

**THE LORD'S PRAYER WEEK FOUR
THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE**

Statement...last week we started with the first of 6 straight petitions Jesus linked together, each one governed by a verb.

“God, let your name be hallowed. This week we add, “God, cause your kingdom to come, and cause your will to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven”

Jesus shifts gears: revering God's name isn't enough. We must learn to seek his Kingdom, seeking it FIRST as a TOP PRIORITY. We yearn for it and we give God room to occupy every corner of our lives.

Do we really want to pray this way or to let things remain as they Are? Would focusing on what God wants change the way we live?

THOSE LITTLE PRONOUNS...we aren't mouthing off words; we are putting our lives on the line, asking God to cause his Kingdom to be revealed among us, signing up as recruits, enlisted in his service. The pronouns drive the petitions, “THY KINGDOM/THY WILL” no hint of ME/MINE. He puts us on notice: to seek God's Kingdom, we must seek what God wants and be willing to set aside our plans if God's plans change our plans.

How would praying/living this way affect your priorities?

If we can't pray “Thy Kingdom Come”, it may be that we are satisfied with what we have and see no need for change. Jesus is knocking the selfishness of our prayers, and slowly out of lives.

A COMPETITION AMONG KINGDOMS...God's Kingdom is always present, but Jesus brought it closer to us, and revealed it in his life. If there were only ONE KINGDOM at work in the world, we'd be safe. There are many counterfeits. It was Caesar's Kingdom then but multiple political and economic kingdoms now exercise their power, and flex their muscles

THY WILL BE DONE...his kingdom is present wherever/whenever his will is done on earth. That's why Jesus links the two intentionally. God has a will for us and all history. His will for the world is good. One day, it will be completed on earth as it is in heaven. How can we know the will of a holy, mysterious God, whose ways are not our ways, whose thoughts are not our thoughts? We have 2 problems with God's will: discerning it and doing it. Discernment is bible talk for seeking God intentionally. It is a holy habit nurtured in prayer, bible study/reflection. It isn't just making good choices; it is KNOWING GOD, what God wants FROM and FOR his people. We must do what God wants us to do. It is a risky prayer, if we take it seriously, and if we are willing to GIVE UP CONTROL and to LET GOD LEAD US