
POWERFUL PRAYER

Praying Heaven Down

In the Beginning

Prayer is not some ethereal exercise that has little measurable effect on the real world. Prayer is the intersection of the Kingdom of Heaven and earth. Prayer is not a substitute for hard work – it is the work! Prayer is not only effective but powerful in bringing about God's will on earth.

God does things in and through our lives by prayer that He does in no other way. Prayer is the way of fulfilling the original commission and exercising the authority that was given to us as a part of God's plan.

As we pray and as our attention is turned toward God, we become more receptive to aligning our lives with His will.

If we are strangers to prayer, we are strangers to God's power!

Prayer – God's Chosen Vehicle

Intimacy is the main purpose of prayer.

Prayer is not designed to change God; it is designed to change us. Prayer is not asking God to bless our activities; rather prayer takes us into God's presence, shows us His will and prepares us to obey Him.

We are His delegated authority on planet earth, and prayer is the vehicle that allows that authority to be exercised. The enemy's greatest efforts at deceiving the Church are centred on the purpose and effect of prayer.

How to Pray

We know we are supposed to pray, but sometimes we are not sure how!

If we want to learn how to pray, we need to look no further than the model of Jesus. The prayer that Jesus taught His disciples to pray provides the clearest instruction on how we bring the reality of His world into this one.

An outline of this in Matthew 6:9-13 gives us the Kingdom approach to prayer:

1. Praise and worship
2. Praying for heaven on earth
 - + Heaven's effect on material needs
 - + Heaven's effect on personal relationships
 - + Heaven's effect on our relationship to evil

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.”

When we begin our prayer, “Our Father,” we begin to pray based on an intimate relationship with God – that of a father and child.

When we pray “hallowed be Your name,” we climb to a new level of respect for God and reverence for His person. We are ascending to the very heart of God to recognise who He is and what He has done for us. We enter in via worship and with gratitude.

Passionate love for Jesus is the key to power, authority, the supernatural and the miraculous (Mark 3:13-15). Jesus gives to those who spend intimate time with Him, knowledge of His will for their lives, and power and authority to carry out that will, and when they go, He delivers the supernatural and miraculous.

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

This is the primary focus for all prayer—if it exists in heaven, it is to be loosed on earth. Faith grabs hold of that reality. Everything that happens

here is supposed to be a shadow of heaven. In turn, every revelation that God gives us of heaven is to equip us with a prayer focus.

How much of heaven has God purposed to become manifest here on earth in the now and not yet? No one knows for sure, but we know that the Bible says that it's even more than has ever entered our minds (Ephesians 3:20).

God, in response to our cries, brings His world into ours. Conversely, if it is not free to exist in heaven, it must be bound here. Again, through prayer we are to exercise the authority given to us (Matthew 16:19).

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

Jesus is talking about the daily spiritual and physical needs of everyday life. This request is a practical application of how God's provision is expressed here on earth. What we are asking for is enough to satisfy the desires born of God and enough “for every good work.”

Jesus is encouraging us to daily discover God's provision.

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

Heaven provides the model for our relationships here on earth (Ephesians 4:32-5:2)

Once again, this prayer illustrates a practical way to pray for heaven's reality to bring an effect on planet earth. Jesus encourages us to pray and align to His forgiveness, “forgive us our debts”, so that we don't have to carry that weight around with us anymore.

“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

This prayer does not imply that God wants to tempt us. We know from James 1:13 that it is impossible for God to entice us to sin. This kind of praying is important because it requires us to face our need for grace. It helps us to align our heart with heaven—one of absolute dependency on God.

When we pray for His Kingdom to come, we are asking Him to superimpose the rules, order and benefits of His world over this one until this one looks like His. Our battle is always a battle for dominion—a conflict of kingdoms.

Let's rise to the challenge and embrace the incredible invitation to be co-labourers with God, to be carriers of His awesome Holy Spirit and ambassadors for His great kingdom. Let's represent Him! Awaken us to our destiny Lord!

Discussion Questions

1. Take time to slowly pray the Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13), consider and discuss what part of the prayer is perhaps different to how you might normally pray.
2. The central part of this prayer is bringing the Kingdom of heaven to earth. What would this look like in all three forms of petition expressed?
3. Discuss how you have found that prayer aligns your will to God's will.
4. How does Jesus' encouragement to personalise prayer to God as "Our Father", change the way you feel about coming to God in prayer?
5. How is God inviting you to be a part of heaven coming to earth?