

Kingdom Prayers

What are kingdom prayers?

Kingdom prayers are those that prioritize God's kingdom and love for him and others. Jesus' life was marked with seeking God's kingdom above all, and he taught us to do the same. That includes love for our neighbors as defined by the parable of the good Samaritan. These verses provide the basis of kingdom prayers:

- **Matthew 6:9b-10 (NIV)**

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

- **Matthew 6:33 (NIV)**

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- **Matthew 26:39 (NIV)**

My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.

- **Mark 12:28-31 (NIV)**

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

How do we pray kingdom prayers?

We focus our prayers on the bigger issues of the kingdom, knowing that experiencing the coming of God's kingdom in people's lives is always his will. From the verses above, we pray that we and others seek God's kingdom and no other one, and we pray to love God more and for wisdom to act in ways that express love to our neighbors.

Too often we pray selfishly (James 4:1-3) rather than sacrificially, typically focusing on health, success, safety and an easy life instead of asking God to do a spiritual work in our lives and hearts and the lives and hearts of others.

Read the examples of prayers below which restate the verses cited. Pray them for yourself or someone else. Reading the actual scriptures will help you understand how to do it yourself with other verses.

Examples of kingdom prayers based on scriptures:

Spiritual growth

Colossians 1:9-12: Lord, fill ___ with the knowledge of your will that she may walk worthy.

When there are hardships and suffering

James 1:2-4, 12: God, use this difficulty to produce perseverance, maturity and blessing in ___.

Romans 8:28-29: May ___ trust that you are at work in the midst of these difficulties for her good, not for her destruction. Use this time to mold ___ more into the image of Jesus.

Ephesians 1:17-21: Give ___ wisdom and the revelation of who you are in the midst of this difficult time.

Colossians 3:1-4: Give ___ the grace to set his mind on the things above rather than his circumstances.

When prayers aren't being answered

James 1:17; 4:3: God, help ___ trust that you give good gifts, realizing that they are better than those that she wants.

When dealing with a difficult or antagonistic believer

Ephesians 4:1-3: May _____ walk worthy and show forth humility, gentleness, patience, love and unity with her fellow believer.

When you deal with unbelievers

Matthew 5:43-48; Lord, give me your love for _____ and show me how to pray for him.

2 Timothy 2:23-26: Help me refuse to engage in foolish arguments but be loving, kind to all and gentle in speaking truth to ___ who doesn't know you.

For someone with material needs

Matthew 6:33-34: God, draw _____ to seek first your kingdom in her life.

As you read the Bible, look for verses to pray for yourself and others.