

TREXO: THE ON RAMP

Session 2 - God's Kingdom Will

GOAL: Learn how to walk in God's authority according to His will.

VERSE: Matthew 6:10

*“Pray, then, in this way:
'Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
'Give us this day our daily bread.
'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”*

OPENING PRAYER: (Breathe) *Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, you are the center and the source, the beginning and the end. You are at work in the world to bring about Your kingdom according to Your will. Speak to me today by Your Spirit so that I can hear what you have for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*¹

RECEIVE:

1. God has a Kingdom.

Jesus' first public sermon had to do with the kingdom of God. Mark 1:14-15 "Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God is at hand** [emphasis added]; repent and believe in the gospel.'" The kingdom of God was a central part of Jesus' life, ministry, and teaching. At the end of the book of Acts we are told that near the end of the Apostle Paul's ministry he was imprisoned in Rome for two years. While there, he was "preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered."²

Read through these three verses and write what they teach about God's kingdom.

Luke 11:20 *But if I (Jesus) cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

Matthew 13:31-32 *He (Jesus) presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and this is*

¹ If your mind is filled with other things, go through the releasing exercise we did in the opening prayer of the first session.

² Acts 28:31

smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

Colossians 1:13-14 For He (Jesus) rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The kingdom of God is the reign of God on earth that expands through the rescuing of people.

Scripture teaches that in addition to the kingdom of God there is also a kingdom of darkness. All of the sickness, destruction, persecution, suffering, famine, war, abuse, neglect, pride, brokenness, and despair in the world are manifestations of the kingdom of darkness. The kingdom of darkness is led by Satan. 1 John 5:19 says, “We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” Ephesians 6:12 says, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” In our salvation we are awakened to the reality that we have been born into a war between these two kingdoms.

We have been born into a spiritual war between two kingdoms.

When Jesus came, He came to violently overthrow the enemy and re-establish God's kingdom. "The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil." (1 John 3:8) In Jesus' death and resurrection He overcame the enemy, “When He disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.” (Colossians 2:15) Every healing, teaching, exorcism, salvation, and work Jesus did was an advance of God's kingdom against the kingdom of Satan. Every life saved, including yours (!), was/is a life rescued from Satan. *The kingdom of God is the place of God's authority, power, and victory. It is His rule and reign.*

Now personalize Paul's words in Colossians 1:13, “For He rescued *me* from the domain of darkness and transferred *me* into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom *I* have redemption, the forgiveness of *my* sins!” You now walk in the same kingdom, filled with the same Spirit, that Jesus walked in! In session 1 we learned that we are born again as children of God filled with the Spirit of God. To that identity we can add:

**I have been made a child of God
filled with the Spirit of God
walking in the Kingdom of God.**

As Jesus lived His life at war, so to we will be trained how to fight in this war. The great news of the kingdom is that we have the same authority Jesus had! As Jesus walked in the Kingdom and exercised God's authority, so too can we! "No weapon that is formed against you will prosper." (Isaiah 54:18) We walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promises, "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." We have been raised and seated with Christ in the heavenly places far above all rule and principality. (Ephesians 1:18-2:10) As children of God we are filled with the Spirit of God walking in the authority of the Kingdom of God!

2. God has a will

Jesus teaches us to pray, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." God is actively at work in the world advancing His Kingdom according to His will. He has a will, a plan, He is working in all creation and in your life. Ephesians 1:10-11 says, "In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will..." In our new relationship, God leads and we follow. He is our conquering king and we are His people.

The night before Jesus' crucifixion He was praying to His Father. In part of His prayer He says, "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do." (John 17:4) Later that same night, Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane asking His Father to remove the crucifixion from His life. In the depth of His cry He prayed, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet *not My will*, but Yours be done." (Luke 22:42) Because of Jesus' obedience to His Father's will, the enemy was defeated and salvation was made possible to all people.

God accomplishes His purposes through the obedience of His people.

As His kingdom children filled with the Holy Spirit, we have been called to be obedient to His will for our lives. Read the following passages and note what they teach us about obedience in our relationships with God.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe (obey) all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

John 14:23-24 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."

1 John 5:1-4 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

What has been your attitude towards obedience?

