

# Prayer and Purpose: Give God Your "Yes"

*40 Days of Prayer, Week One*

Welcome to week two of *40 Days of Prayer*. We're learning, from Jesus, how to pray for breakthrough in our lives and in the world around us. We're becoming a "house of prayer" - a church that practices prayer and believes God will answer.

Last week, we talked about *Prayer and Praise* and the power of worshipping God and recognizing his goodness and power in our prayers. Today, we're going to talk about *Prayer and Purpose* and how to use prayer to align our lives and our world with the will of God.

Let's read Jesus' Model Prayer together out loud...

## **Matthew 6:9-13 NIV**

- <sup>9b</sup> Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.  
<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.

I used to think that praying for Jesus' kingdom to come meant asking him to return soon. And for a little kid, that seemed scary. I had my whole life ahead of me and I'd already misunderstood the book of the Revelation!

In reality...

**Prayer is an opportunity to align our will with God's will,  
and to ask that his will be done in the world around us.**

The word "heaven" is often misinterpreted. We either see it as this far off, magical place in a galaxy far, far away, or we see it as a mystical non-reality - a fantasy world where all of our dreams come true once we die and (hopefully) go there.

Heaven is a huge subject in the Bible, and we could spend weeks exploring it. Today I just want to share three essential truths about heaven...

1.

**Heaven is a real place  
where God's throne exists,  
where angels dwell, and  
where believers go when they die.**

2.

**Heaven represents the realm  
in which God's will is always carried out  
completely and perfectly.**

3.

**Jesus taught us to pray  
that God's will would be done  
in our lives and around us on earth,  
just as it is in heaven.**

Isaiah had an experience, as a prophet, in which God allowed him to see through the veil into the very throne room of God, and he wrote about his experience so that we could learn a little bit about heaven and about God's will...

## Isaiah 6:1-8 NLT

The first part of Isaiah's experience was about looking **upward**...

<sup>1</sup> It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. <sup>2</sup> Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!"

**Seeking God's heavenly will on earth  
always starts with worship.**

The second part of Isaiah's experience was about looking **inward**...

<sup>4</sup> Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven's Armies."

**Seeking God's heavenly will on earth  
always involves repentance.**

The third part of Isaiah's experience was about looking **outward**...

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven." <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me."

**Seeking God's heavenly will on earth  
always involves influencing people with God's Word.**

That is, we're on a rescue mission!

**Seeking God's heavenly will on earth  
boils down to giving God your big "YES"  
and granting him full ownership of your life.**

**Romans 12:1-2 NLT**

<sup>1</sup> And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

What is God calling you to say **"YES"** to today?

*Trusting him as your Savior once and for all?*

*Following him in baptism?*

*Getting involved in a ministry?*

*Going with him on mission?*