

# THE PRAISE OF PRAYER

DATE: 3/12/2017 am

TEXT: Luke 11:1; Matthew 6:13b

## INTRODUCTION

Luke 11:1 asks *“Lord, Teach Us to Pray”*

There, we found one of Jesus’ Disciples asking Him that exact question

I think that’s a great question to ask the Lord, don’t you?

We all could use help becoming better Pray-ers

So in response to His Disciple’s question, He teaches them

... **A Pattern for Prayer**

*A Pattern is a plan or model used as a guide for making something*

We have been looking at **“God’s Pattern for Prayer”**

So far we’ve looked at ...

**The Preeminence of Prayer – Who God Is**

**The Petitions of Prayer – What God Does**

Today we will look at the last part

**The Praise of Prayer – What God Deserves**

There are 3 thoughts I'd like to cover in this part of v. 13

~~~Prayer~~~

First, let's look at ...

## **I. REJOICING IN GOD'S "PREMINENCE"**

We need to Rejoice in God's Preeminence Above all else

***"For Thine is the kingdom"***

He is to be Praised for the King He is (King of Kings)

He Deserves to be Glorified (Why?)

### **A. He is 'Sovereign'**

I don't think people give much thought to what it means that God is Sovereign

If the churches really did, there would be a whole different atmosphere in our churches

Not the garbage we got today!

When we say that God is Sovereign, we mean that He is *independent and holding complete power*

The word *Sovereign* literally means *over* or *above*

He is God Almighty

That is what God is!

## *The Praise of Prayer – Matthew 6:13b*

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He is *over and above* this Universe and beyond

The Bible is clear, the God we serve is All-Powerful and in absolute control of all things

As we look around, it may look like the forces of evil are running the show

In fact, what we see, are visible, physical kingdoms, dominated by fallen men (and a creature called the devil)

***II Corinthians 4:4 - “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them”***

But what we cannot see is that there is also an invisible, spiritual kingdom dominated by an All-Powerful God

A God Who is working out a perfect, eternal plan

So, things may look like they are out of control,

I know, the Liberal Left is doing its best to mess this thing up

But, the Ex-President and his crowd aren't going to derail the plan of God

It may look like the world is going crazy, but I assure you that God has the situation well in hand!

All things, even evil things, are working out according to His plan

## *The Praise of Prayer – Matthew 6:13b*

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**Romans 8:28 – “All things work together ...”**

And, when the dust settles and the smoke clears,

God's Will is going to stand Preeminent and His Purposes will all be brought to pass!

Therefore, rejoice Christian!

Our Father is still on the throne and no one will ever dethrone Him,

**Psalm 45:6 – “Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right scepter”**

**Psalm 145:13 – “Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations”**

As a Matter-of-Fact when this prayer was being taught,

Caesar was on the throne in Rome, and he literally ruled the then-known, world

The Roman Empire stretched from the British Isles, all the way across the Mediterranean, and as far away as India

And Caesar had power over every man, woman and child in his empire

And yet, Jesus tells us to remember when we pray that the Kingdom's of the world are God's

***“Thine (Yours) are the kingdoms...”***

## *The Praise of Prayer – Matthew 6:13b*

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This was a man, who at the point of a finger, or the clap of a hand, could change a person's life

The signing of his name would literally change the course of history

And at the time he was reigning; in a little town called Bethlehem, in a stable, a boy was born

A boy who was the true heir of the Kingdom's of the world

Those two kingdoms paralleled: Caesar's and Christ's

The Palace and the Stable

And one day they came into an open conflict, at the conclusion of which the stable emerged victorious

***“Thine, Oh, Lord, is the kingdom!”***

When we pray this, as did the early Christians, not bowing to Caesar, but looking to God,

... We are saying that Jesus is the True King of the Universe!

Don't let a lost, cynical world tell you that God is out of business

He is still on His throne and the kingdoms of this world are His

One day, this announcement will come from glory ...

**Revelation 11:15 – “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever”**

What will be revealed to everyone else on that day; is a reality, to you and I, today!

**He is ‘Sovereign’!**

We also see in God’s Preeminence that ...

**B. He is ‘Supreme’**

Our Lord rules today because it is His Right to do so

You see, when man was created and placed in Eden,

