

KINGDOM PRAYING

One of the things we talked briefly about in the previous article was praying for God's kingdom to come here on earth as it is in heaven. I call it kingdom praying. That is likely a new term to many of us, though not a new concept. Let's look at it more closely.

Kingdom prayer is prayer that focuses on what God wants to do to build His kingdom. Rather than emphasizing concern for our own needs or concern for people's health and convenience issues, it emphasizes spiritual issues and conditions that have to do with our sin, our righteousness, our need for repentance, the spread of the Gospel to the world, the discipling of believers and the need for righteousness and safety in our communities. Remember, Jesus told us to ". . . seek *first* his kingdom and his righteousness. . ." (Matthew 6:33, NIV)

It seems that relatively few in our community or our nation have any morals anymore. People do whatever they please without regard to God or other people. On the international scene, it seems that there is no end to war and violence. The merciless killing of innocent people goes on unabated. And what about the need for us to be leading people to Jesus? To put it bluntly, "It just ain't happening much!" Can there be any doubt that our Nation and our world are in a mess and that we need the Lord Jesus Christ to move in our midst? It is those kinds of things God wants us to seek Him about. That is kingdom praying.

This term, "kingdom prayer", comes from Jesus' model prayer that we looked at last week. In that prayer, Jesus said we should pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." How is God's kingdom to come here in the same way it exists in heaven? God wants to use us to bring it. That's our job.

Notice that "God wants to *use us* to bring it." We cannot bring His kingdom in our own strength and wisdom. We don't have any. But God can and will work through us to minister to people and make Jesus known to them so that they can become part of His kingdom. A key to this is what I call kingdom praying.

Jesus did not so much intend for us to repeat His prayer (though doing so is certainly appropriate). He meant for us to use it as an outline or prompt for more in-depth prayer focused on what He wants to bring about in this world.

Kingdom praying is hard work. It requires that we become aware of the people and issues in our churches and our world, that we compare them with our knowledge of what the *Bible* says about them, and that we then agree with God about them and make ourselves available to Him to rectify them.

In the next article, we will talk a bit about the "how" of kingdom praying. In the meantime, if you need some help getting started praying for God's kingdom to come, there is a *free* guide full of kingdom prayer topics, many specific to the Hood County area. You can see or download it from:

http://granburyministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Kingdom_Prayer_Guide-2022-Complete.pdf