

## “The Prayer of Surrender”

Text: Matthew 6:10

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Park Boulevard Presbyterian Church ([www.pbpc.org](http://www.pbpc.org))

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### PRAY!

Today, we’re going to continue our series on going through The Lord’s Prayer. I’m calling this series “The Path to Inner Peace”. Two weeks ago we looked at the fact that God says the key to peace is prayer. In Philippians 4 He says, *“Don’t worry about anything. Instead pray about everything and the peace of God will rule your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”*

- So God says the more you pray, the more peace you have. The less you pray, the less peace you’ll have. You can either worry or pray as you go through life.

The truth is it’s really quite easy to lose your internal peace. One minute everything’s cool. You’re kicked back and it feels good and you’re in serenity. And the next minute you get a phone call and you’re stressed out. It’s very easy to lose your peace.

Three ways people most often get anxious or stressed:

1. When your circumstances are uncontrollable. You feel helpless.
2. When people around you are unchangeable. They won’t cooperate. Have you ever tried to change somebody—your wife, husband or kids—and they won’t get with the plan?
3. When problems are unexplainable. You can’t figure out why something doesn’t work. That is stressing and causes anxiety.

What do you pray in all three of these situations? You need to pray the third prayer which I call, The Prayer of Surrender. Matthew 6:10, *“Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”* What does this mean *“Your kingdom come, Your will be done”*? What is God’s kingdom?

- God’s kingdom is His plan for history. It is the rule and reign of God in the world. It’s all that **He** wants to do. All his purposes are accomplished in the kingdom of God.

Where is the kingdom of God? It is where Jesus is allowed to be king. Since Jesus is king in heaven right now, the kingdom of God is in heaven. One day when Christ comes back on earth, the kingdom of God will be on earth. Jesus says, “When I’m king in your heart, the kingdom of God is within you.” So the kingdom of God is where Jesus is allowed to be king.

Actually, the second phrase, “*Thy will be done*” explains the first phrase, “*Thy Kingdom come.*” God’s kingdom is wherever God’s will is done. So if God’s will is being done in your life, that’s where the kingdom of God is. It’s inside you.

This morning we’re going to look at how this phrase, “*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done*”, can bring personal peace in your life. But before we do, we have to settle one thing. God is God and you’re not. You cannot pray this prayer and you cannot be at peace until you learn to accept that fact. God is God and you’re not.

### THE PRAYER OF SURRENDER MEANS...

#### 1. I accept God’s plan.

- A. Instead of my own plan for my life, I accept His purpose, His will for my life. A big part of this can be very difficult...accepting the things that you cannot change. This is true for a lot of things in your life. You didn’t choose your birth or your death. You don’t choose what other people do to you. You have to accept the things that can’t be changed.
  - 1. All those things in your life—I don’t like the parents I have; I don’t like the way I look; I don’t like the talents I’ve been given – all those things, you can’t change them.
- B. There’s only one thing that will work when you can’t change something. That is this – acceptance. I must accept God’s will in my life. “*The kingdom come, Thy will be done.*” You say, “God, I want Your will in my life when there are things out of my control, and I can’t change them.”
- C. Paul understood this. In Philippians 4 he says this, “*I’ve learned to be satisfied with the things that I have and with everything that happens.* [How many of you can say, I’ve learned to be satisfied with everything that happens? I couldn’t raise my hand on that one.] *I know how to live when I’m poor and I know how to live when I have plenty. I’ve learned the secret of being happy at any time in everything that happens. I can do all things through Christ because He gives me strength.*”
- D. Notice first the amazing thing about these verses, Paul wrote it when he was in prison. He’s in Rome, chained to a guard in a dungeon and he’s saying, I’ve learned how to be happy no matter what’s going on in my life. He couldn’t change his circumstances but he said I’ve learned to be content. Notice three things:
  - 1. **First**, accepting God’s plan is a learned experience. You are not by nature a contented person. Neither am I. By nature we are discontented. God says contentment is something you learn. You learn to accept the things you can’t change. **Second**, it’s a choice. Paul says I choose to be happy in spite of my circumstances. **Third**, he says it’s possible only through Christ’s strength.

