



Spirituality

*“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.”*

The prayer Jesus taught his disciples and us is an extraordinary example of spirituality. Its spirituality is evident in the total orientation of the prayer. It’s all about God, God’s Kingdom, God’s will, God’s leading us, feeding us and forgiving us. The focus is totally upon God who is the star, the protagonist, the actor, the one in charge, the one who will make things happen.

It is imperative that we catch the flow of these petitions if we are to engage in using them. Also, we need to sense the enormity of what is at stake if indeed this prayer is to be answered.

For example, look at the petition *Thy Kingdom come* followed in apposition by *Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*. This is asking God to make life on earth become as

it is in heaven. How far out is that when you understand the extravagance of the request. Make things here and now as they are to be in heaven! What a transformation that would require.

How can we even pray such a thing as this unless we know what heaven is like? How is heaven anyway? Do we even have any clue? Yes.

There are countless images in Scripture referring to heaven, many of which seem to suggest it to be comfortable, satisfying, peaceful and joyful. All of these conditions hold great appeal. Heaven seems to be a correction of all that is wrong here on earth for us now. However, as long as we continue to think that all of those positive conditions to be the focus of heaven, we will miss the main focus. What is it that lies behind all of these conditions and corrections, making all things right that are now wrong? What is heaven all about anyway?

It is about our ultimate and unadulterated relationship with the Holy One. Thus, the essence of the petitions *Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven* are about our living in God's Presence *now* in a unique way—living our lives with God in charge. The prayer presumes that this way of living is available to us now, and that we wish to be involved in it.

The reference to *Kingdom—Thy Kingdom come*—is acknowledgment that God's rule and reign are to be the operational force in our lives.

While that might sound good, it quickly turns into a huge requirement to adjust our personal values and agendas. It calls for an ultimate surrendering of our personal wills to God's Holy Will. That is a big switch in the way we perceive our present life styles.

It calls for a constant reexamination of our lives,
demanding strict integrity in the way we maintain our
connection with the Holy One.

Our focus should continuously be to reset our attention to
that beginning point: *Father in heaven, Holy be Thy name.*
That is the starting point. It is truly about God and Divine
intervention into our lives.

If this excursus into the Lord's Prayer holds any value for
us, it will be that we will never again merely *say* it—and if
we do *pray* it, we will do so with far greater awareness of its
serious intent to radicalize our faith, transforming our
relationship with God into a revolutionary force. The
Lord's Prayer in the ultimate *wake up call!*

