



INSIGHTS

THAT QUOTED **directly** FROM THE BOOK

Bring Heaven Down to Our Earth

(Pastor Bob Merritt)

Jesus said, "This is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'" (Luke 11:2). Jesus said we should pray for God's kingdom to come to earth, just like it is in heaven.

I wonder how often people pray for **God's kingdom to come to earth**. Most everyone wants to go to heaven someday, but how many of us are praying for heaven to come to us? How many of us are hoping to experience some heaven on earth before we die? Jesus says that heaven is not just a future reality; we can start to experience elements of heaven on earth. It's what my seminary professors called "the already but not yet."

We have an opportunity *to experience some of heaven's forgiveness, grace, joy, peace, and relational wholeness right now*, already, but on this side of heaven it'll never be complete because we still sin, we still have relational and physical pain, we still have to deal with the process of dying.

Heaven's already available, but it'll never be fully complete here on earth. That day when all sorrow, sin, and pain will be gone still awaits us.

Jesus instructed us to pray: God, whatever's going on up in heaven, bring that down to earth; may your kingdom come to earth as it is in heaven.

Relationships are the dominant theme of the Bible. Relation-ships are the essence of life. They are what movies are made of, songs are written about. They are what fuels Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter. Businesses like Kodak, Verizon, and Microsoft have built empires based on relationships.

God is a relational being, and he created us in his image, which means he created us as relational beings. *Have you noticed that when your relationships are good, you are good, but when they're bad, almost nothing is good?* We are relational to the core; it's how God made us. And the Bible identifies two relationships that are fundamental to a life on earth. In fact, if these two relationships are missing or broken, you cannot experience a whole marriage, career, family, or life. It's impossible.

What I've discovered after fifty-three years of life is that **when my relationship with God and my relationships with others are healthy, I'm healthy.**

What are those two relationships? **The Bible says that our relationship with God and our relationships with others**; they are the means through which wholeness, joy, and purpose are achieved. So when Jesus said that we should pray for heaven to come to earth, he meant that we should pray for relational wholeness between us and God, and between us and others. When those two areas are in good order, they lead to wholeness in every other area.

from the page 29-31(pdf-book)

MY REFLECTION on the above quotation:
