



Hilton Head Island
community church

“Your Kingdom” - Devotional Guide

Day 1: The Prayer That Changes Everything

Have you ever caught yourself praying for God to bless your plans rather than asking what His plans might be? Most of us have been there. We approach prayer like a divine customer service line, hoping God will rubber-stamp our agenda and make our dreams come true.

But Jesus taught us to pray differently: 'Your kingdom come.' These three simple words flip our entire perspective upside down. Instead of asking God to support our kingdom-building efforts, we're surrendering to His reign over our lives.

This prayer confronts a fundamental assumption we carry—that God exists to serve our purposes rather than us existing to serve His. It's uncomfortable because it challenges our natural desire for control. We want to be the CEO of our own lives, with God as our helpful assistant.

Yet when we truly pray 'Your kingdom come,' we're acknowledging that there's a better way to live than constantly building our own little empires of success, comfort, and control. We're opening ourselves to a reality where God's ways become our ways, where His priorities shape our decisions.

This isn't about becoming passive or losing our personality. It's about aligning our hearts with the One who knows what's truly best for us and for the world around us. When we surrender control, we don't lose ourselves—we find who we were always meant to be.

Bible Verse

'And he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.'" - Luke 11:2

Reflection Question

What areas of your life do you find yourself asking God to bless your plans rather than seeking His will first?

Quote

I think that Jesus taught us to pray in this manner because it confronts this basic assumption that we have that God exists to support our agenda rather than we exist to follow his reign in our lives.

Prayer

Father, help me to surrender my need to control and instead seek Your kingdom above my own desires. Transform my prayer life from asking You to bless my agenda to genuinely seeking Your will. Amen.

Day 2: Already In, Not Waiting To Enter

One of the most liberating truths about God's kingdom is that it's not a distant destination—it's a present reality. We don't have to wait until heaven to experience kingdom life. If you've accepted Jesus as your Savior, you're already living in God's kingdom right now.

This changes everything about how we approach our daily lives. Instead of viewing our current circumstances as something to endure until we reach heaven, we can actively participate in kingdom life today. God's kingdom is wherever His will is being done, wherever love triumphs over selfishness, wherever healing replaces brokenness.

When Jesus walked the earth, His kingdom was evident in tangible ways: the sick were healed, the marginalized were restored, sins were forgiven, and systems of power were challenged. This same transformative reality is available to us now. We can be agents of healing, restoration, and justice in our families, workplaces, and communities.

The kingdom of God isn't about waiting for a better tomorrow—it's about finding where God is at work today and joining Him. It's about bringing heaven's values into our earthly relationships and responsibilities. Every act of kindness, every moment of forgiveness, every choice to serve others over ourselves is kingdom life in action.

You're not in the waiting room of faith. You're already living in the reality of God's reign, with all the purpose and power that comes with it.

Bible Verse

'And he said to them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.'" - Luke 17:20-21

Reflection Question

How might your perspective on your current circumstances change if you truly believed you're already living in God's kingdom?

Quote

You and I, if we've accepted Jesus as our Savior, we're not waiting to enter the kingdom. We've already walked towards the kingdom. We're in it right now.

Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to see Your kingdom at work around me today. Help me to live as someone who is already part of Your reign, bringing Your love and truth into every situation I encounter. Amen.

Day 3: The Battle for Control

The greatest enemy of God's kingdom in our lives isn't necessarily obvious sin or evil—it's our desire to rule ourselves. We want to be in charge, to call the shots, to maintain control over our circumstances and outcomes.

This battle for control shows up in countless ways throughout our day. We get frustrated when things don't go according to our timeline. We worry about situations beyond our influence. We make decisions based on what serves our comfort rather than what honors God. Each of these moments reveals where we're still trying to build our own kingdom instead of surrendering to His.

Selfishness, bitterness, and anger are all symptoms of the same root issue—we're fighting to maintain territorial control over our lives. We've convinced ourselves that we know what's best, that our way will lead to greater happiness and security.

