

## As It Is in Heaven

*Father,  
may You be glorified,  
may You be in control,  
and may Your will be done  
on earth just as it is in heaven.*

### A Look Ahead

*On earth as it is in heaven* apparently applies to all three phrases that precede it:

- hallowed be your name . . . on earth as it is in heaven;
- your kingdom come . . . on earth as it is in heaven;
- your will be done . . . on earth as it is in heaven.

The phrase brings to mind the vision of God's heavenly throne room from Isaiah 6:1-7. Picture this. God is seated on a great throne, high and lifted up. The train of His robe fills the entire temple. Winged creatures surround Him, bowed in His presence, eager to do His bidding, continually praising Him. Even the door-posts, considered the most stable part of a structure, shake at the sound of the thunderous worship. The entire room is filled with smoke, a sign of the mystery and majesty of God's presence. Everything, every creature is responding fully to the unspeakable wonder of God's presence.

Now lift your eyes to a day just ahead. All the earth has become God's throne room. Every creature and all creation respond fully and forever to the awesome magnificence of God. Praise, worship, and obedience are natural, joyful, and unbroken. Imagine it!

The Lord's Prayer plants that vision deep in our hearts. Your glory . . . Your control . . . Your will on earth as it is in heaven. The prayer lifts our eyes. It reminds us and points us in the right direction. It fuels our longing for God in His fullness. Day by day it gently assures us of the wonder that soon will be.

### Our Deepest Daily Need

When I was younger, prayer was primarily telling God what I wanted. The opening petitions of the Lord's Prayer were only "ought tos." If reminded of them, I would force myself to think of a few things for which to thank God, then hurry into my concerns. "God, I need this, and this . . . right now!" My prayers were filled with the same self-centered anxiety that ruled my life.

But as I've gotten older, I've begun to realize that my daily needs come and go. God always meets them, one way or another. He is so faithful. What I really need is to start each and every day with God's perspective. I need to realign my heart and mind with Him and His purposes. The pressures of the day so easily knock me out of focus. The

Lord's Prayer provides a daily refocus, a tune-up, a renewed hope and vision. It's like a morning shower, natural and refreshing.

In other words, what I really need every day is Him. I need to reorder my life around Him, who He is and who He is to me. I need to see again His complete power, His unlimited love, and the beautiful wisdom of His plan for my life and my world. I need to see Him and be reminded of all He is doing.

### **God Alone**

That's what the first half of the Lord's Prayer does for me. Note that there's no "I," "my," "we," or "our" in these three petitions. No mention of anyone but God. I'm reminded that what's really important, what I really want, is that He be glorified. I want Him to be in complete control and His will be done, just as fully here on earth as it is in the throne room of heaven.

Do you want to hear what God has to say to you? We're often told that we need to get quiet and wait before Him. There's value in that. But realize that it's not primarily physical noise that keeps us from hearing God. He doesn't usually speak audibly anyway. What blocks His loving whisper is the noise of our own plans and desires. We're so wrapped up in what we want that our hearts aren't tuned to His desires and His plan.

That's why the Lord's Prayer is so important. It quiets our hearts and minds before Him. We want only His plan. We desire only His will.

### **The Greatest Benefit of Prayer**

Some mornings I get so caught up in this opening portion of the Lord's Prayer that I don't get to any other concerns. I've come to realize that God's great blessing to us is not giving us what we want in our selfishness, ignorance, and shortsightedness. His blessing is helping us to want only the best, to want only what He wants, knowing that He will gladly give it. He doesn't so much change reality to fit our desires. He changes our desires to fit His reality.

Therein is the secret of Jesus' relationship with His Father: He wanted only what His Father wanted. This prayer that Jesus taught us fuels that same desire in us.

*Father,  
today  
no glory but Yours,  
no control but Yours,  
no will but Yours.*