



## A. The Lord's Prayer:

**Matthew 6:9** " Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. **10** ' Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

- Was this prayer a sort of a wish upon a star, intended to be prayed by billions, but only to be experienced by a few in some distant eternity? No!

## B. The Planet's Condition:

Yet the planet seems to be groaning under the intense pressure of impending doom. The average person today is exposed to more bad news in a week than someone a hundred years ago would have heard in a lifetime.

### Questions to ponder:

- Is the earth eroding, or is it evolving?
- Is global warming the beginning of the intense heat that will reduce our world to a hot rock spinning hopelessly through space?
- Will evil finally triumph over good, leaving terrorism to ravage the righteous, rape the innocent and pillage our children?
- Will some maniac dictator finally push the button and blow us into oblivion?

### Your challenge:

These threats press against our very souls, demanding real answers. The future of our children depends on you getting this right.

## C. All Christians are to walk in signs and wonders as Jesus so clearly outlined in the Bible.

**Mark 16:16** He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. **17** These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; **18** they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

- In what way is a miracle or healing a sign? Why isn't it just a healing, etc.?
- When someone gets healed, a miracle happens, or some supernatural act occurs, it's a sign that a superior Kingdom has just superimposed itself over an inferior kingdom.
- The 3rd heaven, infinite laws of nature, have overcome the finite laws of nature in the 1st heaven.

**Example:** When a plane takes off, the law of lift has overcome the law of gravity.

**D. Jesus never meant for miracles to be an end in themselves, but rather an invitation into a superior Kingdom, a catalyst to cultural transformation.**

**Matthew 11:23** "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in *Sodom*, which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.

**Matthew 11:21** "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon, which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

- Our Lord's message is clear: the manifestation of miracles is meant to create a world in revival.

**E. Jesus and Judgments:**

- The only cities Jesus rebuked were towns that had witnessed His incredible miracles.
- When people experience the supernatural manifestations of the kingdom of God they experience two kingdoms in contrast.
- A Church that does not demonstrate the miraculous works of Christ has failed to give the world that opportunity, and thus has no right to judge them for their response.
- Without miracles, the kingdom of God is reduced to words, Bible concepts and good works.
- Perceived through these paradigms, the Lions, Rotary and Moose clubs are usually the ones contending for first place.
- It is imperative that we demonstrate the power of our great King so the distinction between darkness and light is obvious and the Lord's Prayer can be answered.
- It makes sense that a miracle-working, sinless Savior who created the entire world, a Man who needs no mercy, can have strong feelings about the destiny of cities.
- But people like us, who got into the Kingdom through His works and not by our own works, ought to be a little more patient with people who are still lost in darkness! You think?

**F. But it takes more than miracles.**

- Miracles that would have transformed Sodom, Tyre and Sidon, did take place in Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida, and yet those cities were not transformed!
- Without believers demonstrating the miracles of Jesus, the planet will continue to erode into gross darkness that defies explanation.
- Supernatural works are a major component to revival, but miracles alone don't always lead to city transformation, as Jesus articulated so well in the Gospels.

**Group discussion questions:**

- *How* does heaven invade earth in a way that earth becomes like heaven?
- What does it look like when the Kingdom comes?