

Your Kingdom Come

*May Your kingdom come
in my life today,
through all I do.*

*May Your kingdom come
in that meeting today...
in my family...
in our city...
in our world.*

A kingdom is a territory or a people ruled by a king. It is the domain of a king. A kingdom also includes all that the king brings to his people: his presence, his authority, his protection, his shaping of their lives.

Jesus came proclaiming, "The Kingdom of God is at hand!" The presence and rulership of the King had come in Jesus himself. He began establishing God's control over sin and all its effects in our lives. He forgave our wrongs. He cast out evil spirits. He healed our diseases. He taught us the right way to live.

But God's kingdom won't be fully established until God asserts His complete control in our world. Then there will be no more hunger or thirst. No more sin. No more tears. No more death. And we will hear the words:

*The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,
and he will reign for ever and ever (Revelation 11:15, NIV).*

But you might wonder: Why does an all-powerful God take so long to establish His complete control over what He himself created? Did He lose control somehow? Hasn't He always been in control?

We can't pretend to understand all the ways of God. But as we read Scripture, we see that God has chosen to let His creatures exercise their free will - within His limits, to an extent and for a time. He allows us to make decisions. He allows us to choose, for He wants us to freely choose Him. Eventually those who separate themselves from God will die, for they have cut themselves off from the only source of life. Those who join themselves to God by simply trusting Him will be joined to Him fully and forever. God's kingdom will then be established in its fullness.

So when we pray, *Your kingdom come*, we are asking God to exert His complete control in our world. We are asking that His wisdom and His love be given their full right of way in all things.

God's kingdom - His rulership among us and in us - is like a small seed. It grows very gradually, almost imperceptibly, even when we aren't conscious of it. (See Mark 4:26-34.) As we see its beauty growing in our lives, as we experience its benefits, we pray

ever more urgently, *Your kingdom come!* We long for the day when it will come completely.

As with the rest of the Lord's Prayer, we can pray *Your kingdom come* for our own lives, for the lives of our loved ones, for our community, and for the entire world.

This prayer is an excellent response to specific problems: *Father, may Your kingdom come in this situation.* I like this prayer because it is both bold and submissive. It is bold in faith, trusting and exalting God, holding up the beauty of His magnificent plan and believing He will fully accomplish it. It is submissive regarding ourselves, laying down our interests completely for the sake of His kingdom.

Isn't it odd? We spend our daily energies trying to gain more and more control over our lives and over the world around us. But when we get a taste of God's control and the wonderful things it brings, we realize we need to learn to turn loose of the control we have so fearfully grasped. We begin to pray each day:

*Father,
my wisdom is too limited.
My thoughts are too anxious
and too selfish.
May Your kingdom come
in my thinking,
in my speaking,
in all my work
and in all my relationships.
Help me to move today
by the wind of Your Spirit
in the rhythm of Your will.
Father,
in my heart,
in my world,
may Your kingdom come!*

Hymn: [Your Kingdom, Your Power](#)

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