

Hopewell ARP Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, October 28, 2020 **Devotional from Revelation 4:8–11**

⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" ⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

Hallowed be Thy Name. "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come."

Our chief end is to glorify God, and the first part of our Lord's model prayer is to hallow the name of God. Seeing how the holy angels address the Lord reminds us of the purpose for our existence.

When the prophet had this experience in Isaiah 6, he was intensely convicted about the cleanness of his lips and his peoples' lips. We may have the same experience here with regard to our prayers. How much better they seemed a moment ago, and then we hear the four living creatures, and realize how much more of the hallowing of God's Name there ought to be in our prayers.

Thy kingdom come. "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power."

As we pray, we are asking for what we already know is happening. The theme of the book of Revelation is that Christ is already reigning, and that everything is happening under His sovereign rule. They are not merely praying that He would be on the throne. They are praising, in prayer, Him who already sits there.

In all of our prayers, the ultimate aim is His glory, honor, and power. Prayer reminds us that we are but subjects, and that He is the glorious King. He has done so much for His people—making us kings and priests—before His face and unto His praise. But we take those crowns and cast them down before Him, interested only in His royal crown.

When we pray, we are asking for His crown rights. When we pray, we are participating in the obtaining of His crown rights.

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. "For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

All things are from Him and through Him and to Him. To Him be the glory forever, amen (cf. Rom 11:36). Since it was by Christ's will that all things were created, it is for the fulfilling of His will that all things continue to exist.

Indeed, whenever we pray, we are implying that what He does is right, that what He wills is supreme over our will and all other wills. "Thy will be done" are not just words that we use in prayer. We say "Thy will be done" simply by praying.

We get so accustomed to saying the Lord's Prayer. Revelation 4:8–11 shows that, as the priorities of that prayer establish the priorities of all our praying, our praying comes more and more into line with how that holy assembly in glory calls upon the Lord.

Revelation 4:8–11
"Praying on Earth As They Do in Heaven"
2020.10.28 Prayer Meeting Devotional

How do we learn to pray from the angels in heaven? From our Lord during His ministry on earth? Pastor leads his family in this week's pastoral prayer passage. In these four verses, we learn that Christian prayer should prioritize and glorify God's holiness, God's kingdom, and God's will.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

Alright, so Lord is good morning as we come to the pastoral prayer. We'll be hearing Revelation chapter 4. Verses 8 through 11.

Revelation chapter 4 verses 8 through 11. The four living creatures each having six wings were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest today or night saying holy holy holy Lord. God. Almighty. Who was and is and is to come. Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne who lives forever and ever.

The 24 elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. And cast their crowns before the throne saying, You are worthy. O Lord. To receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things. And by your will they exist.

And were created. So far the reading of God's Word. It's interesting how even in glory the 24 elders the patriarchs and the apostles who lead the congregation of the saints the perfected saints and glory, they take their Q from. The four living creatures here with the six wings and whenever the living creatures, ascribe, give glory and honor and thanks verse nine says, And to describes the glory and honor and thinks that they give in verse eight then the 24 elders take their cues from that it's very similar to the Old Testament passage in which we first hear this holy holy holy.

As you always got of hosts the whole earth is full of His glory is how it's finished in Isaiah chapter six and Isaiah takes his Q from the seraphim, in fact he realizes that he has not used his lips as he should and they're perfect and holy and clean use of their lips to that Isaiah responds well as me fry them undone for I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell among the people.

Those unclean lips well, we come this evening and will come on Lord say morning to take our cue from both the four living creatures and the 24 elders here and revelation chapter four and what we'll find is that taking our cue from them results in our praying the same way as taking our Q from our Lord whose disciples when they heard him praying, of course, they had prayed before but they heard him praying what did they realize something similar to what Isaiah realized listening to the seraphim?

