

Last week we discussed **Matthew 6:9** – “**Hallowed be your name...**”

Leonard Boff said; “His holy name is sanctified only to the extent that these expressions are related to a pure heart, a thirst for justice, and a reaching out for perfection.” Can you sanctify (set as holy) God’s name through your life? How?

Matthew 6:10 – “**Your kingdom come...**”



Eberhard Arnold (1883 - 1935) was a German publisher and founder of the Bruderhof community in 1920. In November 1933, the Bruderhof community was raided by the Gestapo, who searched for arms and anti-Nazi literature, and closed the community's school. The Bruderhof sent their school children to Switzerland, and began to search for another place to establish their community. Property was acquired in the Alps in Liechtenstein, and in March 1934, the *Alm Bruderhof* was founded. Arnold spent the last two years of his life suffering from a leg injury that would lead to his death, while attempting to shepherd his flock to safety. Nevertheless, he remained active in travelling, lecturing, and writing until his death in Darmstadt on 22 November 1935.

Arnold says in regard to prayer; “...we need to ask that God’s will is done and that his kingdom comes. Our personal prayers remain selfish unless they are placed in the larger context of God’s rulership being established on earth. This is the only way in which we may bring our personal needs before God; they must be placed in the setting of his great and all-inclusive power.”

What is **Arnold** saying here about prayer? What does it take in order for us to do this?

“We should see these personal requests to God as part of the one object of our prayer: that the Spirit come down and fill us and change everything from the bottom up.” What does it feel like to be filled with the Holy Spirit and how does it change us?

“We should be brief and to the point when we ask God for this one, all-important thing...”. Why is this “all-important”?

“Prayer must never supplant work. Faith without works is dead. Prayer without work is hypocrisy.” What is **Arnold** saying here?

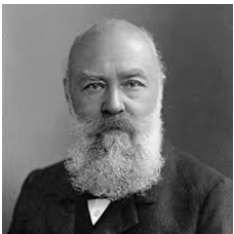
“Unless we actively work to build for God’s kingdom, the Lord’s Prayer – “Your kingdom come” – is a lie on our lips.”

What is **Arnold** telling us about the importance of acts in our lives and its relation to our prayer? Do you see it in his life?

“The question is: Do we have the faith that through our prayer the status quo can be shattered? Can we believe that at our call Christ will come among us to judge and save?” What was **Arnold** experiencing during his time on earth where he wanted change to the hearts of man? What was the outcome of that struggle? What are we experiencing in our lives that requires that kind of faith?

“Let us come to God in the absolute certainty that Jesus’ words are true: “**The kingdom of God has drawn near!**” and , “**If you have faith, nothing will be impossible for you.**” What are some mighty things that have happened in history because of faith?

“If everything we do has only one goal – that his kingdom comes and his will is done on earth – then the things we pray for will happen.” Have you ever thought of praying for God’s will in your life first, your needs second, and seeing what happens?



Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt (1842 - 1919) was a German Lutheran pastor and religious socialist. In 1899 he announced his support for socialism and joined the Social Democratic Party of Germany; for this, he lost his position as minister.

Blumhardt says; “We cannot just merrily skip around in the world and lightly assume that when we die everything will be all right in eternity. Oh no!” What is **Blumhardt** saying here?

“People everywhere remain under the illusion that God stays eternally in heaven...”

Have you ever thought of God just being in heaven? Do you think of Him on earth as well?

“If all we aspire to is to get out of this world in order to be free in the next, then we pay tribute to sin and death. It shows the greatest disdain for all the words of God in scripture when we reject the joyous hope of God’s coming reign by resigning ourselves to our fate on this earth and letting things continue as they are. Because our religious lives are bankrupt, people think that God is also bankrupt and unable to accomplish anything on earth.”

What is **Blumhardt** saying here? Why would the strength of our faith effect those beliefs of the people around us?

“Need and misery will not be overcome until the barriers between eternity and this world are broken through again. An opening must be made from above downward, not from below upward.” How does our acts in doing God’s will affect this opening?

“But please prove to me which of the two is biblical: our death and flight into heaven, or God’s future here on earth. From the first to the last chapter, the Bible deals with the coming of God into this world, and there is nothing about this business of dying.”

Have you ever thought that you are living in a world that is the future destination for God to dwell? How does this make you feel?

“Down here is where Jesus appeared, not above in the invisible world, not around the throne of God. Here on earth is where he wants to dwell again. Here on earth is where we may find him. Here on earth is where he came and will come again...”

Why do you think earth is so important to God?

I Peter 1:10-12 - Peter wrote: “Concerning this salvation (the salvation of Christ), the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you (your salvation), searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow (the return of Christ). It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. (the prophets realized their experiences were not for themselves but for you and future others.). Even the angels long to look into these things.”

What is Peter telling us about the journeys of the prophets? What are the angels longing for and why are they mentioned?

“**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**” “This is not the hopeless place that people think it is. Much can be done on earth. ...More can happen here for God...”. Are you part of making the earth a better place for God?