



## THE PRAYER PATTERN PART 2 | GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH AND HIS WILL

Matthew 6:10 *Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.*

In the Disciples' prayer pattern (Matthew 6:5-15, Luke 11:1-4) Jesus told us to pray that His Kingdom would come on earth **AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**. This is a radical idea! The prayer pattern is really a manifesto for global change and spiritual revolution. It is the invasion of God's Kingdom on earth, in the midst of the darkness of this world! **Read Isaiah 60:1-3**

### A BRIEF UNDERSTANDING OF THE KINGDOM

The words "Kingdom of God" and "Kingdom of Heaven" are found over 80 times in the New Testament. Is it a spiritual or a physical reality? What are the characteristics, and what are the keys of the Kingdom?

The Greek word for Kingdom is "basileia," meaning a king's rule, reign, dominion, or authority. However, the Kingdom of God is not a location, territory, or politics but the realm where God reigns supreme and Jesus Christ is King. Jesus began His ministry by declaring that the Kingdom was in their midst (Matthew 3:2; Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15).

Romans 14:17 states that the Kingdom of God is not in our physical indulgences or religious behavior, but righteousness (a right standing before God, innocent), peace (a fullness of the Spirit, prosperity), and joy (a calm delight) in the Holy Spirit!

#### 1. The Kingdom forfeited

- In Genesis 3, Adam's rebellion separated him from his relationship with God and forfeited rulership (stewardship) over creation to Satan. As a result, rebellion and sin spread and mankind became increasingly more the god over his/her own life ("You will be like God..." Genesis 3:4-5), serving our enemy's plans.
- **But God...** Romans 5:12-21 *...Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.*

#### 2. The Kingdom today and to come

- The Kingdom of God is the realm where God reigns supreme, and Jesus Christ is King. In this Kingdom, God's authority is recognized, and His will is obeyed. The concept of a Kingdom of God is not one of space,



territory, or politics, as in a national kingdom, but rather one of kingly rule, reign, and sovereign control.

- Matthew 3:2; Mark 1:14-15
- Although the Kingdom today is in the hearts of people (the Kingdom is within/near/in your midst, Luke 17:20-21, etc.), there will come a time when God's Kingdom will have been consummated (perfected, completed, and accomplished). Revelation 21-22 *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...*

### 3. The Kingdom brought near

- Christ began His ministry by proclaiming that the Kingdom of God/Heaven is at hand or near. (Matthew 4:17) Although the Kingdom of God is both present and future, spiritual and invisible, Christ's coming in human form brought the Kingdom of God into our realm (John 1:14).
- The Kingdom of God is light and offensive while the kingdom of darkness is, in essence, powerless and defensive (Matthew 16:18). Notice the power of the Kingdom...
- Matthew 4:23-25 *And Jesus went about all Galilee, ... preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and diseases among the people.... and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them (all)...* (Matthew 8:16; Mark 3:10, 6:56; Luke 6:19; Acts 5:15-16)

### 4. Teachings of the Kingdom

- Matthew 13, *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like..."*

### 5. Keys of the Kingdom

- Matthew 16:15-19 *Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in Heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail (be victorious) against it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be (have been) bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will (have been) be loosed in heaven."*

### 6. The Spirit's Kingdom Power

- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2
- Zechariah 4:6 *Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,...*

### 7. Character and Kingdom people

- The beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12 (QR Code)



### 8. Benefits of the Kingdom

- Luke 12:31-32 *...Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.* (2 Peter 1:3)
- Deliverance. Colossians 1:12-14 states that we have been delivered from the power of

darkness into the Kingdom of His Son! The word power is “authority” in the original language!

- Provision. In Matthew 16:15-19 Jesus stated that we, the Church, have been given keys to/of the Kingdom. These keys are Kingdom principles which open the promises of God.
- Power. The Kingdom is also the means to *undo satan’s damage*. Because we are joint-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17) we have been given authority to bring the entry of His Kingdom into the brokenness of life! (Luke 9:11) It truly is a clash of the Kingdom of Light against the kingdom of darkness in Matthew 4:1-11, 8:28-34, 12:22-30, etc.

By saying this part of the pattern, we are declaring that His will and priorities are first and the most important things in our lives. He interacts in our lives in the affairs of man. Pray that His will be done in my life, family, church, nation and in the world. Do you understand His will/calling?

**Action:** Read the Kingdom parables in Matthew 13 and Mark 4:1-34. Then bring your life under His Lordship and believe that His purposes will be accomplished in your life, your family, church, nation and beyond.

