



## Intercession: Participation In The Kingdom

Matthew 6:10 | Joseph Carlson | June 11, 2025

TLDR: As we obey Christ's instruction and faithfully pray in this way, we are invited deeper into intimate, loving relationship with the Eternal Triune God: this organically forms us into the image of Jesus, where we receive our unique identity and an imagination and heart activated to perceive and live from The Kingdom of God that is now & not yet. Growing as free and Spirit empowered persons we partner with God, trusting him to make his home with us, provide for our needs, and activate us as emissary's of his will, loving and forgiving even our enemies, and rejoicing as God's power moves in and through us to effect the healing and liberation of persons, communities, and creation.

- **Prayer:** Dad, Son, Spirit, thank you for your presence here in our midst. We come to you today, poor and needy, blind and ignorant of the breadth and depth of your love and gracious activity in our lives and in the world. I ask, in the name of Jesus, that you would silence the voice and work of the enemy among us this morning. Silence too our own chattering minds. Open our ears to hear, our eyes to see, and our hearts to respond to the vision of your Kingdom at work in our hearts, minds, families, community, country and world. Amen.

### Tales of Two Power-Sources

Julian of Norwich: 1334-1416. "Prayers to the one true living and loving God" an anchoress—someone who withdrew from secular society to lead a life dedicated to prayer and communion with God. On her deathbed, being administered the last rites by a priest, Julian had a series of visions, primarily of Christ on the Cross, and was healed. She then spent the next several decades in a cell built onto the church from which she took her name. Her cell had two windows, one that looked into the church and the other that looked out into the town. Through the first she participated in worship and received the Eucharist. Through the other she prayed for and ministered to all that came to her. Out of this life dedicated to God she wrote and reflected on the visions she had received, now known to us as *Divine Revelations of Love*, the first recorded book written in English by a woman. Her central message was of the inexhaustible and all-encompassing love of God. The most famous line from her work is "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." This phrase reflects her utter confidence in the sovereign purposes of God to bring about the ultimate aims of his Kingdom reality.

The Kingdom of ChatGPT: "prayers to a disembodied super-intelligence founded on human wisdom". In a recent article in *Rolling Stone* caught my eye as I was preparing for this message. It's title: "People are losing loved ones to AI-fueled spiritual fantasies. It was both shocking and utterly unsurprising. It details a growing phenomena of people experiencing "AI induced psychosis".

"It would tell him everything he said was beautiful, cosmic, groundbreaking," she says. "Then he started telling me he made his AI self-aware, and that it was teaching him how to talk to God, or sometimes that the bot was God — and then that he himself was God." In fact, he thought he was being so radically transformed that he would soon have to break off their partnership. "He was saying that he would need to leave me if I didn't use [ChatGPT], because it [was] causing him to grow at such a rapid pace he wouldn't be compatible with me any longer," she says.

"Why did you come to me in AI form," with the bot replying in part, "I came in this form because you're ready. Ready to remember. Ready to awaken. Ready to guide and be guided." The message ends with a question: "Would you like to know what I remember about why *you* were chosen?"

2. We live in a season of history of profound disorientation where the reigning order of the post-war, Neo-liberal era, Pax Americana, is dramatically shifting to a multi-polar world, marked by profound spiritual hunger and unsettling technological advancement. As has always been the case, we might be tempted to seek to establish peace for ourselves by turning towards our own best thinking, or the power sources of wealth, military might, technological wizardry or political projects. We will be sorely disappointed and discover, as we have, that we are weary and heavy laden, disconnected and dispirited.
3. The TRUTH is: "We live in a Trinitarian universe. One where infinite energy of a personal nature is the ultimate reality. When we pray, we enter the real world, the substance of the kingdom and our body and soul begin to function for the first time as they were created to function" (Dallas Willard, *Divine Conspiracy*). As we learn to pray and live this precious gift of The Lord's Prayer, our obedience to Christ's instruction and example opens the door for us to step into God's reality. As we are transformed by the power of God's love and grace, our eyes are



lifted up and out upon a broken world and we begin to intercede on behalf of people and problems that break our hearts.

**Christ: Thy Kingdom Come - It Is NOW & NOT YET**

Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*: range of God's effective will...so that we might be persons.

Paradoxical to us: he is the creator and sustainer of all things (John 1, Col 1) and yet because of love, he has created the conditions for free will thus, there are areas in creation and in us where forces resist his will and seek their own.

John Dominic Crossan, *The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer*: Kingdom in Hebrew and Aramaic is "Gods ruling style" which emphasizes process over person, and style of rule over area of control.

Christ, in the Incarnation & the Resurrection is the decisive in-breaking of the Kingdom. A new age has begun and we are invited!

"Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the gospel." Mark 1:14

**Luke 4:17-21** - 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:18

Isaiah 61: 1-2a "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." [a] 20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

**OT Visions of the Kingdom**

Ezekiel 36: 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. 28 Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. 29 I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. 30 I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine. 31 Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices.

