

5 - Kingdom Prayer
Pastor Deborah Oakley - March 9, 2025

We are in a sermon series called Seize the Kingdom. Pastor Joe has been teaching on the keys of the kingdom of God. I am going to continue that today in a message called Kingdom Prayer.

We all know that prayer is an important key to the Christian life. But many Christians struggle in their personal prayer lives. They know that prayer is key – but they need to know the keys to prayer.

Too many of us think we can't pray because we don't know how. But prayer is simply talking to God. You don't have to pray a certain way with certain words. You don't have to pray loud or long. You just need to pray.

My text for today is found in the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:10.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus teaches us here that God's kingdom comes on earth when His will is done on earth.

Remember, a kingdom is the king's domain - it is the area over which a king rules. In the kingdom of God, the people of God submit to the will of God. Jesus is the Lord of our lives.

Now, it's one thing to say that "Jesus is my Lord" – it's another thing to live like Jesus is your Lord. **If we live unChristlike lives with unChristlike attitudes, then the kingdom of God has not come in our lives.** If you want His kingdom to come (which means He is ruling and reigning in your life) then you must do His will and not yours. In fact, Jesus Himself asked in Luke 6:46

Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

You can't say Jesus is your Lord and then start making excuses for why you don't obey Him! You can't say Jesus is your Lord and then you live for Him on Sunday and for yourself the rest of the week. **There are no "weekend citizens" in the kingdom of God.**

You see, a king has absolute power. You can't say Jesus is your Lord and then go your own way doing your own thing with no thought of the will of God for your life! When you are subject to a King – you behave the way He says to behave – you do what he tells you to do and you say what he says to say. **When we do the will of God THEN His Kingdom has come in our lives.** And when we pray "Your kingdom come your will be done" we are giving complete control of our lives to Christ.

To seek the Kingdom of God means to seek to be in the will of God under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We are acknowledging that God is in control and we are not.

We must pray for the kingdom of God to come and for the will of God to be done, and then we must act in faith by doing the things that are tangible examples of the rule and the reign of God.

It's especially important that we connect our obedience and our prayers so that our prayers are helping us to live out God's kingdom on earth. **Kingdom power requires kingdom prayer. Absolutely nothing we do will be effective apart from prayer.**

When we work we work - when we pray God works.
 Moses prayed and God set the children of Israel free.
 Jonah prayed in the middle of a fish and God spared his life.
 Isaiah prayed and the sun stood still.
 Jehoshaphat prayed and God gave him victory over his enemy.
 Nehemiah prayed and God used him to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.
 Solomon prayed and the glory of God filled the temple.
 The early Christians prayed and Peter miraculously escaped from prison.

There is power in prayer because prayer brings God's kingdom to earth. Matthew 11:12 says:

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

The Amplified Version says ***...seize it by force (as a precious prize - a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion).***

God is telling us how His kingdom is advanced. Some people think – “If God is in something, it will just happen.” No, it won't! Seizing God's kingdom takes work. It takes praying for His Kingdom to come. It takes dying to self and choosing God's will over our own. The things of God's kingdom require force. Sometimes we must get violent with the enemy. We must war in prayer!

**Prayer is a key to changing things on earth. Prayer does not change God!
 Prayer changes us! Prayer changes people and circumstances and history!**

The vision of GFC is to touch heaven and change earth and one of the main ways we do both of those things is through prayer! By using the keys of the kingdom we can advance God's kingdom by taking authority over the works of the enemy.

That brings us back to the key to prayer that Jesus gave us in Matthew 6:10
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

This phrase is the key to the keys of the kingdom: on earth as it is in heaven. Today I want to teach on three keys to having the will of God accomplished on earth as it is in heaven.

1- Kingdom prayer accomplishes the will of God through prayers of binding and loosing.

Jesus said in Matthew 16:19

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Pastor Joe taught on this last week, but I just want to remind you that the purpose of keys is to lock or unlock. To bind or loose. Keys work by giving us authority to open or to close. And by giving us the keys to the kingdom, Jesus gave us authority to bind and loose things on the earth; to permit some things and to forbid some things.

