



## Sermon Notes: January 17, 2016

### The Lord's Prayer - Release of God's Kingdom

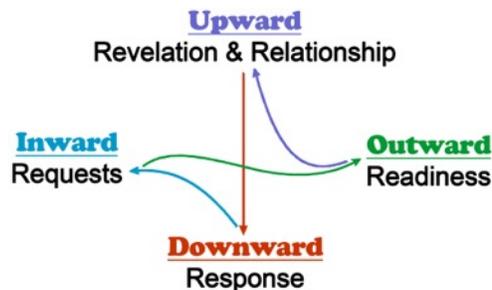
3 of 6 from the teaching series "Prayer that will Change Your World"  
Matthew 6:9-10 • Pastor Paul Bradford

#### Matthew 6:9-10

<sup>9</sup> "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

#### 1) How do we pray?

- **Pray to God, not for people** (*Matthew 6:5-6*)
- **Pray true prayers, not religious prayers** (*Matthew 6:7-8*)
- **An exemplary prayer** (*Matthew 6:9-13*) - Jesus is giving a prayer outline, a pattern of the types of petitions we are to raise to God.
- **The rhythm of the Lord's Prayer** - much like a conductor directing music in 4/4 time - the Lord's Prayer begins upward (setting our eyes on God), then downward (as we pray that heaven might come to earth), then inward (as we pray for our needs), then outward (in warfare), then back upward.



#### 2) Revelation and Relationship (upward stroke)

- Beginning place of prayer is not my need but God's character.
- *Our Father* - we approach on the basis of our relationship and have open access to approach the throne with boldness and confidence.
- *in heaven* - acknowledgement that God is enthroned over the universe as the all powerful and supreme ruler.
- Heidelberg Catechism questions 120 & 121.

#### 3) Response (downward stroke)

- In response to seeing God in glory, we now ask that the attributes of heaven, where he dwells and where his kingdom is fully established, will come to earth, the place where we live.
- Literal translation of Greek text: Let it be holy, the name of you; Let it come, the Kingdom of you; Let it be done, the will of you; as in heaven also upon earth.
- *hallowed be your name* - let your name be kept holy - 1st petition - Heidelberg Catechism question 122 - (*Revelation 4:8, Philippians 2:10-11*).
- *your kingdom come* - 2nd petition - Heidelberg Catechism question 123 - asking that God's kingdom be established here on earth right now - not fully, but truly - just as it has fully come in heaven - (*Matthew 12:28*).

- *your will be done* - 3rd petition - Heidelberg Catechism question 124 - asking that, just as God's will is done in heaven perfectly, so let it be done on earth.
- *on earth as it is in heaven* - a prayer to destroy the curse of sin.

## OUR RESPONSE

We look to our Father in heaven, and pray that the attributes of heaven might come to earth.

### Heidelberg Catechism questions used:

#### **Question 120. Why has Christ commanded us to address God: "Our Father"?**

**Answer.** That at the very beginning of our prayer he may awaken in us the childlike reverence and trust toward God which should be basic to our prayer, which is that God has become our Father through Christ and will much less deny us what we ask in faith than our human fathers and mothers will refuse us earthly things.

#### **Question 121. Why the words "in heaven"?**

**Answer.** These words teach us not to think of God's heavenly majesty as something earthly, and to expect everything for body and soul from God's almighty power.

#### **Question 122. What is the first petition?**

**Answer.** "Hallowed be your name" means: Help us first of all really to know you, to bless, glorify, and praise you for all your works and for all that shines forth from them: your almighty power, wisdom, kindness, justice, mercy, and truth. And it means: Help us to direct all our living what we think, say, and do so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised.

#### **Question 123. What is the second petition?**

**Answer.** "Your kingdom come" means: Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you. Keep your church strong, and add to it. Destroy the devil's work; destroy every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your Word. Do this until your kingdom is so complete and perfect that in it you are all in all.

#### **Question 124. What is the third petition?**

**Answer.** "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" means: Help us and all people to reject our own wills and to obey your will without any back talk. Your will alone is good. Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to, as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.