That they had never prayed like they should. And so they hear the Lord Jesus praying and they ask him teach us to pray and He gives them a form of prayer and so it's not surprising for us this evening that the form of prayer that the Lord Jesus gives overlaps in its first three great petitions with what we see from the four living creatures and from the 24 elders here.

Lord Jesus gives the first petition hallowed be thy name. And the four living creatures say holy holy holy. Lord. God. Almighty who was and is and is to come. The Lord Jesus teaches us to pray in the second petition thy kingdom come. And hear the 24 elders say you are worthy, oh Lord to receive glory and honor and power that kingdom come.

The Lord Jesus teaches us in the third petition to pray your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. And the full and the 24 elders pray for you created all things and by your will. They exist and were created. So in the first place holy holy holy.

Lord. God. Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Man's chief and is. To glorify God and the first part of our Lord's model prayer and the first part of prayer that we see here in Revelation chapter four is to hallow the name of God. Seeing how the holy angels address the Lord reminds us of our own purpose for existence.

Remember when Isaiah had that experience in Isaiah 6 and how he was intensely convicted about to cleanness of his lips. We may have the same experience here with regard to our prayers we see them and hear them praying holy holy holy. Lord. God. Almighty. And whereas our prayers a moment to go seem much better than they then they do now.

We realize that we have not been ascribing to God his holiness in prayer as much as we ought often we come and we offer him a few words of thanksgiving for recent mercies or something in connection to what we're about to ask. It is a great part of prayer to hallow.

God's name to confess his holiness. And the second place you are worthy, oh Lord. To receive glory and honor and power. When we pray we are asking for what we know is already happening. God does receive glory and honor and power and yet. He teaches us to pray that he would receive it.

The theme of the book of Revelation is that Christ is already reigning and that everything is happening under his sovereign rule verse nine tells us that. They are giving glory and honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne, they're not merely praying that he would be on the throne.

They are praising in prayer him who already sits there. In all of our prayers the ultimate aim is his glory his honor his power in prayer always reminds us that we are but subjects. It belongs to the subjects to pray and to the sovereign to be prayed to Jesus is that sovereign he is the glorious king who sits on the throne he has done so much for his people in fact.

In the next chapter, they will confess in chapter 5 verse 10 that he has made them king kings and priests unto God. But what are these kings whom he has made them to be unto God doing with their crowns in verse 10. They are casting down those crowns before him.

Because they are interested ultimately in his royal crown, you are worthy. O Lord to receive glory and honor and power. When we pray we are praying to the king on the throne asking that he would receive and confessing that he is worthy to receive his crown rights and he has ordained that our praying would be a means by which he receives that which is his you.

Finally then for you created all things and by your will they exist and were created. Since it is by his will that all things were created. Then it is for the fulfilling of his will that all things continue to exist. Since it is by his will that you were created.

The purpose for which you continue to exist is to fulfill his will. This is how the apostle Paul says it at the end of Romans 11 all things are from him and through him into him to him be the glory

forever amen. Indeed as justice our praying shows us to be the subject and his receiving prayers as him to be the sovereign so also our praying shows the submission of our will to his as our sovereign.

Whenever we pray we're implying that however he answers is right he is free to answer as he will. Thy will be done are not only appropriate words to use in prayer. All praying at its essence is to say thy will be done. It's interesting we get so accustomed to saying the Lord's prayer.

Revelation for verses 8 through 11 shows us that as the priorities of the prayer that Jesus taught established all the priorities for all of our praying. When we pray in the way that Jesus taught us we are starting to pray more like they do in glory. They already pray this way, maybe not exactly hallowed be thy name thy kingdom come thy will be done but holy holy holy.

Lord. God almighty who wasn't as and is to come. You are worthy, oh Lord to receive glory and honor and power. And for you created all things and by your will they exist and were created. So when we come on the Lord's Day to the time of the long prayer in the service, we will hear this passage reminding us that we're to pray as Jesus taught us and if we pray as he taught us, we'll be praying even as they do in glory.