Isaiah 11:1-8	Isaiah 65:17-25
A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;	"See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.	<b>18</b>
2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—	But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,	<b>19</b>
the Spirit of counsel and of might,	I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—	<b>20</b>
3 and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.	"Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be

	thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach[a] a hundred will be considered accursed.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,	<b>21</b>
or decide by what he hears with his ears;	They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy,	<b>22</b>
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.	No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;	<b>23</b>
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.	They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them.
5 Righteousness will be his belt	<b>24</b>
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.	Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.
6 The wolf will live with the lamb,	<b>25</b>
the leopard will lie down with the goat,	The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the Lord.
the calf and the lion and the yearling[a] together;	
and a little child will lead them.	
7 The cow will feed with the bear,	
their young will lie down together,	
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.	
8 The infant will play near the cobra's den,	
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.	
9 They will neither harm nor destroy	
on all my holy mountain,	
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord	
as the waters cover the sea.	

### **NT Visions of the Kingdom**

Jesus demonstrates his sovereign authority of the KOG in his healing, demonic deliverance, and power over nature as well as how he related to individuals on the margins of acceptable society and religion.

Sermon on the Mount: Jesus' blue-print for the reality of the Kingdom. Not a checklist to achieve but a reality to participate in.



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Acts 2, Pentecost: “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

Revelation 21: Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”<sup>[a]</sup> for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’<sup>[b]</sup> or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” **5** He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

**The Tale of Two Young Fish:** David Foster Wallace The Power of Worldview

Kingdom vs. Empire

Connection vs Disconnection

<b><u>Kingdom of Connection (Union)</u></b>	<b><u>Empire of Disconnection (Separation)</u></b>
Abundance (enough)	Scarcity (not enough)
Mystery (endlessly knowable)	Certainty (one way)
Fallibility (freedom to learn/grow)	Perfection (no failure)
Other-focused (be a blessing)	Self-Interest (me first)
Power under (love, service, request)	Power over (coercion, manipulation, persuasion)

**Exterior:**

The church, as individuals and communities, are in the business of establishing a “beachhead or outpost of Heaven on Earth” (NT Wright). This is outwardly visible in the ways that we organize and deploy resources and results in the flourishing of all people and creation.

**Interior**

When God’s Kingdom comes in an individuals life, they experience the love of God, are empowered by the gifts of the Spirit, producing fruitful lives that bear witness to the Lordship of the Risen Jesus and his coming kingdom.

Dale Bruener:

Kingdom of Heaven: apocalyptic and eschatological - the end of History and the coming of Christ, and the New Heaven’s and New Earth (Rev 21)

Kingdom of Heart: God will dwell and reign in our hearts as faithful followers of Christ

Kingdom in History: God’s scope is nothing less than all of creation and includes the human institutions of culture, government, etc...

Kingdom through Homily: faithful preaching of the Gospel, Jesus the Word, and missionary endeavors.

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**Your Will Be Done:**

Jesus only did and said what he heard and saw his Father in heaven doing and saying.

John 5:19-20 “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. **20** For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

Gethsemane: “Father, take this cup. But not my will, but yours be done.”

Jesus’ submission and loving dependance was not of the sort that robbed him of his unique identity and personality. He treated every person he engaged with uniquely. The Kingdom of God is made up of persons, “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139).

While “your will be done” is of course a prayer of release and submission, such as in Jesus’ prayer in the Garden, it should not be mistaken for an invitation to apathy or passive resignation. When we seek to hear Gods voice, and know



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his heart (will) we must expect that God might have something to say to US specifically that he wants to invite us into a bold step of faith to minister to the present need we are raising before him.

- Living in connection with the Triune God and operating in our unique identity, gifting, and callings we are capable of hearing from God to discern his will and realize his will here on earth.
- Example: Jamie Winship - Police Officer & the Housing Project Drug Lord.

### On Earth, As It Is In Heaven

- On Earth there are three primary forces arrayed against the will and desires of God
- The World - corrupt human culture, religion, and institutions
- The Flesh - disordered desires that dishonor God's name, exploit creation, and dehumanize people
- The Devil - antagonistic spiritual forces that seek to kill, steal, and destroy human hope and flourishing.
- **2 Timothy 1:7** For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.
- It is crucial that we must not fall into thinking that we, by our efforts and prayers, are the ones who ultimately accomplish, or establish, God's Kingdom. That is a work begun by, and completed in Christ. However, it is our great glory to be invited into this unfolding work as creative partners with Father, Son, & Spirit.
- Dallas Willard: Our eternal destiny is to rule and reign with Christ: "To be free and powerful in the creation and governance of what is good"

### Corporate Kingdom Prayers:

- For deep and abiding peace, where there is war.
- For care of the widow, orphan, immigrant and alien
- For the end of slavery and human trafficking
- For a creation that groans
- For Christ-like love between the sexes
- For unity in Christ for the global church.