

# Teach Us To Pray Part 3

## Introduction and Recap

Hey, very good evening. Once again, thank you for joining us in our Christian Education Program on Teach us to pray. We have been looking at the subject of prayer, we have answered questions like Why pray? And we've looked also at who do we actually pray to? Today, without much ado, I like to plunge right into what do we then pray for? I want to pray, but I do not know what to pray for. Well, from the words of Jesus Christ today, we're going to learn what you and I should really pray for.

## Opening Prayer

Let's come to him, and ask him to teach us this lesson, shall we? Father, thank You for this time, teach us to pray, may the words of Jesus not just be understood, but remembered, and then prayed out in our lives? Thank you. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

What do we pray for? Well, Jesus said, 'after this manner', or after this pattern, you pray, not that we need to recite this mindlessly, but that we need to understand what these items really represent. And then be able to pray them out regularly in our lives, in our own style, in our own circumstance, but following a certain pattern or principles that are laid out in this prayer. So familiar words, there are churches that memorize these words, and then they pray these words exactly at the end of their services. I don't criticize that. Don't criticize that. I don't think that is absolutely wrong. But I think it's even better and needful that we don't just recite this, but we understand this and then we can pray them meaningfully in our lives. So, looking at these words, let me read this so that it sinks right in alright more. 'Our Father in heaven'. We saw that last week, 'hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil' (Matthew 6:9-13).

## All prayer should connect the situation to the glory of God

Today, we're just going to focus on these three statements, 'hallowed be your name', 'your kingdom come', 'your will be done', so that you can be at ease that we will not be stretching too long. Now the first prayer here is this phrase, 'hallowed be your name'. And then it's followed by 'your kingdom come'. And then 'your will be done'. And I think if you connect all these three together, you will know that the main point I want to bring across is that all prayer should connect our situation that we're praying for, to the glory of God. Because all three things here, focus on God, His name, His kingdom, His will. So, if there's nothing you remember from this session, remember this. What should we pray for? We should pray, in our circumstance, in our situation, always for the glory of God. So, to me, a very important

principle is if there is a situation or a request from someone I have, I must ask myself, how does this situation or request connect to the glory of God? I must pray in such a way that this is ultimately for God's glory. Let me try, I hope to illustrate this as we go along.

### Hallowed be your name

So, let's look first of all, at hallowed be your name. There was a boy after he had been to church who went home and asked Mum, 'Mum, why is it that God is called Harold?' Mom says, 'Why?' 'Because God says Harold is my name'. Well, that's funny, but that's not what God said. Right? That phrase or the word 'hallowed' really is a word that not many people know about, but simply it means to be set apart. So, the first thing we need to pray, let my name be set apart. Now the name of God represents all that he is, that's what the word 'name' means in the Bible. It represents the wholeness of God. So, when we say, 'hallowed be your name', we are praying, 'Lord, let your name, let who you are, be set apart so that people may know you and honor you and glorify you'.

So very simply, what is prayer? Prayer is praying for God's name to be set apart. Prayer is praying for God to be glorified. So, prayer is not getting God to do our bidding, but asking God to glorify himself. So, you should not pray, 'God make me rich so that I am famous and comfortable'. 'God give me a Ferrari so that I will be the toast of the town'. Oh, 'God help me succeed in my exam so that I will be the top dog in my class'. You know something about those prayers? They are all about yourself. And I think those prayers will never be answered. But on the other hand, it could be prayed like this, 'Lord, help me to have enough financially, so that in my giving you may be glorified'. Now, that totally changes the equation. 'God help me in my studies, so that in my studies, I can learn and grow and glorify you with all that I have acquired in my education'. Now that changes the equation altogether. What I'm saying here is that prayer matters, not so much in exactly what you ask, but why you ask what you ask, the motivation is the key.

So, God is not a genie in a bottle that we command to do our bidding but God is the mighty one who should be glorified. And we as the servants are merely praying along those same lines. So, the question you should ask yourself is, how does my prayer bring glory to Him? Can I pray for my job? Can I pray for a wife? Can I pray for a Bible study? Can I pray for finances? Can I pray for these things? My answer to you is, how does your prayer bring glory to Him? That would be the number one thing you have to know. Alright. So very simply, prayer is about God's glory.

### Your kingdom come

Now, this is again reemphasized, I think, in the second petition here, 'your kingdom come'. A little bit of theology, a little bit of understanding first. Your kingdom come means God's Kingdom is not yet fully come. The Bible does say that Satan is now the king of this earth. He is the prince or the ruler of the air. He is the god of this world. Ever since he had duped Adam and Eve into sin, he has usurped God's throne, in a sense, for a while on earth. So, Satan is now king on Earth. But that's why we pray Your kingdom come because we anticipate, and we know that God will rule ultimately. And he's going to rule ultimately, because Jesus has paid the price for sin. And on the cross, he defeated sin, death, hell, and the devil. And one day God will come and reclaim all that belongs to Him through Jesus Christ. So,

when we pray, 'your kingdom come', we are praying, 'God rule again. This world is yours. Satan has temporarily usurped it under your allowance. And we are believing, and we are praying, and we are longing for you to be king once more, first of all, in human hearts, and one day ultimately in all the earth'.