He was given dominion over the world

**Genesis 1:26, 28 – “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over ... all the earth ...” “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion ...over every living thing that moveth upon the earth”**

When man sinned, he gave that Dominion away

Now, Satan, not man, is the ruler of this world

**II Corinthians 4:4 – “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not...”**

## *The Praise of Prayer – Matthew 6:13b*

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When Jesus Christ came into this world; died on the cross and rose from the dead, He redeemed everything that Adam had given away

He paid the price and He stripped that evil pretender, Satan, of his dreams of ruling the universe

Our God and not Satan is the Supreme being in the universe

Since that is true, He alone deserves our Worship, our Love, our Devotion, and our Allegiance

Therefore, when we pray this prayer, we acknowledge His supremacy and our own subjection to Him as Supreme

We are acknowledging that He is our King and we are His servants

This implies that we are His and His alone

Yet, surprisingly, we still use the word “My” to describe the things we claim to possess

*“My Life, my money, my job, my house, my family, my church, my this and my that, my, my, my!”*

May the Lord help us all to remember that all we have and all that we are, is due to the Kindness, Love and Grace of our Glorious King,

***I Corinthians 15:10 - “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more ...***

*... abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me*

All's I'm saying; is that, when we pray ...

We need to learn to Humble ourselves before the Lord, Acknowledge His Sovereignty in our lives, and Rejoice in His preeminence

Since the Lord controls the kingdoms of the world,

He has the authority to grant our requests

And that is a good Reason to Rejoice!

**REJOICING IN GOD'S "PREEMINENCE"** Sovereign, Supreme

## **II. REJOICING IN GOD'S "POWER"**

***"Thine is the kingdom, and the power"***

He is to be Praised for His Abilities and for the times in which He has Demonstrated His Power in our lives!

First, we see that ...

### **A. His Power is 'Enormous'**

We have established the fact that God is Sovereign,

That He is in Control

Now, we are told to rejoice in the fact that He has the Power to control all things as well

## *The Praise of Prayer – Matthew 6:13b*

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***“Thine ... is the Power”***

Friends, we don't serve some anemic, weak God!

We serve a God of Power and Ability!

He can do anything He pleases to do, because He holds all Power

He is Almighty God!

Allow me to share some verses with you that showcase the Power of God

***Genesis 18:14 - “Is any thing too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son”***

***Job 42:2 - “I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee”***

***Psalms 62:11 - “God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God”***

***Jeremiah 32:17 - “Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee”***

***Matthew 19:26 - “But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible”***

***Mark 10:27 - “And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: ...***

*... for with God all things are possible”*

**Ephesians 3:20 - “Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”**

It’s far easier to list what God cannot do, than it is to list what He can do!

You see, God cannot Lie; He cannot Change; He cannot make Mistakes; and He cannot Fail!

When we come before Him in prayer, we can pray with Confidence because He has the Power to hear us and grant our requests! Hallelujah!

**His Power is ‘Enormous’**

**B. His Power is ‘Eternal’**

We are told that all these things ... His Kingdom, His Power and His Glory are “for ever”

Another of the great attributes of our God is the fact that He is *immutable*

This word means *unchanging or unable to change*

**Malachi 3:6 - “For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed”**

**Hebrews 13:8 - “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever”**

His Power today is the same as it ever has been!

What Confidence that should give us when we prayer!

All God has ever been, He still is, and He will continue to be

After all, He is the Great **“I AM”**

Do you need something?

Well, He can do that!

Since our Lord has all the Power, He has the Ability to grant our requests

**REJOICING IN GOD’S “PREMINENCE”**

**REJOICING IN GOD’S “POWER”**

**III. REJOICING IN GOD’S “PERSONALITY”**

***“For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory”*** (Fame, admiration, honor, exaltation)

He Demands and Deserves all the Glory in every situation in life

He should be Glorified on earth as He is in Heaven!