How does Jesus' teaching affect your attitude towards obedience?

We see through the life of Jesus and the teaching of His word this truth:

The power and authority of God work according to the will of God.

As we **RECEIVE** from our Father, we faithfully obey His leading in all things. His power and authority energize our obedience. Without His power His will and our obedience are impossible.

KNOWING GOD'S WILL

So, how do we learn what His will is for our lives? Every bit of our understanding of God's will comes from the Holy Spirit. It is the role of the Holy Spirit to make known to us the will of our Father. Three of the ways we **RECEIVE** from the Holy Spirit are directly from Him speaking to us, studying the Bible, and listening to the counsel of other brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Meeting with God and listening to the Spirit by daily studying His Word is an integral part of walking in His will. You will want to start reading the Bible as well. Unless you already have a place you are reading, begin with the book of John. Read one chapter a day.

Before you read...Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the Scripture today.

REFLECT on the reality that you are about to read the Word of God. Thank Him for the specific things He has been doing in your life.

RELEASE the things you are battling and need to hear from Him on.

As you read...What is the Scripture saying? What is the Scripture saying to you?

RECEIVE what God has for you.

After you read...Thank God for His Word.

RESIST the emotions, thoughts, and spirits that are seeking to keep you from responding to God's direction.

Go, **RESPOND** to what He has given you!

Through the Scripture God will reveal many aspects of His will for your life. As you obey these directions you will experience His power. For example, it is the will of God that:

- You be holy (1 Peter 1:15-16) – therefore the power of God is available for you to overcome temptation.
- You experience intimacy with Him (*Galatians 4:4*) – the power of God is available to overcome issues hindering your intimacy.
- You be free from bondage (*Galatians 5:1*) – the power of God is available to deliver you from all forms of oppression.
- You be an excellent spouse (*Ephesians 5:22-33*) – the power of God is available to shape you into the fantastic husband and wife God wants you to be.
- You share your faith to others (*Acts 1:7-8*) – the power of God is available to you to overcome fear, lead you to the right people, and deal with whatever you encounter.
- You suffer for the name of Jesus (*1 Peter 4:12-19*) – the power of God is available to you to give you everything you need to endure great hardship for the kingdom.

As you read through Scripture, the Holy Spirit will continue to reveal to you God's will for your life. Then, He will empower you to live faithfully according to God's will. Remember, we live at war. Consequently, there is an enemy who actively seeks to deceive us, confuse us, and lead us away from the truth of our Father. As you walk you will increasingly learn how to fight against him to live in the love, freedom, rest, and power God promised to you.

BAPTISM

One step of obedience Jesus calls us to is baptism. Look again at Matthew 28:18-20. "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, *baptizing them* [emphasis added] in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" Our obedience to God's commands begins with baptism.

In baptism, a person is briefly, totally submerged under water representing both the death of Jesus and themselves. Then they are raised out of the water representing both the resurrected life of Jesus and their new life. "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4) If you have not yet been baptized, you need to get baptized. Let the person know who is leading you through this that you would like to follow Jesus' commands and be baptized!

As we live in obedience to God's will, we walk in His authority. You will learn to exercise His authority over sin and temptation; as you share the Gospel; heal people; and free people.

God's authority is always exercised according to His will.

We cannot expect to have His power when we are not in His will. Living obediently can be difficult. We want what we want. Obedience is a day-by-day lifestyle.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray this daily. This is our new life. Our Father wants us to walk in His power and authority according to His will. He has woken us up to the reality of the war between two kingdoms. The way of victory in the war is to live obediently to His will. That is the place of His presence and His power. His will is good. His way of life is good. Because of who He

is, what He has done in us, and what He is doing in the world, we dedicate our lives to living for Him!

This is the end of Session 2. We are learning to walk in God's kingdom according to His will. Write down any thoughts, emotions, or spirits you need to RESIST so that you can RESPOND to God's direction.

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Your will for my life is good, pleasing, and perfect. Empower me by Your Spirit to faithfully follow what You have for me. I pray you will continue to give me discernment and wisdom in knowing You and Your direction. When I fail You or miss what You have, please let me see it clearly so that I may ask forgiveness and learn what you have for me to learn. In Jesus' name, Amen.