So, when we pray, 'your kingdom come', how then can we practically pray for items like this? How do I pray for his kingship? I suggest to you, number one, we pray for salvation. We pray for people to be saved. We pray for people to repent and to believe in Jesus Christ. We pray for people to renounce their slavery to sin, and now come under the slavery of Jesus, to own Christ as Lord and as master. We pray for salvation, we pray for your kingdom to come in their hearts, to rule over them. And then we pray for sanctification. That is a word that means to grow, to be more and more set apart from the world unto God. So, we pray for sanctification, we pray for godliness. We pray for God to be more and more Lord of our lives, more areas of our lives, more situations in our lives, that we will not live fleshly sinful lives but we're live for the glory of God. We pray for sanctification. And then we pray for service. We pray for more of us to serve God with our lives and not to serve this world. We pray Your kingdom come also for those who are suffering, those who are longing for Jesus to take away all sin, or disease or pains or sufferings. We pray and we long for the day Jesus would be king over all.

So, at the heart of all these prayer requests, again is the desire for God to be glorified as king, first in our hearts, and then on Earth overall. What this means is before we can pray, 'your kingdom come', we must be willing to pray, 'my kingdom go'. Make sense? Lord, your kingdom come, that means I don't want my kingdom, I don't want my Ferraris, I don't want my fame, I want your glory. That's what it means, 'your kingdom come'. And that's why we sing, 'King of my life, I crown thee now, thine shall the glory be' (Lead Me to Calvary, Song by Don Moen). It's all about God's glory. So, if you're lost, remember, the main thing you need to learn, prayer is to connect our situation to the glory of God.

#### Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven

Finally, let's look at this phrase, 'your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven'. Now, when you look at this statement, it clearly implies that God's will is not always done here on Earth. God's will is done in heaven but not on Earth, why? Satan is king for now. God allows it for a season. So, God's will is not always done here on Earth. That's why we need to pray that God's will be done on earth. It is God's will, to use our prayer to bring about his will to be done here on Earth. Now I want to emphasize, this is not a prayer, for our will to be done, but for God's will to be done. Not my will be done, but Thy will be done. So, prayer is not a 'name it and claim it' reality. Like I want this. I say it and God is obligated to give me? No, not at all. He's not the genie in a bottle. So many churches and Christians have gone off track, believing that faith is demanding that God will do what I want. No, faith is believing that God can do what he wants, and not what I want. So, we pray, 'Thy will be done'. That's what Jesus did. At the Garden of Gethsemane before he goes to the cross, he agonized, he said, 'If it be possible, let this cup of suffering and trembling be passed from me', let me not take this. But very quickly, he also said, 'Nevertheless, not my will, but your will be done'. And I think this is what we need to learn. Prayer is not getting our will done, but God's will done. Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting Man's will done

in heaven, but for God's will done on earth. Your prayer is for God's will, God's kingdom, God's glory, to be manifested here, not to exert our will and impose them on God in heaven.

'There are only two kinds of people in the end, those who say to God, thy will be done, and those to whom God say, in the end, thy will be done.' (The Great Divorce, C. S. Lewis) It's a profound thing. But I think there is only one who will come up winner, who will come out victorious at the end, and I hope you will live your life in such a way that says always, 'You're all wise. You're all sovereign. You're all love. You're all powerful. You're unchanging. Lord, your will be done'. 'Outside the will of God, there's nothing I want. Inside the will of God, there's nothing I fear' (A. W. Tozer). I think this is a very encouraging realization, that as we pray for God's will, is the best thing that can happen. Glorification of God is what we desire. The glorification of God is what brings us the greatest satisfaction. 'If God would concede me His omnipotence for 24 hours, you will see how many changes I will make in the world. But if he gave me his wisdom too, I will leave things as they are.' (Jacques Marie Louis Monsabre, a former pastor at Notre Dame). There is no better prayer than to pray 'Your will be done'. Let your word, your purposes, be done on earth. I want no other thing than that your will be done. And when we pray, 'God's will be done'. We can also now pray, 'Your kingdom come, Lord, rule, your will be done. Lord, rule, be king'. And then in that way, 'Your name will be set apart, will be hallowed and you will be glorified'. So, all prayer should connect the situation to the glory of God. Is that true in your life? Is that true for your prayer? Assess everything you pray for, through these lenses, the glory of God. That's what Jesus is teaching us here today.

#### Closing prayer

Let's bow for word of prayer. Father, thank You for this time. And I pray that this would slowly but surely shape, the way we look at prayer and indeed the way we look at life, that we will not be a man centered, self-centered people, but we will be a God-centered people, that all that we do, and labor and pray for, is ultimately for your glory, that your will will be done, your kingdom established in our hearts and in many more hearts, and that your name will be set apart to be praised. Thank you. We pray all this in Jesus name. Amen. Please join me at our Q&A session right after this on Zoom and look forward to seeing you again the next week. God bless.