**A. He alone ‘Deserves’ the Glory**

*Everything God is doing, as He exercises His Preeminence and His Power, is for His Glory*

**Psalm 8:1 - “O LORD our Lord, how excellent is Thy Name in all the earth! ...**

## *The Praise of Prayer – Matthew 6:13b*

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*... Who hast set Thy Glory above the heavens”*

- He does what He does, so that He might be honored by His creation
- He does what He does, so that men might be drawn before Him in worship
- He does what He does, so that His name might be exalted

He alone is Glorious and He alone Deserves Glory!

And if you have a problem with that, well ...

As we pass through this life, we will often try to get glory for ourselves

However, God alone deserves all the Glory,

**I Corinthians 10:31 - “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the Glory of God”**

If we will ever learn this simple truth, it will revolutionize our Lives, our Churches and our Praying.

- Perhaps one reason we do not see our prayers answered, is because we do not seek His Glory first

**James 4:3 - “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts”**

- Perhaps one reason we do not see more people saved, is because we do not desire it for His Glory alone

## *The Praise of Prayer – Matthew 6:13b*

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-- Perhaps one reason revival tarries today, is because we do not seek it for the Glory of God alone

Our God is a jealous God, and He will not share His Glory with anyone

**Exodus 34:14 - *“For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God”***

**Isaiah 42:8 - *“I am the LORD: that is My Name: and My Glory will I not give to another, neither My Praise to graven images”***

When we come to pray, let's remember that not only does our Father have the Authority and the Ability to answer our prayers ...

But He also has the Willingness to answer them as well

He wants to move in our Lives, our Homes, our Church and our World in a powerful way

But He will only do so, when He and He alone gets all the Glory!

Therefore, we can Rejoice in a God Who has the Ability, the Authority and the Desire to hear and answer the prayers of His children!

My, what a promise! Praise the Lord!

His Glory will never fade, but will endure forever!

And, those who know Him will share in that Glory

**John 17:24 – “Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My Glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world”**

He alone ‘Deserves’ the Glory

**B. He alone ‘Determines’ the Glory**

We are told that His Kingdom, His Power and His Glory are “*for ever*”

This is a great promise that we can rejoice in

He will ever Possess the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory

But, I just want to point out that He and He alone determines who will share His Glory some day

Only those who know Him in a grace relationship will be permitted to enter into His Glorious Kingdom at the end of the way

**John 14:6 – “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me”**

**Acts 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”**

Are you saved?

If you are, then you know something of ...

... His Preeminence, His Power and His Personality

If you are saved, then one day you will share in His Glory

Not just for a few days, but Forever!

That is something we can Rejoice in!

**The Praise of Prayer**

## CONCLUSION

This great Model Prayer closes with the word “**Amen**”

What does “**Amen**” mean?

A lot of us say it, but we really never stop to think about how we use it

Sometimes we use it to sign-off in prayer, like, *Ten-four*, or *Roger, over and out*, or something like that

But that's not what it means in the Bible

Here are some interesting facts about the word “**Amen**”

-- It's the very last word in the Bible – **Rev. 22:21**

-- It's Jesus' first word in **John 1:51**

-- It was among the last words Jesus said, while He hung on the cross – **Luke 23:43**

-- “**Amen**” is found 25 times in the Old Testament

## *The Praise of Prayer – Matthew 6:13b*

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-- “**Amen**” is found 125 times in the New Testament

-- It's been translated in our Bible as, “**Verily, verily**”

It means, *So be it, Let it be true, I affirm this*

And in some languages, it means *True*

If you were to go to the Parliament in Britain, you would hear someone say, *True! True!*

And that is what he is saying, “**Amen, Amen**”

It also means, *Yes*

When Jesus uses the word **Amen** at the end of His Lesson

He is Simply saying this is the way to pray

How's your praying look?

When it is compared to ... “**God's Pattern for Prayer**”

**THE PREEMINENCE OF PRAYER**

**THE PETITIONS OF PRAYER**

**THE PRAISE OF PRAYER**

Do you Pray? Maybe you need to pray the Sinner's Prayer?

**INVITATION:** Salvation, Sanctification, Service