But God is calling us to break down this territorial control. He's inviting us to trust that His reign over our lives will lead to something far better than anything we could orchestrate ourselves. This doesn't mean becoming a doormat or losing our voice—it means aligning our will with His, trusting His wisdom over our limited perspective.

The transformation begins when we recognize that our need for control is actually keeping us from the abundant life God wants to give us. Surrender isn't defeat—it's the pathway to true freedom.

Bible Verse

'He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son' - Colossians 1:13

Reflection Question

In what specific areas of your life are you still fighting to maintain control rather than trusting God's leadership?

Quote

The greatest competition to God's kingdom is not good and evil itself. Rule. We want to rule our own lives.

Prayer

God, I confess my desire to control my own life. Help me to recognize when I'm building my own kingdom instead of surrendering to Yours. Give me the courage to trust Your leadership even when I can't see the outcome. Amen.

Day 4: Kingdom Values vs. Cultural Norms

Living in God's kingdom often means swimming against the current of cultural expectations. While the world around us celebrates success, comfort, and influence, kingdom values call us toward faithfulness, obedience, and service—even when it costs us something.

This tension shows up in practical ways every day. Do we choose the promotion that requires compromising our integrity, or do we trust God with our career path? Do we pursue the lifestyle that impresses others, or do we live within our means to be generous? Do we seek comfort and ease, or are we willing to step into uncomfortable situations where God is calling us?

Kingdom alignment requires honest examination of our calendars, our spending habits, and our daily choices. Does how we spend our time reflect what we say we believe about God's priorities?

Do our habits reinforce His reign over our lives, or are they building our own little empires? This isn't about legalism or earning God's favor—it's about recognizing that kingdom life often looks different from the world's definition of success. Sometimes it means asking for less comfort and more surrender, less success and more obedience, less control and more pursuit of God's will.

The beautiful promise is that when we seek first His kingdom and righteousness, everything else we truly need will be provided. God isn't asking us to sacrifice for nothing—He's inviting us into a way of life that's ultimately more fulfilling than anything we could achieve on our own.

Bible Verse

'But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.' - Matthew 6:33

Reflection Question

What cultural norm or expectation do you find most challenging to resist as you pursue kingdom values?

Quote

Kingdom values often cut against cultural norms of success and comfort and influence.

Prayer

Father, give me wisdom to discern between the world's values and Your kingdom values. Help me to choose faithfulness over success, obedience over comfort, and service over self-promotion. Strengthen me to live differently. Amen.

Day 5: The Moment of Decision

There comes a moment in every believer's life when God calls us to choose between comfort and obedience. It might be a career decision, a relationship choice, a financial sacrifice, or a call to serve in a way that stretches us beyond our comfort zone.

These moments reveal what we truly believe about God's kingdom. Are we willing to trust His way even when it doesn't make sense to us? Will we choose His path even when it requires sacrifice or uncertainty?

Maybe today is the beginning of you turning over control of some struggle or sin you've carried for too long. Perhaps it's time to surrender that relationship, that habit, that dream, or that fear that you've been holding onto so tightly. God may be calling you to step into something new that requires more faith than you feel you have.

The beautiful truth is that every act of surrender, every choice to follow God's leading over our own preferences, is an investment in a kingdom that will never fade away. While we may be busy pursuing earthly kingdoms that will be gone in years or decades, God's kingdom is eternal.

What transformation might occur in your life if you fully embraced the belief that you're living under God's kingdom right now? What would change if you truly trusted that His reign over your life is better than your own rule?

The invitation is before you today: Will you choose comfort or obedience? Will you build your kingdom or surrender to His?

Bible Verse

'And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'" - Luke 9:23

Reflection Question

What specific area of your life is God calling you to surrender today, and what's holding you back from taking that step?

Quote

God may call you. He will likely call you to a point in your life where you have to decide whether you want to choose comfort or obedience.

Prayer

Lord, I want to choose obedience over comfort, even when it's difficult. Give me courage to surrender the areas of my life I've been holding back from You. Help me to trust that Your kingdom is worth any sacrifice. Amen.