

Doxology - Part 1
Sermon August 22, 2021

Scripture Reading: 1 Chronicles 29:10-15 & Psalm 105:1-8

Golden Verse: *For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory, forever. Amen*

Matthew 6:13

In April, we started to study the Lord's Prayer and now we reached the second last part of this amazing prayer, taught by our Lord Jesus Christ, "For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, forever".

The final sentence of this prayer is called DOXOLOGY. Doxology is a liturgical formula of praise to God. The word Doxology passed into English around 1645 from a Latin word *doxologia*, which comes from the Greek term *Doxa*, which means "glory", and the suffix *-logia*, refers to oral or written expression. Doxology is an oral expression of praise and glorification.

A non-Christian or atheist reading the Lord's Prayer might say that it is a summary of human needs. However, only God's children can say this from the bottom of their hearts as a **prayer**.

Only those people can pray this in a humble way:

- who went through so many challenges and misery, and experienced God's help;
- who experienced their weakness and God's power;
- who realized that for us many things are impossible but for our Heavenly Father everything is possible; and
- who experienced that everything comes by God's grace, love, and mercy.

Only those can pray this prayer with their whole heart and mind who accepted the privilege given by Christ Jesus to be called children of God because this prayer starts like this: Our Father.

As we analyzed the Lord's Prayer, we have seen the beautiful structure of this prayer, as framed with six important requests.

With three requests, we ask for heaven to come to earth: sanctified be Your name on earth as it is in heaven; let Your kingdom be realized on earth as it is in heaven; Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Then, in the other three requests we bring our most important earthly needs before the heavenly Father: please provide our bread and everything that we need daily; forgive us daily; and deliver us from evil daily.

We start this prayer by ASKING from our Heavenly Father and, at the end, we confess that we ask all these things knowing that HE is able to give us what we ask for, because the kingdom, the power, and the glory are HIS. We ask all these things with faith, knowing that “Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory forever.”

I am wondering if you noticed that we start to pray this prayer like a child, with the sincerity of a toddler, fully trusting in his or her parent. And coming to the end, we pray the doxology as mature adults, as we were strengthened by our loving Father, knowing that He reigns in heaven and on earth. In us, in believers, the loving and longing faith of a toddler and the strong, unshakable faith of the mature adult are always together, and so must be there.

Why is the Lord Jesus Christ teaching us to confess and to tell our Lord that we know that the kingdom, the power, and the glory are His?

Because we have to remember **who** we are, **whose** we are, and **to whom** we pray. **We** need to know that God is our loving, giving, and caring Heavenly Father. We confess that God is not a stranger, who reigns somewhere far-far away from us, but who is with us always. He is our Father.

In the last sentence of this prayer, we confess what we do believe of God. We confess our faith and we worship God. We confess that we know who He is: You are the one who has all dominion, all power, and who has glory alone. When we are finished asking for more, and still we don't stop praying and praising our Father, this is called WORSHIP. This is the highest form of prayer.

The Bible informs us that such worshipping prayers are performed in heaven. Up there, nobody is asking for anything anymore because they don't have needs. They have everything. Those who are around the throne of God don't have to confess their sins because they don't sin there. Those who are already in heaven are glorifying the Almighty because of how wonderful He is. The prayers in heaven are all about glorifying and worshipping God for what they are experiencing there.

I would recommend to all of us that, after we finish praying the Lord's Prayer, we should remain silent for at least 10 seconds. And in that silence, in that peace, we could experience something from that heavenly atmosphere, and we can picture God, who is working for us to fulfill our needs.

I heard a little story. There was a workaholic father who worked a lot at his home office. His children were not allowed to disturb him and could only enter his office in special and urgent cases. Once, a 9 year-old child, without knocking, opened the office door and tiptoed in. The father, being busy with his work, did not even look

up from his papers to see which of his children was there. He just murmured: “What do you want?” The little one said, “I don’t want anything. I just want to watch you working and I want to be close to you.” At that moment, the father was shocked, and slowly some tears gathered in his eyes as he understood that his child did not want anything from him. This child just wanted him, because the child missed him. He just wanted to watch him working and to be around him.

When we worship our God, we do something similar. We don’t want anything from God; we want just Him, our heavenly Father. As we worship, we confess: I want to be near you, Lord, because it is so good to be in front of you, and if you have a word for me, Lord, I feel honoured. Everything You say and even that You do is important to me. I just want to watch what you do and how you act, Lord.

Let us ask from ourselves: are we familiar with this form of worship when we are sitting in silence just to admire our God?

In Psalm 37:4, we read: *“Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.”*

Sadly, we constantly list only the requests of our hearts to God as we pray. We are bringing to God our requests which are important for us. But, if we could come just to glorify Him, maybe we could get more than just what we request. He is the only one who has the kingdom, the power, and the glory, and He can give us more than we can even imagine.

People in the 21st Century find excuses to say that we are very busy and we don’t have TIME to spend with God in praying and meditating and glorifying Him. We don’t have time for silence and for a deeper conversation.

Recently, I was talking to a very nice person and I asked her why she is not taking part anymore in our Sunday services. She answered that, on Sundays, she has no time to worship because she is cooking and baking for her family members who are coming for lunch and she has no time.

I became silent. I thought: no time for God, no time for giving thanks, no time to express our thankfulness for what we receive day by day. Maybe one day God will place us in a sickbed to have time thinking about Him.

The truth is that if someone is important to us, even if we don’t have something specific to say, we will find the time to be together and to pour out our hearts in a conversation.

May the Lord help all of us to develop this deep desire to create time for God, and time to worship and glorify our Heavenly Father. This desire is nourished by the love of Jesus, who taught us: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.”* (Mark 12:30) This love can be created in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. It won’t come mechanically. But it is our responsibility to create time and silence to be able to worship the Father. **WE** have to start to love Him with all our hearts. **We** have to ask the Holy Spirit to help us to feel that we need to put aside time to worship. Then **we** have to set aside all other things that we have to do, and **we** have to show to ourselves and to our family members and friends that our heavenly Father is more important for us than anyone and anything else. Spending time with God is not a waste of time, but it is vital for us. Let it be. Amen.