

“Thy Kingdom Come!”

(06-30-13)

Let's begin by looking at what Luther says about this section of the Lord's Prayer in his Catechism. **“The Second Petition: Thy Kingdom Come.** *What does this mean?* The Kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayers, 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.”

Open to Acts 1, page 909. You would think that the disciples who traveled with Jesus and heard Him talk about the Kingdom of God often, would have a clear picture of what the Kingdom of God was all about. But, that sure wasn't the case!

The disciples thought the Kingdom of God was an earthly kingdom, with a king ruling over the people just like it had always been. They thought Jesus as Messiah would deliver them and free them from Roman rule. They thought that as Messiah, Jesus would never meet crucifixion! When He was crucified, they, not only lost a close friend, but all hope that the Kingdom of God would come at all!

After Jesus' resurrection and just before He ascended, they were still asking questions! **Look at Acts 1: 6-8,** *“So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

This is our mission to the world! We're to be His witnesses and proclaim the Kingdom of God to everyone! But the odds seem to be against God and the coming of His kingdom! **The devil** has been there from the beginning and has tried and continues to try to stop belief in Almighty God and God's Kingdom from happening!

The world joins the devil in lack of belief that God exists or even has a Kingdom! Some people don't believe in a personal God or even the fact that there's a devil! They feel they have control and should be the ones to decide faith or not! The Bible tells all about God, but the forces of evil are at work in the world with a prime focus on pulling us away from God!

The sad part is that there's something inside each of us that makes it difficult for God's Kingdom to come, and for God to take control! In our own sinful nature, **we ourselves** stand in the way of God's Kingdom coming!

In relation to God's Kingdom, **we need to stop playing bingo with life**, hoping against hope that someday we'll hit the jackpot! We need to quit pinning our hopes on a private wheel of fortune, which seems to spin around and around but always seems like it's stacked against us!

Instead, **we have to put ourselves on the side of God!** When we sincerely pray these words, we're requesting to have God's power and His government set up in our lives! His kingship needs to be paramount and His rule supreme in our daily lives!

Open to 2 Corinthians 6, page 967. Because of our sinful nature, if God came with His power to take control, there'd be a confrontation, because we want control! Look what Jesus says, in **verses 16-18,** *“What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are*

the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, say the Lord Almighty." God doesn't need to change, we do!

When we say, "Thy Kingdom Come", **we're inviting the King of kings and Lord of lords to take control and live in us!** If the Kingdom is within me, then I need to make sure nothing enters there to harm or offend my Sovereign God! What we eat, drink, read, or see shouldn't pollute the temple God has made in me!

The difference between a dismal, defeated Christian and a victorious, vibrant Christian is in whether or not God, through His Spirit, controls life! Each of us, as people of faith are designated as His people, and members of His Kingdom!

When we pray, "Thy Kingdom Come", we're praying three things at the same time: **"Thy Kingdom Came!"** The Kingdom came ever since God first said in Genesis 1:26, *"Let us make man"*. The Kingdom of God came in the mighty acts of the past where God showed His power in a marvelous way. Especially as He sent His one and only to become a human being and suffer, die, and rise in our place!

"Thy Kingdom is Coming!" Listen to Luke 17:20-21, *"Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered 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."* In Christ, the Kingdom comes to you today through the Holy Spirit! The old is gone, the new is come! Even if all of us should run away from God, the Kingdom is still going to come!

"Thy Kingdom will come!" As surely as this day has dawned, So God's Kingdom will come! The final fulfillment of God's Kingdom could break in on the world before you finished breakfast tomorrow morning! Whether you're ready or not, the Kingdom of God will come! Are you ready to greet the King of kings and Lord of lords? His eternal Kingdom in heaven is yours as a person of faith!

I pray you'll know Him for what He is, the Son of God and Savior of the world! I pray with all my heart that your heart will be so moved, that as we gather at His table, your face will be there filled with joy and peace that comes from putting your trust in Jesus Christ!

It makes no sense to pray *"Thy Kingdom Come"*, if you don't have any intention of following it!