

**“Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, Forever and Ever!”**

(08-11-13)

Let’s look at the conclusion of the Lord’s Prayer and what Luther said about it. The Conclusion: *“For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever!”*

What does this mean? *This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us.*

As we say the conclusion, we’re actually ending the prayer the same way we began it, focusing on the power and majesty of our Father in heaven. This conclusion serves as a kind of benediction, or doxology.

The question that comes up for this conclusion is that it is not recorded in Scripture at all in connection with the Prayer, especially as Jesus gives the Prayer to His disciples! Many of us have been to other churches that say the Lord’s Prayer but stop at, *“deliver us from evil.”* So where did it come from?

The first known use of the doxology, in a shorter version, *“for yours is the power and the glory forever,”* as a conclusion for the Lord’s Prayer is in the Didache, a writing which is the Teachings of the 12 Apostles from the late 1<sup>st</sup> or early 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Roman Catholics and some Lutherans, do not use it when reciting the Lord’s Prayer, but it is included as an independent item many times not spoken by the people, but chanted by the priest. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer sometimes gives the Lord’s Prayer with the doxology, but sometimes without.

The one thing the beginning and the end of the Prayer both establish is that God is our Father Who loves us, and is also Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth! He is a loving God Who draws us to Himself through His Spirit with tenderness and compassion.

We praise Him as we say the conclusion, just as the focus of our attention all the while we speak the Prayer, is on the fact that God is our Father, Whose Kingdom we plead for along with His forgiveness and protection. We are remembering Him, and only Him!

As we conclude the Prayer, we realize He has the Kingdom, power, and glory! We need to believe with all our hearts that He has control. We don’t, the government doesn’t, and even Satan doesn’t! Because we believe He has all power and authority, all our prayers are worth the time and effort praying to our Almighty God!

It shouldn’t be all that surprising that Jesus Christ, Who knew His Father intimately, would instruct us to proclaim these honors to God! To not do it would, in some ways, make the prayer incomplete! We need to follow the ACTS of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.

But the problem is that we get so preoccupied with asking, we forget to praise Him for Who He is and what He’s done! It’s important that we not only come to Him freely with our petitions, but also reverently with our praise and gratitude!

Gratitude enlarges the heart, overcomes self-will, and recognizes God the Giver! God can’t be pushed around! He responds to our prayers with His grace and tender heart!

God’s people are encouraged to honor, respect, and praise Him. Praise is just as important to God as it is to us! As we praise and thank Him, He responds to our prayers and petitions.

Our world is impressed with power. Some people and nations will listen only to the voice of power! Is there any power that can make us again as God intended us to be? Yes! That’s what we’re saying at the end of this prayer! God has the power to hear our prayers and to do what we ask for our good.

Open to Philipians 2. We shouldn’t be involved in seeking power, it’s God’s! The sad part is that in our sinful human nature, we long to lord it over someone. The temptation

is real! Look at verses 5-11, *“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Even though He was given all power, Jesus didn't lord it over people, He gave His everything, even His own life on the cross as a ransom for all. He washed His disciples' feet. He was generous to all. Listen to what Jesus said in Matthew 23:11, *“The greatest among you shall be your servant.”* That's the example Jesus gave. That showed His glory! That showed His giving! That's what we talk about when we say the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer! He asks us to do the same thing as we live our lives in this world!

Now, at the Conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, we dismiss all doubt and every hesitation. We know God is true God and our Father! We dismiss all anxiety. We don't have to worry about what is happening to us and what's happening around us! Because of trusting in Him and Him alone, we can dismiss all fear! We know He walks by our side every step of the way!

Because we believe and trust in our Father, we need to praise Him and thank Him each and every day. All of the things that we can dismiss because of His majesty, power, and love can be replaced! By God's grace, in floods all faith, love, confidence, and courage! We become changed! We become new! Heaven is ours!

Ask the Holy Spirit to empower your life, giving you confidence in God's forgiving heart, and putting steel in your backbone to stand up and be counted for Him! As you do, proclaim your God boldly with all confidence and trust, *“Yours is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever!”*