- E. You need to learn that The Prayer of Surrender is to accept God's plan even when I don't understand it. Why? Because the truth is most of the things that happen in your life, God doesn't explain to you why they happen. Most of the things in your life God's not going to give you an explanation. He's going to remain silent when you're going through that problem, through that trial, through that difficulty, through that circumstance that you don't like.
1. Think back to when you were in grade school. In grade school the teacher would pass out the test, you would sit down and start taking the test and he or she would sit at the front in silence while you took the test. The teacher is always silent when the test is being given.
- F. That's true in life. That's true with God. Anytime you're going through a tough time and God is silent and you're praying, "God! Why is this happening? What's going on in my life? Help!" and God is silent, this is a test. Anytime God is silent in your life this is a test. God is saying,
- Are you going to trust Me even when you don't feel Me?
  - Are you going to trust Me even when you can't see Me, hear Me and you feel like I'm a million miles away?
  - Will you accept My plan, My wisdom, My love, My goodness even when there's nothing emotional; you don't feel any goose bumps, you don't feel anything special in your life?
  - Will you trust Me when I am silent?"
- G. God tests you all the time. He wants you to pray when you're in those situations. That's when you need to pray The Prayer of Surrender, "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done.*" "God I don't know what's going on in my life. I don't know where You're taking me. I don't know where I'm going to end up. But I'm going to say this even in advance. Thy will be done." This is the key to peace where you say I'm going to accept Your plan even when I don't understand it.
1. Season of depression – "*Thy will be done.*"
- H. Why does this bring peace of mind? Because the greatest barrier to your peace is your demand for an explanation. Anytime, you ask God, Why? You are setting yourself up to be disappointed. The truth is you're probably not going to get an explanation from God. Three reasons:
1. God doesn't owe you an explanation. Remember, God is God and I'm not. He doesn't have to report to me. I report to Him. He's good, He loves and He knows what's best.
  2. You probably wouldn't understand the explanation even if He gave it to you. The reason is, God thinks through eternity (past, present and future).
  3. Explanations never comfort us. It gives you wisdom. But it didn't relieve the pain. Instead of offering explanations, God offers Himself. His presence. God has said I will be with you

always. I care about you. You will never go through anything on your own.

- I. What you need to do to have peace in your life is pray the prayer of surrender, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in my life. I accept your plan and ...

## **2. I trust in God's care.**

- A. I trust in His care that if He guides me, He is going to provide for me. God is going to take care of me. The Bible says this in Isaiah 26:3, *"You, Lord, give true peace to those who depend on You because they trust You."*
- B. Your life is never going to be problem free. The rest of your life you're going to have one problem after another after another. You have to learn how to have peace in spite of your problems and in spite of conflict. You have to learn to trust God's care, even when you have problems. By the way, why do we have so many problems in the world? Four reasons:
  1. A fallen world. In a nutshell, Adam blew it. He sinned. Sin entered the world and we live in an imperfect world ever since. Because sin is in the world, people do things that are wrong and you suffer as the result. Other people cause problems that you didn't cause.
  2. You have an enemy. His name is Satan. Satan wants to mess your life up, destroy you and make you ineffective as a child of God.
  3. Your own poor decisions. You make a lot of dumb decisions and choices and so do I. Most of the problems I bring on myself.
  4. Sometimes problems are nobody's fault. Sometimes God just allows them for a different reason.
- C. In healing the blind man in John 9, Jesus answers the disciples question of who sinned to cause the man's blindness, the parents or the man. Jesus said, *"Neither. This happened so that God's power could be displayed in this man's life."*
  1. You're going to have problems because God let them in your life so that God's power could be displayed in your life.
- D. True peace comes when you trust in God's care for you.

Are you really at peace today or is there turmoil in your heart over some area that has not been yielded to God? Question: What in your life do you need to surrender? You and God only know. Aren't you tired of being at war with God? Aren't you tired of being in turmoil? You can have – God promises – the peace of God. You must make peace with God before you can have the peace of God.

How do you make peace with God? Romans 6:13, *"Give yourself to God. Surrender your whole being to Him to be used for His righteous purposes."* He

wants you to surrender your whole being to Him, saying, "God, I want to live for Your purposes, your plan. Thy will be done in my life and on earth as it is in heaven."

**Prayer:** Let's pray this together, "**Father, this message was for me. You know how I've resented the unchangeable things of my life that cause me pain. You know I've asked You many times for an explanation but it's never come. Today, I want to stop fighting You over the things I don't understand. I want to be at peace. Today, I pray the prayer of surrender. Your kingdom come, Your will be done in my life. Help me to say that every day. Help me to change the things that I can but to accept the things that cannot be changed. Today, Jesus Christ, I accept Your plan for my life. I surrender to Your control and I'm going to trust in Your care.**"