Kingdom Prayer

Matthew 4:17 “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (KJV)

Kingdom: a domain or territory that is influenced by a king.

Kingdom Prayer: deploying the influence of the King through the attitudes of our heart and the words that we speak during prayer

I. Introduction

A. Why pray?

1. Matthew 21:13 “. . . 'It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' ” (NKJV)

2. 1 Corinthians 6:19 “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit . . . ” (NKJV)

3. For a Christian, prayer is not optional:

Matthew 6:5 “And when (not if) you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men . . . ” (NKJV)

4. “Nothing you can do will benefit you more than prayer.” (Prayer: Key to Revival, Dr. Paul Yong-gi Cho)

5. “Tell my leaders to pray more and work less.” (The Lord to Dutch Sheets) “The sense I had is that if they will pray more, they can work less.” (Dutch Sheets)

B. Why people don’t pray:

1. They don’t recognize the value of prayer.

2. They are too busy.

3. They tend to avoid activities that don’t seem to work.

4. They have no established habit or discipline to pray.

5. They are not sure they will be heard by God (i.e., no faith).

C. Prayer was the priority of Jesus.

Mark 1:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.” (KJV)

Luke 18:1 “And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint ( = to grow weak or weary)” (KJV)

Mark 9:29 “. . . This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.” (KJV)

D. Definitions of Prayer.

1. Prayer is joining God in what He wants to do. It’s about His agenda, not our agenda.

2. Prayer is the alignment of our will with the will of God, so that the words that come from our mouths came from His mouth.

3. “Prayer is man giving God the legal right and permission to interfere in earth’s affairs.” (Myles Munroe)
E. What prayer is not.

Prayer is not giving God a laundry list of the things you need.

1. Matthew 6:8 “. . . For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.” (NKJV)

2. Matthew 6:31-33 “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (NKJV)

3. Matthew 26:53-54 “Don’t you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?” (NLT)

Remember: prayer is joining God in what He wants to do . . . not Him joining us in what we want to do.

“Spread out your petition before God, and then say, Thy will, not mine be done. The sweetest lesson I have learned in God’s school is to let the Lord choose for me.” (Dwight L. Moody)

II. Miracles, the Disciples and Prayer

A. During the three and one-half years that the disciples were with Jesus, they saw Him perform many miracles:

1. Change water into wine
2. Cast out demons
3. Cleanse lepers
4. Raise the dead
5. Open blind eyes
6. Cause the dumb to speak
7. Walk on water
8. Calm the wind and waves in the midst of the storm
9. Catch fish when the disciples had tried unsuccessfully all night

10. Catch a fish with money in its mouth to pay their taxes
11. Tell the woman at the well all things that ever she did
12. Multiply the loaves and fishes to feed the multitudes

B. If you had been with Jesus during this time, and could have asked Him to teach you how to perform one of these miracles, which one would it have been?

C. The truth is there was only one time in the Bible when the disciples asked Jesus to teach them something.

Even though they had seen Him perform all these wonderful miracles, the performance of miracles was not the subject of their request for instruction:

Luke 11:1 “And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray . . . ” (KJV)

III. Jesus and Prayer

A. Jesus prayed alone.

Matthew 14:23 “And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.” (KJV)
Luke 6:12  “And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.”  (KJV)

B. It was after these times of prayer and fellowship with the Father, that He performed miracles.

C. The power that accomplished these miracles came from the Holy Spirit.

Luke 4:14  “And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee . . . ”  (KJV)

D. Direction concerning the deployment of that power came from the Father during Jesus’ times of prayer.

John 5:19  “Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.”  (NKJV)

John 5:30  “I can do nothing of myself. I judge as I hear, and my judgment is right, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of the Father who has sent me.”  (The Everlasting Gospel)

When Jesus prayed, He saw what the Father was doing and heard what the Father was saying.

Everything Jesus did was governed by the Father.

E. Therefore the call to prayer is a call to abide and be in unity with the Father, discern His will and then do what He tells you to do.

“The first step in intercessory prayer is to find out the will of God.”  (Agnes Sanford)

“All strategic prayer arises from the place of intimacy. We receive strategy and instructions in the place of intimacy and deep worship with the Father.”

(Power and Intercession for Frontline Believers: A Practical Handbook by Jonathan Benz)

IV. The Foundation of Kingdom Prayer: “Let Them”

“In prayer I learned this: without God I cannot, and without me God will not.”  (John Wesley)

A. God has established a system in which nothing can happen on earth without the consent of man.

Genesis 1:26  “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion (= to govern, rule and reign) over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”  (KJV)

This statement is man’s legal authority from God to exercise dominion in the earth. With these words God placed boundaries of His own right to legally interfere in the affairs of earth without the consent of man.

