

# The Second Petition



## Opening Prayer

Father, dear Father, let your kingdom come. Let your grace rule in my heart and life through your Word. Only if you overcome me with your grace and your love and your pardon, only if you triumph in me with the cross of Christ and the kingdom that he established by it, only then will I ever survive to the end and finally inherit what he paid so high a price to win for me. Father, reign in our hearts through the gospel of Jesus. Make our faith in him stronger so that we serve you better. Establish your reign in the hearts of others by bringing them to faith in Jesus. When Jesus returns in glory, unveil your perfect reign and let us see you face to face. Amen.

If there's one petition of the Lord's Prayer that is most misunderstood, it's probably this one.

**Lesson Aim:** What do we ask God to do when we pray the Second Petition?

## Part One

Read John 18:36-37.

- 1) Is Jesus a king?
- 2) What does Jesus say about the kingdom of God in verse 36?

Read Luke 17:20-21.

- 3) Is the kingdom of God visible?
- 4) Jesus said in John 18:36 that his kingdom is not of this world. In Luke 17:21, where does Jesus say that his kingdom is located?

Read Colossians 3:15.

- 5) This verse tells us that Christ rules where?
- 6) Based on these passages from Part One, what is God's kingdom?



**KEY POINT 1** - God's kingdom is Christ's rule in our hearts by faith.

Read Matthew 20:1-16.

- 7) At what times during the day did the landowner hire workers for his vineyard?
- 8) Did those who were hired and began working later in the day receive less payment for their work than those who had been working all day?
- 9) Was that fair?

The landowner in this parable is God. The workers he hires are his believers. The payment he gives us is the same for all. Our payment is eternal life. That's what God gives us at the end of our days whether we've been working for him as his believers all day, our whole lives, or only for a little while. God will continue to call believers to faith to work in his vineyard from now until the end, and they all, along with us, will receive his kingdom.

- 10) Does knowing that there are still workers/believers to be found make you jealous?
- 11) How does it make you feel?

**KEY POINT 2** - God's kingdom comes when new believers come to faith.

**What I've learned so far:**

## Part Two

Read Mark 9:14-29.

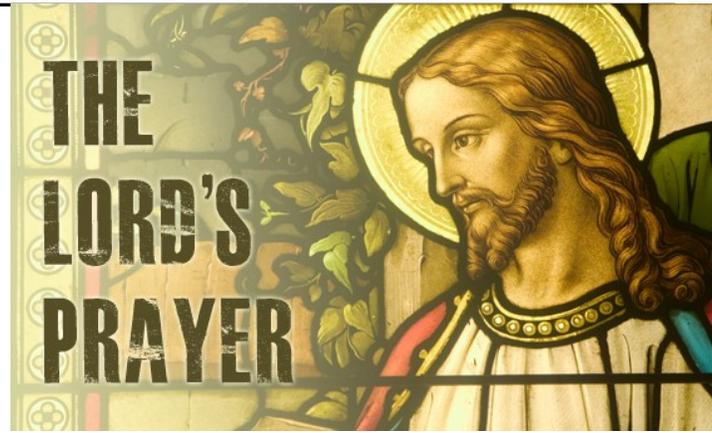
- 1) Jesus' disciples tried to help this boy, but they could not. What was the problem with the boy?
- 2) In verse 19, Jesus is speaking to the entire crowd, a crowd that includes even his disciples. What does Jesus refer to them as in this verse?
- 3) What does the boy's father ask of Jesus in verse 22?
- 4) Jesus responds by repeating the boy's father's words, "If you *can*?" It almost seems as if Jesus is offended by what this father's request implies. The boy's father believed that Jesus could heal his son. It was the faith of this father that brought him to Jesus in the first place. Once he realized what he had said, what does this father quickly exclaim to Jesus?
- 5) From this father we learn that we can believe and still need help overcoming our unbelief. Even though we already have faith, we can still be strengthened in our faith. Like the boy's father, God's kingdom is already within me and you through faith. So based on this account, what is one reason we pray the Second Petition?



✠ We pray that God's kingdom come, and then we back up that request with our actions. We strive to attain it now in this life, to be strengthened in our faith through regular contact with and study of his Word. We also strive to bring people to faith by telling them about their savior, and we support efforts to do mission work around the community, country and the world.

✠ Christ's kingdom of grace (all believers) will be changed into his kingdom of glory (heaven) when he returns again at the end of the world and resurrects all the believers who have died. In this petition, we are praying to God that the kingdom of Christ will come and remain among us, both in this life and finally on our last day. We ask God that we will remain faithful and daily grow in his grace, so that many more will come to Christ's kingdom.

✠ We are praying, "May the Christian Church grow on earth (both in numbers and spiritually) and may Jesus come at last to take his church to heaven.



**Main point** – In the Second Petition, I ask that God will strengthen my faith as well as bring many other people to faith in Jesus.

### Final Considerations:

1) The kingdom of God comes to us when \_\_\_ .

- a. our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe his Holy Word and lead a godly life now on earth and forever in heaven.
- b. we see the uselessness and danger of continuing to live as members of the devil's kingdom and ask God for admittance into his kingdom of grace.
- c. we make up our minds that we really want to live as Christians.



Agree or disagree:

2) We pray for God's kingdom to come so that more people will live in peace and so this world will be a better place to live.

3) If God wants to bring people to faith he will, our prayers don't really make a difference.

What do you think?

4) Rudy skipped church because he didn't feel like going. He still prayed the Lord's Prayer at home. He figured that since he prayed "Your kingdom come," the Holy Spirit would still strengthen his faith.

Write your expounded version of the Second Petition.

**What I've learned about the Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer:**

### Commit to Memory:

- Matthew 6:33
- The Second Petition (with *What Does This Mean and How does God's kingdom come?*)