## TODAY

### UNDERSTANDING GOD’S WILL

#### 1. When we ask according to His will we confidently expect answers to prayer!

- 1 John 5:14-15 *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

#### 2. God’s sovereign Will -- His absolute, sovereign rule and authority over all things.

- Colossians 1:15-18 ... *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers...*
- Genesis 1; Job 38, 42:2; Jeremiah 32:17; etc.

#### 3. God’s revealed Will – The things He has revealed and expects of us through faith.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;...*
- Matthew 22:36-40 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21)

### WE CAN KNOW GOD’S WILL

Many times when we are seeking God’s will, we are really wanting God to approve our plans before we even consider what His plans and His will may be for me, for us. This is not effective and will only result in frustration and, worst case scenario, a cooling off or abandonment due to disappointment.

In Colossians 1:9 Paul prayed diligently for other Christians to be “filled with the knowledge of His

will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.” (Philippians 3:10)

1. **We can know His will through an intimate relationship.** (openness, and trust)

- Our experience of God’s nearness or distance is not a description of his actual proximity to us, but of our experience of intimacy with Him. Scripture shows us that **God is intimate with those who trust Him**. The more we trust God, the more deeply we come to know Him. A felt distance from God is often due to a disruption in trust, such as a sin or disappointment. This reality is vitally important to understand. As Christians, we want to experience intimacy with God. With the psalmist we say, “for me it is good to be near God” (Psalm 73:28). And we want to heed James’s exhortation and realize its promise: “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).
- **Here are two ways we are changed so that we can experience intimacy with our Heavenly Father...**
- We are changed as we reflect His glory 1 Corinthians 3:18 *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*
- We are changed by the renovation of our mind Romans 12:1-2 *I urge you therefore, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies (to be at hand, available, as) a living sacrifice, holy (blameless and set apart), acceptable to God, which is your reasonable (rational, logical) service (Greek word for worship). And do not be conformed to (shaped by) this world, but be transformed by the renewing (renovation) of your mind, that you may prove (discern) what is that good (beneficial) and acceptable (well pleasing) and perfect (complete, finished) will of God.*

**Note:** We cannot experience His will for our lives by forcing or by superimposing our own will upon His, using Scripture, subjectional feelings, or “prophetic words.” If I’m not willing to receive input from friends who care for my well-being, it is very likely I cannot receive input from the Holy Spirit.

2. **We can know His will by revelation, a rhema word.**

- Because Peter was intimately involved with the Master in everyday life, he received such a word. Matthew 16:13-17 *Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” Their reply was, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” Then Jesus asked, “But who do you say that I am?” Immediately Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” To which Jesus responded, “Blessed are you...for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”*
- In his book ‘The Spiritual Man’, Watchman Nee says that one of the functions of the human spirit is to “know things intuitively.” When the human spirit is alive and filled with the Spirit of God, it functions the way it was designed to function. And when the human spirit is functioning the way it was designed to function, it **will hear** the voice of God. It **will know** the will of the Father.

3. **We can know His will by understanding the bigger picture.** We understand His will for us individually when we understand His Will for the Church, His Body.

- Ephesians 4:11-16 *But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth*

*of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

- **KEY** -- Romans 12 is the summation of how we can understand the Father's will and how we can experience His will for us, individually and as His Body.
4. **Close in prayer for people who are seeking God's will** for their lives and for their purpose in the Body of Christ.

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### ADDENDUM

1. Paul the apostle knew that the greatest prayer for the people in Colossi would be to know and do the will of God. As they understood and obeyed God's will, they would...
  - Know how to please God in everything.
  - Be fruitful and see results in all they did.
  - Experience spiritual growth.
  - Have the power to patiently endure all things.
  - Have a part in the purposes of God.
2. God's will is an issue of Lordship.
  - The rich ruler wanted to follow Jesus but did not because of great wealth. (Luke 18:18-23)
  - Romans 7:21-22; Luke 6:46
3. Do we want to know what the future holds or do we want to know the One who holds the future?
  - What is the source of our guidance? What is our motive? (Deuteronomy 18:10-13)
  - Moses wanted to know God intimately so that he would know what to do! (Exodus 33:12-18)
  - David's cry to know God and His will. (Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10)
4. We must be willing to do the will of God before we know what it is.
  - Ruth followed Naomi without/before knowing the cost. (Ruth 1:16-17)
  - Isaiah said, "Here am I. Send me!" before God told him where to go. (Isaiah 6:1-9)
5. Ask yourself...
  - What would I "put on the line" to know and do God's will from the heart? What is my level of sacrifice? (A sacrifice is a loss or something of value which you give up, usually for the sake of a better cause)
  - How important are the things of this life in light of the glory of God experienced through my life and blessing my family, friends, and my world?