It’s your prayers that give Him consent!

B. Additional scriptural evidence for “Let Them:”

1. Psalm 115:16  “The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD’s; but the earth He has given to the children of men.”  (NKJV)
Deuteronomy 10:14  “Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.”  (KJV)

**Explanation:**  God has retained ownership of the earth, but He has delegated its management to man.

2. Psalm 8:5-6  “For you made us only a little lower than God, and you crowned us with glory and honor. You put us in charge of everything you made, giving us authority over all things.”  (NLT)

3. Isaiah 45:11  “Thus says the LORD, The Holy One of Israel . . . concerning the work of My hands, you command Me.”  (NKJV)

4. Genesis 18:17, 23-24  “And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing . . . ?  And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?  Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?”  (NKJV)

5. Exodus 14:15  “Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me?  Command the Israelites to start moving.”  (NCV)

6. Ezekiel 37:3-4, 7, 10  “And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live?  And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.  Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD . . . So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone . . . So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.”  (KJV)

7. Matthew 18:18  “I tell you the truth, the things you don't allow on earth will be the things God does not allow.  And the things you allow on earth will be the things that God allows.”  (NCV)

**Bottom Line:**  God designed and empowered you to participate with Him in the management and ruler ship over the affairs of earth.

C.  God’s intent was to fill His sons and daughters with the Holy Spirit so they would stay connected with Him, and help bring His kingdom to earth.

   *John 14:16-17*  “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you.  He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.”  (NLT)

   *John 20:22-23*  “Then he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.  If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you refuse to forgive them, they are unforgiven."  ”  (NLT)

D.  When man does not pray, he limits God from interfering in the affairs on earth.

The holiness and integrity of God constrain Him to do what He has said in His Word.  And what He said in His Word was:  “Let them have dominion.”
E. God cannot do anything He wants to do. God can only do what He said He will do.

Psalm 89:34 “My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.” (KJV)

Isaiah 55:11 “That's how it is with my words. They don't return to me without doing everything I send them to do.” (CEV)

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” (KJV)

A king always keeps His word. King Herod did. King Darius did. How much more will the King of Kings keep His Word?

V. The Importance of Praying the Word

A. The Word is the only offensive weapon listed in the Christian’s arsenal.

Ephesians 6:17-18 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” (KJV)

B. The word is powerful.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (NKJV)

C. Satan knows and fears the destructive power of the Word.

Mark 4:15 “. . . but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.” (KJV)

D. The Word alone is what the Lord is ready to perform.

Jeremiah 1:12 “Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word."” (NKJV)

E. Only the Word can accomplish the Lord’s will.

Isaiah 55:11 “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.” (NKJV)

F. The Word is what the Lord confirms.

Mark 16:20 “And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming (= to prove its truth and divinity) the word with signs following.” (KJV)

G. The Word is what God sent to heal and deliver His people.

Psalm 107:19-20 “Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.” (NKJV)
H. Angels listen and wait to hear you speak the Word.

Psalm 103:20  “Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening (to listen carefully and intelligently) unto the voice of his word.”  (KJV)

The angels are waiting to hear your voice speak His Word. Then they execute it just as they would a command from God Himself . . . if you’ve spoken in faith.

I. No force on earth can stop the Word of God when it is spoken in faith.

Matthew 24:35  “Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will never pass away.”  (TEV)

J. Jesus reserved a very special accolade for the man who said, “Speak the Word only!”  (Matthew 8:8)

Matthew 8:10  “I have not seen such great faith, no, not in Israel.”

K. The result of Elijah praying, obeying and speaking the Word of God:

1 Kings 18:36-39  “And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, “LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.” Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice . . . ”  (NKJV)

VI. The Critical Importance of Believing When You Pray

A. “God did not make faith in prayer optional. If we pray without faith we are simply making sounds in the air.”  (Dr. Paul Yong-gi Cho)

James 5:15  “And the prayer that is said with faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will heal that person . . . ”  (NCV)

B. Everything in prayer hinges on your faith.

Mark 11:24  “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”  (KJV)

Mark 9:23  “Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.””  (NKJV)

Mark 11:23  “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”  (KJV)
C. Faith works because God is holy (= innocent of any wrongdoing) and filled with integrity.

Holiness means God does what He says He will do! He is 100% true to His Word. To be otherwise would be inconsistent with the character of a holy God.

Therefore, you have to believe when you pray if you want God to answer your prayer. Because if you don't believe, and God answers your prayer anyway, He would no longer be holy.

Your faith in what God said is the determining factor in getting your prayer answered!

