

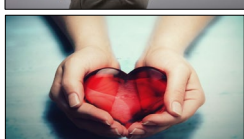
King Dumb

How to Open Our Secret Heart

October 19, 2025



Today we're *wising up to how we go about opening up to the kingdom within!*



So: **Who's kingdom comes first in your prayers?** I mean, the Lord gave us a **profoundly simple blueprint for personal pray**. Not a formula, but a format for covering the relational, conversational, **basics of a daily encounter with our Father**, who's in heaven, and fully holy, and requires that His kingdom come first down here, on earth, as it is back home in heaven. And though Jesus said, "This, then, is how you should pray" (Mat 6:9) we're too often too quick to tell Him what we want, what we really-really, anxiously, want. Because: **we're in a hurry to get to what we're in a hurry to get**. So, we're urged to slow our roll, recalibrate, and offer our Savior-King a proper salutation. Because: **the way we speak reveals what we seek**. The things above, or things below. And our King of Righteousness commands us to:

Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness – Matthew 6:33 NIV

As opposed to my kingdom of anxieties regarding my heart's daily desires.

"Therefore I tell you, do not be *anxious* about your *life*, what you will *eat* or what you will *drink*, nor about your *body*, what you will *put on*. [Whether clothes or pounds] Is not *life* more than *food*, and the *body* more than *clothing*? ... Therefore do not be *anxious*, saying, 'What shall we *eat*?' or 'What shall we *drink*?' or 'What shall we *wear*?' ... [For] your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." [As He sees fit] – Matthew 6:-33 ESV

[Cuz] The Ruler of the kings of the earth ... has made us to be a kingdom, [wherein we, as] priests [offer ourselves as a living sacrifice (Rom 12:1)] to His God – Revelation 1:5-6 LSB

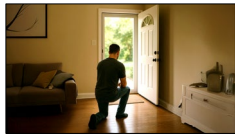
"Because [as Jesus famously said] the kingdom of God is within you." – Luke 17:21 NIV

Prayer isn't a way to let the Lord in on our plans, like we're doing Him a favor. **It's our daily duty, honor, and privilege to seek His plan!** So, instead of anxiously rattling off our worldly wants and cares and fears of going without, **we align our allegiance to His kingdom within.**

Do you have a *hard time* getting into the right *headspace* to pray? Or do you find yourself easily distracted? **Just do what football players do on the field**, in the game, in one of the most distracting situations imaginable. **Take a knee and get in the game!** Just before you walk out the door, literally take a knee and simply say something like: **"All for Your glory! Let's do this!"** Imagine taking a knee in public like that: as you run into a big meeting; or you're tackling a stressful situation; or you're facing opposing peers, or pressure, or temptation. That'd get you in the right head space! We should all try it at least once this week! I dare you. Then we can share it in our holy huddles next week!

And we run the wrong play when we pray, “Your KINGDOM come,” or “Your kingdom COME,” as a subtle way to say, “Fix this hellish mess down here.” But we run the righteous play when we pray, “YOUR kingdom come!” as opposed to mine, as a way to say, “Fix this hellish mess in me.” Now, combine that with taking a knee! And wow. *Imagine how different your day would be with that kickoff!* So, try it if you’re able. After all the hustle and bustle of eating and drinking and dressing, take a knee and say, “YOUR kingdom come! YOUR will be done!” And then get in the game!

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, [or clothing] but of righteousness, [and] peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God AND receives human approval. – Romans 14:17-18 NIV



And the crowd goes wild! Cuz Spirit inspired and empowered growth in righteousness, peace, and joy is a big win-win down here! So, that’s what His kingdom is, and where it comes (within), and how we should pray for its coming daily, and why it’s a fan, friends, and family favorite!