How do we know what things to allow and what to forbid? The key is to know what is allowed in heaven and what is forbidden in heaven. Remember that key phrase: on earth as it is in heaven.

The original Greek in Matthew 16:19 is very interesting. Look how the Amplified Bible translates this verse:

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven.

So the key to taking authority in Jesus' name and ministering in Jesus' name is knowing what is allowed in heaven and what is prohibited in heaven.

For instance:

Is sin allowed in heaven? No.

So we should always deal with sin through repentance.

Is unforgiveness allowed in heaven? No.

So we should always forgive and loose those who have wronged us.

Is sickness allowed in heaven? No.

So we should lay hands on the sick and pray for healing.

Are demons allowed in heaven? No – they got kicked out of heaven.

So whenever we come into contact with evil spirits, we should kick them out!

Is poverty allowed in heaven? No. People there live in mansions and walk around on streets paved with gold! So we should overcome poverty on earth.

Is racism allowed in heaven? No, heaven is composed of people from every tribe, every nation, every tongue. So we should not tolerate racism on earth.

I could go on and on with this – but do you get the picture? Do you understand the guiding principle of “on earth as it is in heaven?”

**If something is not allowed in heaven, then we should bind that on earth.
If it is allowed in heaven, we should loose it on earth.**

Remember – your warfare is not with flesh and blood, but with spiritual forces of evil. So when you discern there is evil at work, bind the enemy in Jesus’ name. How do you know when evil is at work? Jesus gave us the key in John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Satan steals, but Jesus gives.
Satan kills, but Jesus gives life.
Satan destroys, but Jesus builds.

So whenever you see evil stealing from someone - bind it in Jesus’ name.
So whenever you see evil destroying someone - bind it in Jesus’ name.
So whenever you see evil killing someone - bind it in Jesus’ name.

At home – Satan wants to destroy your marriage and family – so when you see that starting to happen – bind it in Jesus name and loose love and unity in your family.

At work – Satan wants to destroy your business and put everyone out of work - so when you see that starting to happen – bind it in Jesus name and loose blessing and increase on your company.

In your personal life – Satan wants to steal your joy and kill your peace. When you see that happening – bind up the enemy and loose the joy of the Lord and the peace that passes understanding in your life!

We have the keys of the kingdom and when we use them they work! But we must use them!

It’s not always easy to immediately recognize when the enemy is at work, but I’ve learned he always overplays his hand. Some of you are enduring too much from the enemy. You need to take the authority you’ve been given in the name of Jesus and overcome the attacks of the enemy! Pastor Joe and I had to learn to do this. One of the ways the enemy tries to steal from us is vacation time.

When we first started this church we both worked two jobs – we were not taking days off or vacations – and the results were not good. It was impacting our health and our marriage so we committed to taking our days off. But once we did it the enemy started attacking those times. We didn't see it at first – but **the enemy always overplays his hand.**

I'll never forget a vacation in Florida years ago. The first day away we got a call about a family emergency. The second day away we got a call about another family crisis. The third day away some leaders of the church called to inform us they were leaving.

We were feeling down and our vacation was being ruined. Then all of a sudden it came to us – Satan is overplaying his hand! We're being robbed! He's trying to destroy our vacation and steal our joy! When we realized that we actually started laughing.

We used the keys of the kingdom to bind the enemy in the name of Jesus and loose the spirit of God to work in our family and our church. We prayed, "Lord, there's nothing we can do from here, so we place our family and church into Your hands." And guess what? God worked all those situations out for our good!

You see, nothing happens in the kingdom of God until somebody prays.

James said it best in James 4:2

You do not have, because you do not ask God.

There are some things we will only receive and achieve if we pray. No one is saved without praying. – Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. No one receives wisdom unless he asks for it – If any man lacks wisdom let him ask of God. No one is filled with the Spirit without asking.

I can tell you right now with total certainty that there are gifts from God we have not received because we haven't asked.

There are battles we have not won because we haven't prayed.

There are people who won't be saved unless we pray for them.

