

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, AND THE GLORY

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

Individuals or groups may enjoy working through this content while having fellowship at home, while away on summer vacation, or in a Connect Group. We'll provide updated content from week to week this summer.

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

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

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

SUMMARY

This concluding section of the Lord's Prayer invites us to reorient our lives around the truth that God's kingdom, power, and glory are eternal. In a world that often entices us with self-made success and fleeting pleasures, these words call us back to the eternal and unshakeable reign of God. This final petition is a doxology - a formula of praise. This doxology reaffirms our dependence on God's sovereignty, power, and glory, reminding us that all things ultimately belong to Him. It challenges us to trust in His rule, rely on His strength, and live for His glory alone.

We exist to help connect **Jesus to people, people to community, and community to God's mission**. Here are a few insights about how The Lord's Prayer connects to our mission as a church. Let's discuss this text and the process of prayer.

JESUS TO PEOPLE

When Jesus taught His followers to pray, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever," He wasn't just giving them words to recite but pointing them to a deeper reality. Jesus, through His life, death, and resurrection, demonstrated the power of God's kingdom most profoundly. His victory over sin, death, and the powers of darkness is a testament to God's ultimate authority and glory. By connecting people to Jesus, we help them understand the significance of living under the reign of the true King, who holds all power and glory forever. This understanding shifts our focus from self-centered living to life fully surrendered to God's eternal purposes.

...PEOPLE TO COMMUNITY...

Acknowledging that "thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory" fosters a community rooted in the recognition of God's supreme authority. This prayer isn't just personal; it's communal. We pray these words as a body of believers, collectively declaring that our lives and our community belong to God. It compels us to live out the values of God's kingdom in our interactions with one another, creating a community that reflects the power and glory of God. We remind each other that our strength and purpose come from God, and we encourage one another to live for His glory, not our own.

...COMMUNITY TO MISSION

Understanding that God's kingdom, power, and glory are eternal calls us to participate in His mission boldly and confidently. The local church is not just a gathering but an outpost of God's kingdom on earth. We are an embassy of the kingdom of heaven that gathers for mission and encouragement at the corner of 7th Avenue and Broadway. As we pray this doxology, we are reminded of our role in spreading the good news of God's reign to the world. Our mission is to declare the kingdom of God, live out His power in our daily lives, and reflect His glory in all we do. By doing so, we engage in expanding God's kingdom, showing the world that there is a greater power and a lasting glory that surpasses anything this world has to offer.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. What does it mean for you personally to acknowledge that the kingdom, power, and glory belong to God alone? How does this truth impact your daily life?
2. How can understanding God's eternal kingdom challenge how you view your ambitions and the pursuit of "the good life"?
3. In what ways can our church community better reflect God's power and glory in our interactions with one another and the world?
4. How can you actively participate in God's mission to bring His kingdom to earth? What steps can you take to live out these truths daily?
5. Reflect on a time when you experienced God's power at work. How did it strengthen your faith and understanding of His kingdom?
6. What practical ways can we collectively live for God's glory as a church, resisting the temptation to seek our own recognition or success?
7. How does the eternal nature of God's kingdom influence your hope for the future, especially in times of trial or uncertainty?