For He has rescued us [who live in the light] from the one who rules in the kingdom of darkness, [spoiler alert: it’s you and me] and He has brought us into the Kingdom of His dear Son. [S-O-N. Also called “the Sun of righteousness” S-U-N (Mal 4:2)] – Colossians 1:12-14 NLT



But if the kingdom is within, how does He bring us into it? Because there are two kingdoms within! One is darkness, and one is light. One is a heart of stone, and the other a heart of flesh.



[For] I will give you a new [soft] heart and put a new [holy] spirit in [the new heart in] you; [and, to the degree you allow] I will remove from you [gradually] your [old, hard] heart of stone and [in exchange] give you a [new, soft] heart of flesh. – Ezekiel 36:26 NIV



In other words, literally, this is the same verse just in a different version:

I will put a new way of thinking inside you. I will take out the stubborn hearts of stone from your bodies, [which is why we “offer our bodies as living sacrifices” (Rom 12:1)] and I will give you obedient hearts of flesh. [i.e. A new way of acting] – Ezekiel 36:26 NCV

[For] The Word [of God] became [obedient] flesh [in Jesus’ heart] and made His dwelling among us. [So our hearts can become flesh, when He makes His dwelling within us; and] We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father – John 1:14 NIV

[For] The Son is the radiance of God’s glory ... by His powerful Word. – Hebrews 1:3 NIV

[Because] Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. – Psalm 119:105 NIV

[And through it] The Lord turns my darkness into light. – 2 Samuel 22:29 NIV

[So] Let the Word of Christ dwell ... in your [dark] hearts – Colossians 3:16 NIV

For although they knew God ... their foolish hearts were darkened. – Romans 1:21 NIV

[But] He reveals the deep things of darkness and *brings utter darkness into the light*. [Which is how "He has brought us into the Kingdom of His dear Son" (Col 1:14)] – Job 12:22 NIV

In the *face of the darkness* light is near. – Job 17:12 NIV

"The time has *come*," He said. "The *kingdom of God* is near. [So] Repent" – Mark 1:15 NIV

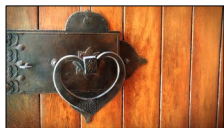
[For God] made *His light* shine in our [dark] *hearts* to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in *the face of Christ*. – 2 Corinthians 4:6 NIV

[John said, "We have seen His glory," because] He was transfigured before them. [And] His *face shone* like the *sun*, and His *clothes* became as *white* as the *light*. – Matthew 17:2 NIV

[So] "Buy from Me [Jesus says] ... *white clothes* to wear" – Revelation 3:18 NIV

"Fine linen, *bright and clean*" ... [which] [stands for] *righteous acts* – Revelation 19:8 NIV

That's the *clothing* we should be *praying* about *wearing*! And this *thought* hit me this week: *How do you open your heart to Jesus?* "Well, you ask Him in." That's just an invitation. How do you actually *open up* your heart to allow Him not only to *come in*, but to *establish* His kingdom within? Well, I went *looking*, and I *found* that: *We open our heart by opening His Word and ushering it into our inmost being*. You see, Jesus said:



I am the door. If anyone *enters* by Me, he will be *saved* – John 10:9 NKJ



[But then He says] "*I stand at the door and knock*. [So, if He's the door, why's He knocking? Cuz there's another door! A dark and disturbing door] If anyone hears My voice and *opens the door*, [of their darkened heart by opening up to His Word] *I will come in and eat* with that person, and *they* [come into My kingdom to eat] *with Me*. ... [And] [they will] *sit with Me on My throne*" [in their heart, on earth as it is in heaven] – Revelation 3:20-21 NIV



[The wicked] *eat the BREAD of WICKEDNESS* ... [so] *listen closely* to my words ... [and] *keep them within your heart*; for they are *life* – Proverbs 4:17-23

[Because] "*I am the BREAD of LIFE*. ... [and] My flesh is [represents] *real food* and My blood is *real drink*. [For "those who *hunger and thirst for righteousness*" (Mt 5:6); for] Whoever *eats* My flesh and *drinks* My blood *remains in Me, and I in him*. ... [Because] The *words* I have spoken ... are *spirit* and ... *life*." – John 6:48-56, 63 NIV

And *that's* what we should be *praying* about *eating* and *drinking*! Cuz *If I'm not in His Word, His Word won't be in me*. But when we *remain* in His Word, His Word remains in us.

