

Kingdom Prayer

Matthew 6:5-15

Discover

A kingdom is a territory, and the people who live there are ruled by and under the control of a supreme king. Prayer is a conversation with God where we listen and speak to him.

David said that prayer is a refuge for the righteous. Wherever we are and no matter what is happening in our lives or going on around us, we are free to look to God and speak, examine our hearts for any evil and rebellion, seek forgiveness and healing, and ask for help. (Psalms 5:1-7)

Elijah wanted to die. He was afraid for his life, because a satanic queen threatened to kill him. He ran into the wilderness and prayed for death. God sent his angel to bring him fresh baked bread and revitalizing water so he could recover and travel to a safe place. (1 Kings 19:2-9)

Jesus' strategy for preparing to be tortured, crucified, and die was prayer. He took his disciples to a garden and spent time with the Father pouring out his heart, grieving so deeply that his sweat became blood, confessing his weaknesses, and affirming his willing heart. (Luke 22:39-45)

James said praising and praying are the two greatest activities for all disciples. Is everything going well for you right now? Then praise the Lord! Is everything falling apart? Now is the time to pause and pray. We confess any evil in our hearts and invite our Lord to work in us. (James 5:13-18)

This lesson will focus our journey with God upon prayer. This age is temporary. We are preparing for the next age where disciples from every nation, tribe, people, and language together with all the angels will gather around Jesus' throne to praise him forever. (Revelation 7:9-17)



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Draw

Humble Prayer: kneeling prayer warrior - Prayer begins with a deep love for and desire to spend time with our Father. Prayer is a conversation with God within the context of a close relationship with him. God already knows all of our needs and everything we will say before we speak. (6:5-8)

Awesome Wonder: father & children - Praise God! Glory, glory, hallelujah! So often when we pray, our first words are about ourselves and our needs. Let us begin our prayers in awesome wonder of God's majesty and glory. (6:8-9)

Advancing Dominion: crown, cloud, & earth - We align our prayers with what our Father wants: his kingdom to advance into the hearts of everyone who does not believe in him and for all peoples to seek and fulfill his will. (6:10)

Promised Provision: food & drink - Our Father cares about our daily living needs and invites us to ask for provision. We trust him to take care of us, provide for and protect us, and supply generously out of heaven's storehouses. (6:11)

Forgiveness Culture: divided people - God forgives. He initiates forgiveness in conflict. If we are true disciples, how can God bless us if we withhold forgiveness from others? Let us search our hearts for unforgiveness. (6:12,14-15)

Evil Enemy: prisoner set free - Our spiritual growth takes place within spiritual warfare. Our enemy is a fallen angel that strives day and night to attack us with temptation to evil. We do not fight our enemies. We seek God alone, crying out to him for deliverance and safety. (6:13)

Powerful Glory: shining city - We are sojourners in this life; travelers on a spiritual journey towards heaven. Our eyes and thoughts are fixed upon Jesus Christ. We do what he does, say what he says, and desire what he desires. (6:9-10)

Discuss

Read Matthew 6:9-13. Discuss Jesus' prayer. How is this prayer simple? How does this prayer address the felt needs of our hearts and the changing seasons of our lives? What do you notice about the prayer and why does it stand out?

Read Psalms 51:1-13. King David wrote this prayer after going to bed with his friend's wife, getting her pregnant, and then having her husband murdered. Why do we need to confess our evil to God? How does confession lead to restoration? How do you feel after confessing your failures?

Read Luke 18:9-14. What is wrong with the Pharisee's prayer? What do we learn about faith and humility in prayer? How do we practice humility with one another?

Read Acts 4:23-31. Why is prayer one of our greatest resources for Spirit-filled living? Why did the church pray for boldness? What role did the Holy Spirit fulfill in this story?

Disciple

Let's get practical. We are so weak in wisdom and clueless about life without Jesus Christ. Prayer is the open door to receiving understanding and power for following our Messiah King. How can we pray alone more? When can we pray more with others? Why is it so difficult to pray all the time? Pause now to pray. Ask God for a prayerful lifestyle.

Dedicate

Father, thank you for prayer. Thank you for sealing us with your Holy Spirit. Thank you for caring about us and listening to our prayers. Thank you for revealing your heart for a daily relationship with us. Holy Spirit, thank you for teaching us how to pray and what to say. We commit to pray always with faith, in Jesus' name and for his glory we pray, amen.