

DOXOLOGY - Part 2
Sermon August 29, 2021

Scripture readings: Psalm 46:1-11

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

Matthew 6:13

Last Sunday, we learned that this closing sentence in the Lord's Prayer is called doxology, and that doxology is an oral expression of praise and glorification.

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.

And also, I recommended, 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 have to carefully listen if God wants to say something to us, either answering our prayers or asking something from us.

Many times I have experienced that, when I remained silently in His presence, the Lord talked to me. There were moments when He reminded me that I should think about something that I should do, serving and helping others. He encouraged me to check on somebody. And I always realized after that particular person was in great need and I felt blessed being God's extended hand in their lives. On many occasions, God reminded me about some of my sins, which I did not bring to Him with a humble heart, and it was time to re-think some of my past actions. On many occasions, the Lord was talking to me about re-directing my plans in a much better direction, which I had not seen before.

I would like to encourage you, my dear sisters, my dear brothers, to remain quiet in the Lord's presence after you pray, and wait for His words to talk to you. Say the words Samuel said: "*Speak to me, Lord, because your servant is listening.*" (1 Samuel 3:10)

In the Lord's Prayer, we ask our Heavenly Father to take good care of us and to provide us with what we need daily. I would say that we don't really have to ask for more in large details since, as Jesus said, our heavenly Father knows what we need, and He will provide.

As a young theologian, once I had an unforgettable prayer time with my mentor. He had a prayer list, and he prayed for many people. It seemed to me he knew about all their problems and needs, and he was talking to the Lord in prayer about his friend's needs. Then he prayed for his children and for his wife. During his prayer, I was waiting with a great curiosity about what he would ask for himself? What kind of needs did he have? What kind of challenges did a minister with a large family have? But, he did not pray for himself and did not mention in his prayer any of his needs to the Lord. He closed his prayer by thanking the Lord that He was listening and that the Lord would provide. After we prayed, I asked my mentor, saying: "Sir, why you did not pray for yourself, for your needs? You did not ask from the Lord anything for yourself. How come?" With a big smile, he laid his hands on my shoulder saying: "Well, instead of spending time to summarize my needs, I would rather glorify Him, and I praise His Holiness and I give Him thanks, knowing that the Lord knows me, He knows my needs, and in the right time, He will faithfully provide. He can give us much more than we can ask for. Also," he continued, "I don't want to get into a temptation of asking things for myself based on my own desire, because maybe tomorrow I will realize that what I prayed for today, I don't really need it anymore. So why should I spend time asking for things which tomorrow would be worthless. God knows exactly what I need today and tomorrow, and He will not give me more or less, but enough of the basics that I really need."

WOW – that was a huge lesson for me. On that day I learned: Pray for others. Ask for others. Bring others to God's merciful throne. Forget about your own needs, knowing that God will not forget about you. Also, we should learn, dear beloved, that we should rather spend time glorifying His holy name, instead of asking and asking and asking for our own sakes. Maybe, we will realize that what we thought we need today, might be worthless tomorrow. Why don't we lay our whole lives in His hands, praising Him, knowing He will not give us less or more, but just enough? He will enrich us according to His grace.

In this doxology, Yours is the kingdom, Yours is power, and Yours is glory, the Lord Jesus is teaching us very important things.

1. We saw at the beginning of our study that the word kingdom means that place, that country, where God has a royal rule.

In doxology, we confess again our belief that God reigns above the whole creation since He created the cosmos, the whole universe. It is important to see and confess this because we see, day by day, that the devil reigns on earth and wants to damage us. But God reigns above evil as well.

Once, I heard a drunk person yelling in his house: “In this house I rule, and everything has to be as I say.” Let us ask ourselves quietly: who rules in our homes? Whose rules do we follow? Who is glorified? Can we say: “Lord in our house, in our lives, Yours is the Kingdom”?

Our Father is the one who rules overall. He will decide our future. We are not exposed to any kind of disease, nor to the demonic forces. It is our Father who reigns. He decides everything about our present and future. The time of our lives is in His hands. He gives days to our lives as long as He wants. Take it seriously that He rules. Knowing this will take a series of unnecessary fears, anxieties, and worries out of our hearts.

Many of our questions are answered if we really believe that our Father rules over everything. The Kingdom is His.

2. Secondly, Jesus is encouraging us to confess, at the end of this prayer, that our Father has power over everything.

We, as modern people, are proud of the power we created. But we have no power over our bodies. We are aging, we can get sick, and we can get in accidents. God has power over everything. He has power over our aging bodies and he can re-create us into a spiritual body that is eternal. The Almighty has power over the grave, and He created for us another place, a planet where there is no sickness, no aging, no troubles, but eternal joy. How joyfully we can glorify our Heavenly Father, confessing that the eternal and everlasting, the unimaginable power is His.

The resurrected Jesus said to His disciples: “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*” (Matthew 28:18) Authority means POWER. Before that, Jesus said to them: “*You are my friends if you do what I command.*” (John 15:14)

In 1 John 3:2, we read: “*Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will have not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is*”.

Probably you, too, were in a situation, when you had some issues and you were wondering if you knew somebody who could help you. Then a name came into your mind, and you said: "Let me make a phone call, and this issue can be resolved by this person because he or she has power." And when you made the call, you were asking the person kindly to help since you had no authority above that issue. Then, your friend said: "Ok, no problem, I can do this since I have authority in that area." And your problem, which caused you sleepless nights, was resolved by a phone call. Remember what Jesus said: "You are my friend." God said: "You are my child." Let's have the faith and courage to come to our Lord with all our burdens because He will care for us. He has the power in heaven and earth.

3. Yours is the glory.

Oh, how many times do people provoke others to glorify them, and to recognize their power and glory. What pitiful, selfish behaviour is this with low self-esteem.

It is extremely important to know and confess that the eternal and everlasting glory belongs only to our God. In Ephesians 1:12, Paul writes "*we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory.*" He is teaching us that we, who know God, have to give Him glory, which means we have to inform others about His mighty deeds. In John 17:4, Jesus said: "*I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*" This means to us that if we give God glory on earth, He will receive us in His glory when He will take us home, and we will rejoice in His glory forever.

Can we wish more for ourselves than to be in an everlasting glorious place with our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, to show how much He loves us, and to spend eternity in God's glorious kingdom?

Dear beloved, this is our call, to glorify our God to whom is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. To glorify His name with our words and actions in a way that others should know Him better, and should choose to accept Jesus's friendship and to accept God's unconditional love, who calls us to be His children. To God be the glory. Amen