The good news is that because He is holy, He absolutely means what He says and will do what He says, if only you will believe what He says.

D. Adam was killed by the holiness of God.

Genesis 2:16-17 “GOD commanded the Man, "You can eat from any tree in the garden, except from the Tree-of-Knowledge-of-Good-and-Evil. Don't eat from it. The moment you eat from that tree, you're dead." (THE MESSAGE)

God loved Adam. He was His son. But God had to keep His Word.

God could not sacrifice His holiness by allowing Adam to go on living after he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God had to stay true to His Word. Therefore Adam had to die. Adam was killed by the integrity of a holy God.

E. That same integrity will answer your prayers whenever you believe God will do what He said He would do!

Matthew 9:27-30 “When Jesus was leaving there, two blind men followed him. They cried out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" After Jesus went inside, the blind men went with him. He asked the men, "Do you believe that I can make you see again?"

They answered, "Yes, Lord." Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, "Because you believe I can make you see again, it will happen." Then the men were able to see . . . " (NCV)

F. Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (KJV)

It doesn’t matter how long you pray.

It doesn’t matter how loud you pray.

What matters is if you have faith when you pray.

If you don’t believe what God says, He cannot pretend that you do, and then answer your prayer anyway.

If He did it would violate His Word, violate His holiness and violate His integrity.

G. Believing God is simply taking Him at His Word, and dismissing every other word you hear that contradicts what His Word tells you.

The most important thing you can do is believe every Word God speaks to you!

Hebrews 11:33 “who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions . . . ” (NKJV)
H. Abraham’s example

Romans 4:20-21 “Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was absolutely convinced that God was able to do anything he promised.” (NLT)

I. Bottom line: before you pray, check your faith. Ask yourself if you have the faith to believe that God will do what you are asking for.

If you do not, then don’t pray. Praying without faith is a waste of time.

Pray for the things you can believe God will do.

VII. Enemies of Prayer

A. Sin

1 Peter 3:12 “For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.” (NKJV)

B. Unforgiveness

Mark 11:25 “And when you stand and pray, forgive anything you may have against anyone, so that your Father in heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done.” (TEV)

“People ask me what advice I have for a married couple struggling in their relationship. I always answer: pray and forgive. And to young people from violent homes, I say: pray and forgive. And again, even to the single mother with no family support: pray and forgive.” (Mother Teresa)

“For giving the person who has wronged you releases the Holy Spirit to bring conviction to the one causing you the problem.” (Dr. Paul Yong-gi Cho)

C. Withholding Resources

Proverbs 21:13 “The one who shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will himself also call out and not be answered.” (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

D. Wrong motives

James 4:3 “And when you ask, you do not receive it, because your motives are bad; you ask for things to use for your own pleasures.” (TEV)

E. Husbands not honoring their wives

1 Peter 3:7 “In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat her with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. If you don’t treat her as you should, your prayers will not be heard.” (NLT)
F. Doubt

*James 1:5-7* “But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should pray to God, who will give it to him: because God gives generously and graciously to all. **But when you pray, you must believe and not doubt at all.** Whoever doubts is like a wave in the sea that is driven and blown about by the wind. A person like that, unable to make up his mind and undecided in all he does, **must not think that he will receive anything from the Lord.**” (TEV)

G. Impatience

*Hebrews 6:12-15* “. . . You would be following the example of those who had faith and **were patient until God kept his promise to them.** No one is greater than God. So he made a promise in his own name when he said to Abraham, "I, the Lord, will bless you with many descendants!" **Then after Abraham had been very patient, he was given what God had promised.**” (CEV)

H. Guilt

*Hebrews 8:12* “And I will forgive their wrongdoings, and I will never again remember their sins.” (NLT)

Be careful that you do not negate the truth of God’s Word . . . when He tells you that He no longer remembers your sin . . . just because you can remember them.

Remember, God **cannot** lie.

I. Fatigue

*Luke 18:1* “And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to **pray and not to faint** ( = to grow weak or weary)” (KJV)

“Fatigue makes cowards of us all.” (Vince Lombardi)

VIII. Close

“Our problem has been that we have thought about prayer, read about prayer and even received teaching regarding prayer, **but we just have not prayed.** Now is the time to understand that **prayer is the source of power.** Now is the time to allow the Holy Spirit to **bring a new brokenness and surrender.** Now is the time to learn how to use our **spiritual authority** in learning how to hinder the work of the devil. **Now is the time to pray!**” (Dr. Paul Yong-gi Cho)

*Romans 12:12* “. . . Be patient in time of trouble and **never stop praying.**” (CEV)

“**Satan trembles** when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.” (William Cowper)

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