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THE DISCIPLES PRAYER  
MATTHEW 6:13 (b)  
PART 5

In Matthew 6:13 Jesus teaches the disciples prayer, saying ***“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”*** There are three parts to consider here.

First is “Thine is the Kingdom.” He is speaking in this case of the “kingdom of God.” This, I believe, refers to the spiritual aspects of God’s will, love, and power that is in operation here on earth for all those who look to Him. The disciples were to seek to live here in His power and His favor as His (and Jesus’) kingdom ambassadors.

Jesus preached much about both the “kingdom of God” and the “kingdom of heaven.” Are they the same or is there a difference?

One day while in Bible College, I was researching something in the library when one of the college professors approached me and asked me that very question. He wasn’t sure of any answer. Being recognized as someone knowledgeable in the college, he sought my thoughts on it. I had never considered such a question, so I had no light to shed on the subject. Consequently, I have pondered that question since then many times, and I feel that Holy Spirit has shed some light on the matter.

As we live in “the kingdom of God,” we live in harmony with Him as His children. We have authority in the Kingdom of God on earth. We do the works Jesus does. We live and “operate” or work” in His grace, principles, and power. It is the “kingdom” that is spiritually based on God.

The “kingdom of heaven,” I believe to have a broader scope. It involves the operations of all three “heavens.”

The first heaven deals with our “ground level” existence in the physical realm of Earth.

The “second heaven” refers to the atmosphere (air) around us and the earth. This is where the spiritual forces of good (God) and evil (Satan) clash. What goes on in the “second heaven” affects our lives in the “first heaven,” the physical world.

The “third heaven” is where the throne of God sits. God has set certain parameters (rules and limitations) on what can occur in the first and second heavens. He has determined an “overall” course of history for those two heavens, but He does not dictate every detail of engagement. His “sovereign will” is for the overall plan. The day to day factors play themselves out within His “rules of engagement” or parameters.

The “kingdom of heaven” therefore involves everyone, believers, and unbelievers alike, the “wheat and the tares”. His principles, His promises, His grace is available to everyone in the “kingdom of heaven” whether they accept Him or not.

Let us give our devotion to Father, to Jesus, and the “kingdom of God” that has been put within us through Christ.