



a study on
PRAYER



Yes, No & Maybe

1. God's kingdom and my kingdom are the same thing.
2. You can pray without mentioning the kingdom of God.
3. Praying for God's kingdom to come is praying that it will come in some future time.
4. God is the king of my life.
5. Most of my prayers seem to echo the request of the thief on the cross.

Dig Deeper

◊ How much has God established His kingdom on earth today?

➤ **READ Matthew 6:10a** (NIV)
10 "Your kingdom come."

» **10a Your kingdom come** - [Eltheto he basileia sou - Ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου] This was the prayer of all Jews during the time of Jesus. Even the Rabbis said, "There is no prayer in which no mention of the kingdom is made. All depends on how the kingdom is conceived, on what we want to come."

• What do YOU mean when you pray for God's kingdom to come?

» **Kingdom of heaven** - According to the theologian, Edward Schillebeeckx, when Jesus spoke of the "kingdom of heaven," he described "a process, a course of events, whereby God begins to govern or to act as king or Lord, an action, therefore, by which God manifests his being-God in the world of men."

• How might we then pray for God's kingdom to come in this way?

• What is one of your favorite kingdom parables that Jesus told? If that "kingdom" were to come, what would you be praying for?

➤ **READ Luke 23:39-43** (NIV)

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you today, you will be with me in paradise."

» **Remember me when you come into your kingdom** - The thief believed that Jesus was a king with a real kingdom. Normal kings don't die on crosses, and certainly have no kingdoms after death. So, the thief believed that this king was more than an earthly king, He was a Savior King able to take him to His heavenly kingdom.

• What would change in our experience of prayer if we prayed "Thy kingdom come" in the same way as the thief on the cross prayed "Remember me when you come into your kingdom"?

« How does God's character show itself in the methods He wants us to pray?



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My Prayer...

1. How am I praying for God's kingdom to come?
2. How can I pray for God's kingdom in the same way the thief on the cross did?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?