

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Reflection 2

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

The coming of the Kingdom of God is the ultimate plan and purpose of God. Jesus' ministry on earth was to announce the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus himself through his death and resurrection has inaugurated this Kingdom and God the Father has anointed Jesus as King of this kingdom. However, creation and its people continue to groan as we wait for the full and complete coming of the Kingdom. But that Kingdom will not come until all who have been called to worship him have done so. There is still much work to be done.

We know that Jesus has defeated Satan but we also know that Satan will not lie down and admit defeat until Jesus comes again. That is the time when *'at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.'* *Philippians 2*

In praying "Your Kingdom come" we are actually placing ourselves under the rule of the King. We are Kingdom servants. It is our job to continue with the work of the great commission of Matthew 28:19-20a *"to 'Go and make disciples of all nations'".* We know that 'all nations' includes our own and that we are still under that command right where we are today. Let's not waste the opportunities God gives us.

When we say: **"your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."** we are submitting ourselves to doing God's will. God's will is that his plan and purpose be worked out.

God's will is already being done in heaven, so we are praying that we will do God's work the way the angels do it by submitting every aspect of themselves to God. With joy and singing, with grace and good will they perform whatever is asked of them.

Jesus himself has given us the most honourable example of submission to the will of the Father. In John 4:34 at the beginning of his earthly ministry Jesus said, *"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work"*.

So just like Jesus our ministry is to do the will of our Father on earth in the same way as it is already being done in heaven, with grace and humility, love and obedience, openly and freely.

This, of course, does not mean that the work we are called to do will necessarily be easy. It wasn't for Jesus, it wasn't for many of the Bible characters, it hasn't been for many of God's people through the ages but like Jesus and others we can call on our Father for his help.

In praying "***your will be done***" we are praying that we are putting God's will before our own wants and desires. We are praying that we want to be obedient to his will in our lives in all that we do and say. We are praying that we want our lives to copy the perfect obedience to God's will that is occurring in heaven. This is a big ask but we don't have to do it on our own. Our saviour is with us and will guide us through the strength and power of the Holy Spirit.

Questions to reflect on:

1. What do you think it means when we pray, "Your Kingdom come?"
2. Do you struggle with praying, "Your Kingdom come?" If so why and what can you do to make this prayer easier to say?
3. We pray "your Kingdom come," and we pray "Your will be done." Yet we know that Satan continues to work in this world to cause God's people to deny their faith and trust in him to bring about the completeness of the Kingdom. Satan does not want us to be doing God's will. What can we do to ensure we are obedient to our heavenly Father's will and not succumb to the wiles of Satan?
4. As one of the instruments of God's will what are you currently doing to hasten the coming of the Kingdom of God?