

ALIGN: May Your Kingdom Come and Your Will Be Done
OK Prayer: Session 4

QUESTION: Do you have a much-loved pet in your life who causes frustration? (Prv 12:10)

ALIGN (Gen 1:26)

- King David and Solomon: 1 Chronicles 28:8-9, 29:11-12

“a *willing* mind” means with passion and pleasure; delight

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, ‘Mine!’”¹ Abraham Kuyper

1. The Kingdom of God is established in the _____ of God. (Ps 8:4-6)
 2. In God’s Kingdom, people are _____ free agents
- King Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel (and his friends): Daniel 1-2 (Eze 11:16)
3. Sovereignty means God can use people who don’t know or worship Him to accomplish His _____.
- The Coming King “Over All the Earth”: Zechariah 9:9-10, 14:7-9 (Jn 6:15, 7:3-5)
4. God’s Kingdom comes according to His _____ and His _____
(Jn 4:34, 5:30; Ps 40:7-8 & Heb 10:5-10)

When Discouragement Causes Questions:

- John: Matthew 11:2-11 (Mt 3:7, 10)
1. Take your _____ to Jesus. (Isa 35:4-6, 61:1; Jn 16:13, Heb 4:12)
 2. Seek _____ in His Word (Bible). (Mal 3:1)
- Jacob (Gen 32:16), Moses (Ex 33:15), & Jesus: Matthew 26:39 (Rom 12:1-2)
3. _____ (Lk 22:44)
 4. _____ to His love.

¹ Abraham Kuyper, “Sphere Sovereignty”, Oct. 1880, in *Abraham Kuyper: A Centennial Reader*, ed. James D. Bratt (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998), 461.

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT / GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Do you tend to regard prayer with a “willing mind” or “begrudging acceptance”? Are you eager to pray, or do you consider it more of a duty?
2. David, Daniel, and the Dutch politician, Abraham Kuyper, all worked in government roles but personally demonstrated reliance on God’s rule and reign over His creation. What practical steps can you take to change your perspective on God’s role in your everyday responsibilities?
3. How do you feel about John the Baptizer’s questioning Jesus?
4. The poet Dora Greenwell says, “Prayer is the voice of one who was created free, although he was born in chains. It is at once self-assertion and self-surrender; *it claims a will even in surrendering it*, when it says, ‘Not my will, but Thine, be done.’”² However, we often say “Your will be done” too easily with an attitude of effortless resignation and fatalism, not submission; with apathy, not active alignment. How does your freedom challenge you to question God and wrestle through your desires and confusion in prayer before you sacrifice your will to Him?
5. Norwegian preacher, Ole Hallesby, says, “Your helplessness is your best prayer.”³ Which posture of helpless yielding can you relate to most: a soldier ready to comply or a toddler needing to be held? (or do you prefer a different image?)

² Dora Greenwell, “Prayer” in *The Power of Prayer*, ed. W. R. Nicoll, (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1910), 22.

³ Ole Hallesby, *Prayer*, trans. Clarence Carlsen (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1994, 1931), 18.