

The Lord's Prayer Part 11 The Power and the Glory, Forever, Amen

As we begin today, may I read these precious words of the Lord's Prayer again for us, these coming to us from Matthew chapter 6, beginning in verse 9. Listen!

9 Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13)

Today, it is our plan to devote ourselves to what will perhaps be our final week of our study of the words of this blessed Lord's Prayer. And I would like for us to focus our thoughts on just these few closing words here in verse 13 of Matthew chapter 6, "For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever, Amen."

And while the focus of our study will be, as it should be, upon the person and the nature of our great and awesome God, I want us to especially be able to see how within His Almighty power and glory, God is able to remain so very intimate and personal to each one of us within His creation in even the private matters of our lives every moment of every day.

Last week, we devoted our study for the most part to considering the "Kingdom" that is spoken about here, the "Kingdom of God". And today, I'd like for us to begin by considering these next words, "the Power and the Glory, Forever, Amen!"

And as we do, I am immediately humbled, because I know that neither you nor I nor any other person is really able to even begin to know or to imagine the greatness of the "Divine Power of God" that's being spoken about here.

But though that be true, through faith, and through these scriptures, God's Holy Spirit is able to help us in our frail understanding and belief.

For me, I'm able to get a small glimpse of God's great might and power as I read these scriptures, beginning with the very first words in the Book of Genesis, there where our Almighty God simply spoke, and over the period of just six days, all of the worlds, our entire universe, the earth with all of its mountains and

valleys and trees and creatures suddenly, at His command, came into existence.

And then also, in the Book of Revelation, how God will speak again and at His command, all of those same worlds with all of its inhabitants will suddenly vanish out of existence, gone without even a trace of a molecule to remain.

And then, just as suddenly, at another of His commands, a whole new, eternal, and incorruptible heaven and earth will come into existence, a world where you and I will live forever with our loving God.

Such thoughts as these are so incomprehensible to our small minds, that you and I will then be able to live “forever”, “eternally” with our God. We are so accustomed to living daily lives where there is a continual beginning and ending of things, even our own lives of three-score and ten. But as these words of this prayer tell us, with God all things are “forever”. Again, it is all so incomprehensible.

But please do think with me for a moment and try to imagine all of this. How, from the beginning of time, by God's divine power, all of these things took place. In the Book of John and also in the Book of Colossians, we're told that it was the Second Person of the Trinity, the Lord Jesus, who actually did all of the creating. In John chapter 1 we read that,

³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (John 1:3)

And there in John chapter 1, and also in Revelation chapter 19, Jesus is called the “Word of God”. A. W. Tozer calls Jesus the “Speaking Voice of God”. And so, with the simple “Words of His Mouth”, Jesus, the “Word of God” spoke all the worlds into existence, from the smallest molecule to the vast universe. Isn't He magnificent.

And our scriptures tell us that after the Lord Jesus spoke all of this earth into existence, He then created Adam. Imagine that for a moment. From just the dust of the earth, He molded and He formed that first man, Adam. And then, in a very intimate show of love, He reached down and He breathed the “breath of life” into Adam's nostrils. And as He did, immediately, Adam became a living soul, an eternal soul.

And much the same has been taking place all throughout time, billions upon billions of people, at God's command, coming into existence and then passing on into eternity.

Again, all of this is so beyond the ability of the simple minds of men to understand, and because of that, most of the people of this earth have failed to see that it was Him, God, who did it all. In their ignorance, they have made up foolish stories and imaginations believing that mankind somehow created himself through some evolutionary process.

And sadly, in mankind's efforts to explain our existence in the way they think that it all took place, they have robbed God of one of the most important elements of His being, His "Glory", the "Glory" that is spoken about here in this prayer.

And folks, you and I who have the Lord Jesus as our Savior and our Lord must not join with those foolish people who believe those foolish things. As the Hymn we sing declares, "To God be the glory, great things He has done". And as the words of this Lord's Prayer declares about God, "For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the Glory, Forever, Amen".

Let me say this again! While it is true that our meager minds are not able to fathom the unimaginable power that it took to create these worlds, and to also sustain and maintain our existence every moment of every day, you and I must, by faith, believe that it is all being done by Him, that it is God and God alone who, by His great and divine power makes all of life to be as it is each day.

Over these past few days, as I've pondered these thoughts, I've been reminded that it is also by God's great and mighty power that the earth's complex systems have been formed and molded into an order, those systems that sustain and bless us as we go throughout our days. We must not be so arrogant as to think that we, mankind, by our own wits and brilliance, have been able to think up all the many conveniences that we enjoy each day. From electricity, to automobiles, to our banking systems, to our armies, to our police forces, to our governmental systems, to all the electronic devices that we use each day, and on and on, it was not our brilliant minds that thought them up, it was God's Holy Spirit guiding and directing our thoughts over these many centuries.

And yes, I do know that over time we, mankind, have corrupted most all of those good and perfect gifts God has given to us, especially the political and

the governmental systems, and yes, the environment and other things. But God's gifts are still good and perfect. It is just us, mankind, who have sinfully misused and corrupted all those things.

Let me say this again . . . while all the inhabitants of the earth should be praising God and giving Him the "Glory" for the great things He has done, most of the people do not. They think, and some truly believe, that it was by their own hands and by their own minds that they have accomplished their successes.

All throughout our media, we see men and women giving and receiving accolades and being elevated into positions of great honor, wealthy business leaders receiving praises, movie stars and music entertainers being idolized. And we see few, if any, giving God the glory for their successes. They seem to believe that it is all by their own efforts.

