

BOLD to SAY

LEARNING & LIVING
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Week 2

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

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

Scripture Focus: *Matthew 6:10; Luke 4:16–21; Matthew 26:36–46*

Key Themes:

- Prayer moves us beyond personal wish-lists into God's larger purposes.
- "Thy kingdom come" challenges self-centered religion and calls us to kingdom-centered living.
- God's will is revealed in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—and we are invited to embody it here and now.

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Opening Prayer and Review

Focus 1: Prayer Lists

Most of us pray as if God were a cosmic vending machine—presenting lists of wants and needs. Jesus teaches us to move from my list to God's list. This is not to diminish our needs but to place them in the context of God's greater work. We begin to see prayer not as transactional but as transformational.

Reflection Question: If you were to make a pie chart of your prayer life, what percent is spent on petition and intercession, praise and thanksgiving, and surrender to God? What kinds of things do you mention in prayer?

Focus 2: God's List

The Lord's Prayer is a shift from "my will" to "thy will." It is surrender to God's reign, not negotiation with God for our own plans. Jesus models this in the Garden of Gethsemane: "Not my will, but yours be done" (Matthew 26:39). This surrender opens us to God's Spirit flowing through us more freely—removing bottlenecks of fear, pride, and self-interest.

Reflection Question: What is quid pro quo spirituality? Do you find yourself thinking in these terms? What if more of your prayer focused on surrender to God?

Focus 3: Political Speech

To pray "Thy kingdom come" is to make a political statement. The kingdom of God is not neutral; it confronts the politics of greed, exclusion, and self-interest with God's justice, mercy, and peace. The Sermon on the Mount and Jesus' life embody God's politics—a radically different order rooted in love.

Reflection Questions:

What are some of the defining characteristics of the politics of the kingdom of heaven?
How can we go about living out God's politics instead of the politics of self-interest?

Focus 4: Revolution

This prayer is revolutionary. It invites heaven to invade earth and demands change in us. When we pray it authentically, we open ourselves to transformation—personally, socially, spiritually. The kingdom comes not just with words but in lives surrendered to God’s will, beginning with our own.

Reflection Questions:

Where is the bottleneck that keeps God's Spirit from flowing more freely through your life, family, and church? In what ways might you be part of the bottleneck?

What might have to change in your life if you were to pray the Lord's Prayer more frequently and authentically?

Closing Prayer

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

Almighty God, Make us people of your list, your politics, and your revolution. Amen.

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Notes:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.