



The Petition of Prayer

Robert Morris

Focus As we are submitted to God's will and dominion in our lives, He wants us to ask for everything we need.

Open Have you ever been stopped for speeding in your car but didn't get a ticket? Tell the story if you wish.

Read The Lord's Prayer is a pattern that teaches us how to pray. (The portion to memorize for this is week is Matthew 6:10.) The Lord's Prayer begins and ends with praise. Everything in between is a petition, which is a request.

God wants us to ask Him for what we want and need (John 14:13–14; John 15:7; John 16:23–24; Matthew 6:8; Matthew 7:7–11). It's not selfish to ask Him if we allow Matthew 6:10 to be the filter for what we ask for and how we ask. We can ask for anything when we have the attitude that we want His kingdom to come and His will to be done instead of our own. He wants us to ask Him to move on behalf of our families, our businesses, our health, our jobs, our kids, etc.

When we pray, "Thy kingdom come," it's not a prayer for the future. His kingdom came when Jesus, the King, came to earth (Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:14–15; Matthew 12:28; Matthew 10:7; Luke 17:20–21). His kingdom is now here, continually being worked out in our lives. His kingdom is growing in us as we daily grow in submitting to Him (Matthew 13).

He taught us to pray "Thy will be done," because His will is best. We have a choice as to whether we will submit our will to His will (John 7:17). Jesus demonstrated this for us in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42) when He chose to submit His will to God's will. The perfection and joy of heaven give us a glimpse of how God's will and dominion are best (Revelation 21:4).

Talk

1. Practice reciting Matthew 6:9–10 together as a group. Say it together out loud.
2. Which of the following describe you?
 - (a) I feel selfish when I ask God for what I want.
 - (b) I forget to ask God because I get busy trying to solve the problem on my own.
 - (c) I have trouble asking according to His will because I know what I want.
 - (d) I like the truth that God wants me to ask.
3. Pastor Robert mentioned that as we submit to the Lordship of Christ, He changes our desires. We grow to want what He wants. Share an example of this from your own life.
4. Luke 17:21 says, “The kingdom of God is within you.” What does this look like in our daily lives? How do our lives change as the kingdom grows in us?
5. Is there an area of your life where you are struggling with God’s will? Are you confused and asking Him to show you His will about something? Are you struggling because you are resisting His will? Pray for each other in the group.

Live

James 4:2 says, “You do not have because you do not ask God.” Is there something you need you haven’t asked God for yet? Submit your will to God, ask for more of His kingdom in your life, and then ask Him confidently for the thing you need.

Pray

Thank You, Lord, that You love us and You want us to ask You for what we need. Thank You that Your kingdom has come to us and is growing in us. We praise You, God, that Your will really is best. We submit all that we are to Your will today. Please teach us how to pray.