God in all we do. 1 Cor. 10:31, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

5) Forever – that’s the duration of God’s kingdom, power, and glory.

6) Amen. The last thing we need to examine is the use of the little word, “Amen.” The word “amen” is a Hebrew exclamation, which expressed a strong assertion and a solid assurance. “Amen” means, “it shall truly and certainly be.”

As far as its relationship to prayer is concerned, this “Amen” makes three assumptions. First, it expresses the belief that the content of this prayer is in line with the will of God. Secondly, it also expresses the conviction that the heavenly father has heard my request. And thirdly, it expresses my belief that the heavenly father has the ability to meet the needs of my request.

Conclusion:

I encourage you to use the Lord’s Prayer as a pattern or outline in your own prayer life. Remember our mission as a church is to develop maturing followers of Jesus Christ. A maturing follower of Jesus Christ has a strong and growing prayer life.