But folks, you and I really must be different! We who have Christ as our Savior and Lord know the truth. No matter what we have accomplished in this life, whether it be small or great, we know that any success that we might gain has come to us through the "Mind of Christ" living in us, giving us the thoughts and the intellect to know how to do the things that we do. And to God be the "Glory".

May I take a quick moment and give a personal witness about this truth, how our great and mighty God does moment by moment stoop to aid and intimately guide the daily efforts of our private lives. For me, some years ago, I decided to build myself a woodshop. As I worked each day constructing that shop, yes, I received some occasional advice and help from some of my friends along the way. But for the most part, I did most all the work myself.

As I worked, and especially as I looked back on the finished product, I was amazed at how excellent it turned out.

Why was I amazed? It's because I am not a carpenter or electrician and I know very little about how to do those things. I was a businessman, an accountant, and folks, an accountant does not know how to do carpentry work . But yet, somehow I knew what to do as I built that shop. And I know that the wisdom and the intelligence that took place as I worked came from the guidance of God's Holy Spirit.

And yes, I also know that in my many, many years of being an accountant and a businessman, it was God's Holy Spirit who gave me the intellect to know how to do that work as well. To God be the "Glory".

One more thought and I'll move along from my personal experiences. You'll recall that I have told you on other occasions that these precious words that I share with you each Sunday do not come from my own wisdom and knowledge. I'm not smart enough to think up these words. These words that you hear from me each Sunday come straight from the Mind of Christ.

And so I'll say again, "to God be the Glory, great things He has done". And also, as the words of this prayer declare, "for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, Forever, Amen!

One more thought as we consider these words about the "Glory of God". In our Westminster Catechism, the first question asked of us is, "What is the chief end of man?" And the answer is "To glorify God and to enjoy Him forever". It is one of the most basic doctrines of the Christian faith, to "Glorify God", and it comes to us from such scripture verses as Romans 11:36 which tells us that,

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:36)

And also, 1 Corinthians 10:31,

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Simply put, everything that you and I think and say and do must, in every way, be to the "Glory of God", else we should not think it, or say it, or do it. God's "Glory" really must be the first desire of our heart.

These closing words of this prayer, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen" are not just a statement about God. They are much, much more. These words have within them the sense of an earnest plea welling up from within the depths of our hearts, pleading that our Almighty God Himself would manifest himself with great power and glory. And not only abide with us and within us, but would even fill the whole earth, so full that there would be no place and no thing and no activity or behavior of life on this entire earth that would not have the fullness of His presence and His power and His glory overflowing within it.

What a wonderful and comforting thought that is, that the very power and presence of God the Father who raised Jesus from the dead, would fill all that takes place in everything that we do . . . that He would bring purity and holiness and righteousness to our corrupt and reprobate world . . . that He would live in us and among us . . . and by His Holy Spirit govern and guide all our thoughts and behaviors . . . protecting us and providing for us . . . comforting us in our griefs and our sorrows . . . calming us in our troubles and fears, bringing "Glory" to Himself as He does all those many things.

With all this being said, as we come near to the end of our study of this precious prayer, I'd like to devote the remaining few minutes today to this very special closing word of this prayer, the word, "Amen".

Unfortunately, too often our "Amen" is very little more than a quick and almost meaningless word that says to ourselves and to others who might be listening that our prayer has just ended. And that is not at all what God intended for this very special word.

The intention for this word, "Amen", is to place a "seal of approval" on the words of the prayer, affirming and validating all that has been said, from the beginning of the prayer to its end.

Folks, there is a guiding principle that we need always to remember as we read these words, a guiding principle that governs not only the words of this prayer, but all of the words in these scriptures. And that is that while yes, these particular words came through the mind and the hand of the disciple Matthew, they are infallibly the exact words of the Holy Spirit, giving us word-for-word wisdom that came out of the heart and the mind of the Lord Jesus, the creator, the giver and the sustainer of all life and of all that exists in heaven and on earth.

And because that is so, we can trust these words, word-for-word. We can trust their design and their intent and we can trust that all that is said within them will actually be carried forward to completion and fulfillment.

And that is the essence of this final word of the prayer, "Amen", a word that means "so be it", and declares that "truly all that has been said in the prayer shall take place".

This word for Amen is the same Greek word that is translated often within these gospels as “Verily, Verily”, or “Truly, Truly, or “Assuredly”. Jesus used this word often as He gave strong emphasis to a truth that He was giving.

He used this same word In Matthew 5:18, when He said,

¹⁸For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. (Matthew 5:18)

And He used this same word in Mark 11:23, when He said,

²³For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. (Mark 11:23)

And then also, in John 3:3,

³Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3)

Again, this word verily is exactly the same word as is used to say “Amen”, and it means exactly the same thing. It declares with all omnipotent power that “Yes, verily, truly, without question or doubt, all of these things will be done.” “So be it”!

And then, as you and I pray these words back to God and say our “Amen”, it's our response back to Him saying that “Yes, truly we believe and we trust that it will all take place just as God has declared. And that yes, we agree and join with Him in His desires and His intentions for all the things we have prayed.

So then, the next time, and every time, you say this word “Amen”, please do say it with the intention of declaring that “Yes Lord, so be it! Let it be exactly as You, our all-powerful and Almighty God have declared it will be!” Amen and Amen!

As we close here today, may I say again! No, our meager minds are not able to fathom the unimaginable might and power and glory that is in the Person of our God. But we must, by faith, believe that it is all true.

And so, as the hymn we sing declares, “To God be the glory, great things He has done”. And as the words of this Lord's Prayer declares about God, “For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the Glory, Forever, Amen”.

May we pray.