

Back to the Basics

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Second Petition

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

There are three aspects of the kingdom of God. There is the *kingdom of power*, which is all of creation. God ultimately rules over everything because He created it all. The second is the *kingdom of grace*, which is the kingdom Christ was referring to when He said, "*But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you*" (**Luke 11:20**). Entrance into this kingdom is by water and the Spirit (see **John 3:5**). This can be thought of as the church on earth, or wherever God's will and work are being done on earth. Third is the *kingdom of glory*, which will come when Christ returns. This is the church triumphant with the holy angels. Our concern here is with the kingdom of grace. So, we are praying in this petition that God would, by His grace, give us the ability to understand and believe His Word and live lives worthy of His children.

The Third Petition

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's will done? God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

God's will is that His name be kept holy and that His kingdom come. This petition reinforces and emphasizes the first two. We are praying here that we will be able to stand against the devil, the world, and our fallen nature and remain firm in faith in Jesus Christ. God will work His will in the world. We are praying that we will live in the will of God. We could say, "Thy will be done **in me** as it is in heaven."