

Teach Us to Pray

Prayer Practice | Week 3

Intercession

When we pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven," we are releasing control as we acknowledge the Lord's sovereign care and ask Him to intervene. Pete Gregg says, "Intercession is impossible until we allow the things that breaks God's heart to break our own hearts as well." What would it look like for us to ask God to break our hearts for the things that break His? Would you pray daily for one person who is near you but far from him? Many confess Jesus as Lord, but actually build their lives on something else entirely: career, family, etc. Are there idols we need to lay at the feet of Jesus? Praying that God's kingdom would come is to pray toward the day when the kingdom arrives in full and all is made right, asking that the Lord would hasten the day when our faith shall be made sight, and the clouds roll back like the scroll. Would we pray with the Apostle John in Revelation, "Come, Lord Jesus?"

A Diary of Private Prayer is a book of prayers by John Baillie, an old Scottish pastor. In it, he prays this:

O Lord, your eternal presence is hidden behind the veil of nature, enlightens the mind of all people, and was made flesh in Jesus Christ our Lord. I thank you that he has left me an example to follow in His steps.

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." **O God, move my heart to follow in this way.**
Mathew 6:19

Jesus said, "Strive first for the Kingdom of God and his righteousness." **O God, move my heart to follow in this way.**
Mathew 6:33

Jesus said, "Do good and lend expecting to get nothing in return." **O God, move my heart to follow in this way.**
Luke 6:35

Jesus said, "Love your enemies'." **O God, move my heart to follow in this way.**
Luke 6:35

Jesus said, "Do not fear. Only Believe." ***O God, move my heart to follow in this way.***

Mathew 5:36

Jesus said, "Unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." ***O God, move my heart to follow in this way.***

Mathew 18:3

Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." ***O God, move my heart to follow in this way.***

Mathew 7:7

As you continue to pray the Lord's Prayer each day, and as you meditate on this phrase, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven," use Baillie's prayer above—which is built on descriptions of the Kingdom from Scripture—to help clarify what we mean when we pray these things.

Finally, posture can be a helpful thing to consider. With your hands closed, surrender whatever you are holding onto—that might keep you from desiring God's Kingdom and will—to the Lord. In so doing, open your hands, symbolizing the release of your control to him.