There are lives that won't change without the power of prayer.

We should always key in to prayer because prayer is always the key! And the key to praying is to pray the will of God. 1 John 5:14-15 says:

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of Him.

Many people are not confident in praying because they don't know the will of God. But Jesus said in John 14:14

You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it.

Praying in Jesus' name is not praying your will and tacking the name of Jesus on the end of your prayer. When you do something in someone else's name – you do their will. So, **when we pray in Jesus name, we pray like Jesus would pray.**

- What did Jesus do every time the sick asked for healing? He healed them. So - In the name of Jesus we pray for the sick to be healed.
- What did Jesus do every time the possessed asked for deliverance? He set them free. So - In the name of Jesus we pray for the bound up to be freed up.
- In the name of Jesus we pray for supernatural miracles.

Praying in His name means praying His will. And the Word of God and the Spirit of God reveal to us the will of God.

2- Kingdom prayer accomplishes the will of God by praying the word of God.

Think about that - There is power in prayer and there is power in the Word.

So, there is multiplied power when we combine the Word and prayer. The Bible reveals the will of God to us. So, when I pray for something, I try to find a promise in the Bible to pray:

- If I'm sick, I pray the word - by His stripes I am healed.
- If I'm bound by something, I pray the word - He who the Son sets free is free indeed.
- If I'm afraid, I pray the word - God has not given me a spirit of fear.
- If I have a financial need, I pray the word - God will supply all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

The Word works, but it's got to be put to work. And it's put to work when we pray it in faith!

3- Kingdom prayer accomplishes the will of God by praying in the Spirit.

There are several meanings to praying in the Spirit. It can mean to pray Spirit-led prayers. But Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 14:14-15

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding.

Paul tells us that praying in the Spirit is praying in tongues. This is not the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues in church. This is the tongues – which many call a prayer language – that you receive when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Every single one of the disciples spoke in tongues.

Everyone who wrote a book of the New Testament spoke in tongues.

This is not something weird – it is the normal Christian life!

Praying in the spirit – which is praying in tongues – builds up your faith!

When we pray with our understanding, we are limited by our understanding. But when we pray in the spirit – there are no limits!

I don't know about you, but there are times in my life when I just don't know how to pray or what to pray. There are situations beyond my ability to understand! What do I do in those times? I pray in the Spirit.

Thank God for that gift where you can pray knowing that the perfect will of God is being prayed and the power of God is released. Just say, "God – I don't know how to pray in this situation – so pray Your will through me" – and then begin to pray in the spirit.

There are people in our lives that Joe and I have prayed for so many times that we don't know what else to pray. That happened to me recently and I kept crying out to God. One day I felt led to go through our house praying in tongues. And that very week God gave us the breakthrough we prayed for!

When we pray in the spirit it builds our faith because we have the confidence that the Holy Spirit is praying the perfect will of God through us. What can be more powerful than the Holy Spirit interceding for you?

Praying in the Spirit is not gibberish, it's not meaningless, it is not emotionalism and it is not a less important gift of the Spirit. This prayer language is not a learned language. In fact, the mind does not understand what is being prayed. So, the meaning of what we are praying is unknown to us, but it is not unknown to God. It is in fact the Spirit of God praying the will of God through you. That's why the keys to kingdom prayer are vitally important.

You might be looking for the key to happiness or the key to success or the key to unlock your potential or the key to someone's heart. But what you really need are the keys of prayer!

You might be a key player in your organization – but you need to become a key pray-er in your organization! Whether you are a keypunch operator, a keyboard user or a keynote speaker - you all need the keys of prayer!

Prayer is the key to heaven, but faith unlocks the door! I encourage you to live your life as though it depended upon prayer. You know why? Because it does!

Prayer acknowledges our weakness and God's power.

Prayer admits we can't but declares God can!

Prayer gets you out of the natural and into the supernatural.

Prayer gets you out of the kingdom of self and into the kingdom of God!

Prayer is the key to overcoming your past and preparing your future!

So pray kingdom prayers and watch the kingdom of God come on earth!