

Spend Time in Prayer – Lesson 4

12 Prayers for Building God's Kingdom & Not My Own

Introduction: As you move through this season of prayer, quietly ask God to show you anything in your own personal kingdom that may be getting in the way of His kingdom.

Selah – the Hebrew meaning of this word is unknown; however, it is thought to either mean “pause” or “stop and listen.” When you see this, pause for 5-10 seconds before moving on.

- 1. Read: Romans 14:11:** “For it is written, ‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’”

Selah

Pray: God, my desire is to build your kingdom and not my own, but I confess most of the time I live like that is not true. I spend so much of my day trying to build my kingdom, making myself, instead of you, the center of this life. Lord, I need your spirit to remind me minute-by-minute that this life is not all about me. It is all about you. Your word says the time is coming when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and your Kingdom will be made complete. In the end, that will be all that matters. Nothing I build for my own glory will be left so I ask you to help me stop spending this life focused on myself. Jesus, I want to see my daily life through the eyes of your kingdom. Help me to seek your kingdom in my heart, mind, and life.

Selah

- 2. Read: Matthew 4:17** “From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

Selah (Stop for a few seconds to listen.)

Pray: God, I want to build your kingdom and not my own. Lord, I know that building your kingdom instead of my own starts with repentance. Jesus, I am sorry for how I live my life trying to control everything and everyone, including you. I don't want to be in control. I want to have a repentant heart, turning from the sin that keeps me seeking my own glory instead of yours. Jesus, please keep the words "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," always before me so that I will fight hard against my sin and work hard to bring your kingdom here.

Selah

- 3. Read: Matthew 6:19-21** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Selah

Pray: God, I want to build your kingdom and not my own. Jesus, I confess that I spend much of my day thinking about how I can lay up treasures here on earth. I allow the world to tell me that what I have is not enough and that I need to spend my money and time accumulating more. Jesus, please help me to break free from earthly treasures that can be taken away from me, and help me to cling to you, my heavenly treasure.

Selah

- 4. Read: Romans 12:3-7** "For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a

measure of faith. For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching.”

Selah

Pray: God, I want to build your kingdom and not my own. Jesus, I confess that my pride and vanity get in the way of your kingdom being built in my life. I think of myself more highly than I should. I pray you will grant me humility. I pray I will embrace the gifts that you have given to me and use them to bring you glory, not myself.

Selah

5. Read: James 4:14 “Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.”

Selah

Pray: God, I want to build your kingdom and not my own. I need you to show me that this life is temporary. I ask that you would put eternity into my heart and that I would long to be in my heavenly dwelling more than my earthly home. You have only given me one life and I want to live it with more purpose, on a mission with you. Lord, I pray that you would give me the eyes to see this place as a temporary home and that my heart would be at home in you alone. Help me to see that this life is but a mist and a fleeting breath.

Selah

- 6. Read: Ephesians 4:1-3** "Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Selah

Pray: God, I want to build your kingdom and not my own. When a person is a prisoner, their liberties have been stripped from them. Lord, I confess I do not live like my liberties have been stripped. Instead I live like I have the freedom to do whatever I want. As a Christian, I am a prisoner of the Lord. If that's the case, my liberty is no longer found in doing my will, but in doing God's will. Lord, I thank you that you are not an angry, overbearing warden. You are a gracious and loving father and I pray you will pour out your grace; help me to walk in a manner worthy of the calling you have placed on my life. Jesus, help me to be humble, patient, and gentle. Allow me the strength to bear with others in love. Help me to walk in true liberty by walking in your will and not my own.

Selah

- 7. Read: John 15:16** "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you."

Selah

Pray: God, I want to build your kingdom and not my own. Believing that you have chosen me out of all the peoples of the earth to be your child changes everything. Father, help me to believe that I am your child, and because you have chosen me, you will make me to bear fruit that will last. God, help me to live

like a chosen child of the king, walking in confidence that you have a plan and purpose for my life.

Selah

- 8. Read: John 16:32-33** "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. 'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.'"

Selah

Pray: God, I want to build your kingdom and not my own. Father, I confess that I let fear control me and determine how I spend my time, money, and energy. I am afraid of trouble. I am afraid of hardship. I am afraid of persecution. All of this causes me to be self-protective and to build my own kingdom. Jesus, help me to have the peace you have promised. Help me to no longer be afraid, knowing you have overcome the world. Enable me to step out in faith, not fear.

Selah

- 9. Read: John 4:7-12** "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

Selah

Pray: God, I want to build your kingdom and not my own. God, you are love. All love starts and flows from you. I will never build your kingdom unless I believe that you love me. Jesus, I know that love is learned through being loved by you. Help me to experience your love in fresh, sweet ways in the days to come. As I see your love in the everyday details of my life, may a love for others be ignited. Jesus, I want to be a person marked by love. I want people to literally feel the love of God when they encounter me.

Selah

- 10. Read: 1 Peter 1:13-16** "Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"

Selah

Pray: God, I want to build your kingdom and not my own. Your word calls us to be holy because you are holy. I confess, Jesus, most days I feel like holiness is impossible. I feel so far from holy, but I know you would not command something that was impossible. If you commanded it, then you have provided a way. So I am asking the Holy Spirit to help turn my passions and desires away from this world and toward you. Please make a way for holiness in my stubborn, sick heart. Make me holy as you are holy.

Selah

Read: Philippians 3:7-8 "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ."

Selah

Pray: God, I want to build your kingdom and not my own. Lord Jesus, I need to leave all of my gains at your feet. There is nothing that I have, or could ever have, that compares to knowing you. Jesus, I want to consider all things loss compared to you. I want to call them garbage in order to gain more of you.

Selah

- 11. Read: Revelation 21:1-7** "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. 'And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.' And he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.'"

Selah

Pray: God, I want to build your kingdom and not my own. The new heaven and the new earth - this is what I want my life to be about. Jesus, help me to live my life on a mission of ushering this Kingdom into reality. When I read about the beauty of what

you are going to do, dwelling with us, drying every tear, and conquering death, it makes the little kingdom I am building for myself look even more ridiculous. I want your glory, not my glory. I want your plan, not my plan. I want your kingdom, not my kingdom. May it be so. Amen.

Selah

Group Leader/Individual: Matthew 6:10 "...your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Perhaps the Lord has brought to mind specific things today that are keeping you from building His kingdom. Right now, quietly, would you bring these specific things to God? Ask Him to overcome anything that is getting in the way of what He is asking You to do for His Kingdom's sake and for His glory.

Selah

Group Leader/Individual: Father, thank You that You have designed prayer so that I/we can be a part of what You desire to do on planet Earth! We are so grateful that You include us in Your plans and purposes for Your Kingdom. Help us to be more aware each day of the prayers You prompt us to pray by the power of Your Spirit. Thank You that we can join Jesus as He brings our prayers to Your throne. In His Name we pray, Amen!

Adapted from: Make Something Beautiful/Rachel Baxter
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