

# INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

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Entry 4 - I



The Lord's Prayer ends with, "*For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever, amen,*" *Mt.6:13.* This is the greatest and most popular of petition prayers. In it we address God as Father and call for the coming of His kingdom. We ask for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven and that our daily needs be met. The prayer instructs us to forgive as we are forgiven, to be free from harmful temptations and to be delivered from evil. Then the prayer ends with the reasons why we may ask for such an amazing list of things. We ask God for things like the coming of His perfect kingdom because He can deliver. To Him belongs the kingdom, the power and the glory.

Jesus gave us this pattern prayer to show us what we may ask for. It is as if He says, "I want you to ask for amazing things." He is not teasing us; in fact He is showing us how He wants to bless us and what His intentions are toward us. Ultimately all of the blessings that we ask for in the Lord's Prayer will one day be ours. This is possible because God owns the kingdom, the power and the glory, so who can stop Him from giving them to us? As the prayer indicates, His plan is to bring the glories of heaven to the earth.

Here are some definitions that will help us grasp this magnificent revelation.

## THE KINGDOM

God's kingdom is His order and rule of government. It is perfect and always growing in both size and scope. The Bible says, "And of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever." Isa. 9:7

### THE POWER

God's power is the second dynamic of the grand finale of the Lord's Prayer. God's power is an unstoppable force and an immeasurable strength. It contains all of the authority and might that are in the universe. Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Mt. 28:18

Hebrews says, "His Son ... made the worlds ... and upholds all things by the word of His power." Heb. 1:3

#### THE GLORY

God's glory, the third dynamic, is the extravagance of His majesty and the brilliance of everything that is wonderful. It all belongs to God. From Him flows all of the magnificent created artwork of the universe. The angels in heaven declare, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things." Rev. 4:11

Hebrews says, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being." Heb. 1:3

<u>The kingdom, power and glory</u> belong to God. These three things contain all of the government, all of the strength and all of the shining beauty in the universe.

This is amazing, but even more amazing is the fact that God wants to share these things with us. The scriptures reveal that God intends to give the kingdom, power and glory to His faithful disciples. We are destined to be joint heirs with Him. If we share His sufferings we will also share His kingdom, power and glory.

"We are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory." Rom. 8:17

#### THE KINGDOM

God gives us His kingdom. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom." Lk. 12:32

God will give us His kingdom and we will rule with Him. His government is always increasing; He is always expanding it and we have been created to reign with Christ.

#### THE POWER

His power is extended to us as well. Jesus said, "Wait in Jerusalem ... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." Acts 1:4,8

God wants to share His power with us. It was never God's intention for us to simply behold His might. That is just an introduction to the power; scripture tells us that we will also receive power. The level of power we receive will one day allow us to do greater miracles than Jesus did while He was on earth. Jesus said, "Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these." Jn. 14:12

One day we will be just like Jesus; (1Jn. 3:2) for now, we are disciples in training. As disciples we are called to believe God for more power. Faith that believes for more miracles, pleases God. He is not happy when we take the safe road and bury in the ground the gifts He has given us. He wants us to invest what He has given us by exercising our spiritual gifts and believing for more power so that we will see more miracles.

#### THE GLORY

God's glory is also coming our way. The Lord instructs Israel and the Church to anticipate His glory. In time it will come. He says, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you." Isa. 60

Some are confused by a misunderstanding of the scripture, "I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols." Isa. 42:8

The Lord says He will not share His glory with demons or idols or with the ungodly. He will however, share all things with those who love Him.

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The blessing of the cross was more than a plan to rescue us from sin. Hebrews tells us that on the cross, Jesus despised the shame but delighted, "In bringing many sons to glory." Heb. 2:8-10

<u>The kingdom, power and glory</u> will be ours to share with Christ. Today, we have the Holy Spirit and we taste the first fruits of what is to come. Our task is to flex our spiritual muscles, become mature in Christ and gain more of His kingdom, power and glory.

<u>Gaining</u> God's kingdom means bringing everything in our lives under God's rule. This will produce more righteousness, peace and joy in us (Rom. 14:17).

<u>Gaining</u> more of God's power means more miracles and more answers to prayer. This requires discernment in prayer, a heart full of faith and taking obedient risks.

<u>Gaining</u> more of God's glory means receiving angelic visits and seeing more signs and wonders. It happens as we abide in the awe of God's manifest presence.

Walk boldly but humbly with God and gain more of His kingdom, power and glory. These things will come to us. Our Father and His Son Jesus, have paid the ultimate price and they will not be denied. This is their fellowship with us. A  $\Omega$ 

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