For the *kingdom of God* is *not* a matter of *talk* [about *righteousness* and *peace* and *joy* in the Holy Spirit] but of *power* [through word and action]. – 1 Corinthians 4:20 NIV

[Because] *Salvation*, and *strength*, and the *kingdom* of our God, [*righteousness, peace, and joy*] and the *power* [of the Spirit] of His Christ *have come* – Revelation 12:10 NKJ

And *righteousness* will be the scepter of [His Son's] kingdom. – Hebrews 1:8 NIV

[So] Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart [of obedience] and a new spirit. [of allegiance] – Ezekiel 18:31 NKJ

[Because] You *delight in truth* in the *inward being*, and you teach me wisdom in the *secret heart*. [Just before Jesus *laid out* the Lord's prayer, He said: "Pray to your Father who is in the *secret place*" (of the heart) (Mt 6:6 NKJ)] ... [So] Create *in me a clean heart*, [of obedience] O God, and *renew a right spirit* [of allegiance] *within me*. ... Restore to me the *joy* of Your salvation ... [and] my mouth will declare *Your praise*. [Cuz Psalm 22:3 says He's *enthroned in praise*] For you will *not delight* in sacrifice ... [because] The [living] *sacrifices* of God are a *broken spirit*; [ready to learn] [and] a *broken and contrite heart* [ready to act] – Psalm 51:6-17 ESV

[So] Put off your *old self*, which is being *corrupted* by its *deceitful desires*; [For "the heart is *deceitful above all things and beyond cure*" (Jer 17:9)] to be *made new* in the *attitude* of your *minds*; and to *put on the new self* ... in *true righteousness* – Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV



I told you that 45 years ago, when my grandma's house was gonna be gutted, My friend Randy and I turned it into *Somber Mansion*. Quite a few were escorted out, crying and shaking. Which landed us on page two of the *Herald*, followed by 3-hour waiting lines. Two of you remembered going! How flattering. One said, "*That maze was terrifying!*" And we described it to the folks around us. As you descended the back stairs, they became a pitch-black maze with an amplified heartbeat pounding. And the walls narrowed, and the ceiling lowered, till a line of crawling guests hit a dead-end, with no way to turn around. They'd kinda panic. So, *we stayed close, to calm and urge them to find the way*. Like the Holy Spirit! Because there was a simple secret way of escape. As they groped in the dark, *they'd finally reach up and realize they could stand at the end*. Cuz the maze went up and back above itself. We were so bummed if they gave up. So, we'd yell hints from the other side. Cuz our favorite part was the joy and cheering inside the maze when they figured it out and rose above. *Same goes for us down here, forced to face our fears in the darkness of our twisted hearts*. So, I want to calm and urge you not to give up, but to:

Set your hearts on things above ... not on earthly things. For you [and your old heart] died, and your *[new, eternal] life* is now *hidden with Christ* ... [because] you have taken off your old self ... and have put on the new self, which is being renewed [as you let His kingdom come] ... [so] Let the *peace of Christ rule in your hearts* – Colossians 3:1-15 NIV

[Because] We now have this *light shining* in our hearts – 2 Corinthians 4:7 NLT

[And] [The Lord] will bring to light what is *hidden in darkness* and will expose the *motives of the heart*. – 1 Corinthians 4:5 NIV

[So] I have *hidden Your Word* in my heart – Psalm 119:11 NIV

[And] "On that day you will realize that ... *you are in Me, and I am in you*." – John 14:20 NIV

So, what do you say we *bend a knee and tackle the old self that sits on the throne of a hardened, dark heart*. And put on the new man who wisely bows within his heart at the throne of Christ our King. Because *the Kingdom of God is near, just waiting to come to your heart*.