CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A RELIGION, BUT A KINGDOM



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Contents

You Can't Miss Jesus	. 1
You Cannot See the Kingdom of God Unless You're Born Again	.8
The Kingdom of God is HERE1	.9
The Kingdom is in POWER3	34
The Holy Spirit DEMONSTRATES the Kingdom4	15
Wanted: MANAGERS for the Kingdom on Earth5	7
THIS Gospel of the Kingdom7	1
Why Seek the Kingdom FIRST?	34
GOD'S ABUNDANT SUPPLY	39
You Are a Son of The King)2
What's the TRUE Gospel?	95
We Live by a Different Set of Laws10)2
Don't WASTE your money. INVEST11	8
There's no "HO HUM" about JESUS12	24
And Then The End Shall Come13	32
Casting Your Pearls Before Swines13	39

You Can't Miss Jesus

As we consider the Jesus of the Bible, everyone has their own opinion; some will say that He's a prophet, others will say that He was a spiritual guru, but Jesus Christ Himself said that He's none other than the <u>Lord HIMSELF</u>, the <u>Messiah</u>, the One announced and prophesied centuries before His birth.

Some say that He was just another **teacher**.--Another **philosopher**?

Sorry, but you can't <u>land Him there</u>. He's either the center of God's program or He is not. He divides opinions. In fact, He divides very friends.

People say He was **just a carpenter**. Or was He? People were so desperate to reach Him as to open the roof of a house to get to Him for their crippled friend to be healed.

- He's the One Who said that your sins are forgiven. Did anyone else do that? Ever? Could anyone else claim that?
- He's the One Who said to the lame man, "Rise
 up and walk." And people were <u>astonished</u> by
 His MIRACLES.
- He's the One of Whom they said, "No one has ever spoken like this man before."
- He's the One Who says, "What you do with Me will define your eternity."
- He's the One Who said, "I am the embodiment of truth."
- He's the One Who proclaimed outlandish things about Himself, and He backed them all up with miracles, signs, and wonders.
- He's the One Who said that He would resurrect, and He did. That alone stands alone.
- He's the One Who changed the world by caring

for the **poor**, forgiving the **drunks**, **prostitutes**, and **tax collectors** by bringing a new set of ethical values through the preaching of <u>denying</u> yourself that you may find meaning in your life.

- He's the One Who explained that happiness
 does not come from the things of this world,
 that you must set for yourself treasures in
 heaven and not on the earth.
- He's the One to Whom the winds and the sea obeyed.

Who is He, really? No other philosophers or kings <u>died</u> in ransom for the sins of their people, none. And you'll <u>ignore</u> Him? Really?

He could <u>prophesy</u> the future; He was a <u>teacher</u>, a <u>healer</u>, and the <u>Messiah</u>. It says that He is the very image of God, the firstborn of all creation, and that all things were created by Him. Actually, He said of Himself, "I'm not just a rabbi (teacher) or a philosopher. But I am <u>God's son</u> in the flesh, sent by God as the only way to

know God."

He's the One Who could claim, "I am the Lord, the high priest, the King of kings. It says He is omnipresent, He is everywhere, and He knows everything. On top of that, it says He's <u>merciful</u>, and He is <u>eternal</u>. He is divine and human at the same time, and He is sinless.

Who else could have so much boldness as to claim that <u>many</u> attributes about Himself and be able to fulfill them all and <u>prove</u> them? And to possess so much <u>wisdom</u> in His teachings, so much so that even the <u>doctors</u> of the law <u>stopped</u> asking Him questions.

Why can't we avoid Him? Is He a god, or is He a devil? Why so many writers, philosophers, historians, and orators have talked about Him so much? Why so many poems, so much art, and so much music was written about Him? He is in a class of His own, and yet you will simply

ignore Him?

He lifts man's ethics to the highest claim, then turns around and expects us to live by that standard. Self-sacrifice has become the new law and the new love. He brought immortality to all men. He spoke the truth even when it hurt and never apologized for it. He made no mistake. He never rectified anything He said. He never asked for advice from anyone. He said of Himself, "Behold a greater than Solomon is here." He was His own credentials. He carried His Own highest mortality through His conduct.

They killed Him on three charges;

- He was a friend of sinners.
- He healed people on the Sabbath Day.
- He claimed to be the Son of God.

And when He actually died, there was an **earthquake**! The **sun darkened** for three hours! And the thickest and largest <u>curtain</u> ever made for the temple was torn in half from the <u>top</u> down! The one veil that supposedly divided man

from God... ripped open from the <u>top</u> down. A veil hung so high that no man could reach...!

This man was crucified so <u>cruelly</u>, and still, while hanging on the cross, He asked His Father to **forgive His executors and prosecutors**. Even at the cross, He didn't ask for prayer for Himself. He said, "Weep not for Me but for yourselves."

To this day, people around the world walk into the water to be baptized and renewed and say, "I'm in!" People will follow Him to their death because He's the way back to God. And there are countless testimonies of people meeting Him in the afterlife and even in this life... not Buddha, not Mohamed, not Confucius, but Jesus!

The greatest controversy about Him is that He did not come to establish a religion, but a government, a kingdom. All prophecies about Him were about a new government, a kingdom, not a religion. So if that is the case, we must take Him out of the religious arena and set

Him in a <u>different</u> arena. What is His government? What does He govern? What are the laws of His government? He said, "My kingdom is not of this world..."

He repeatedly said that He came to preach "the Good News of the kingdom of God." He kept telling people that the kingdom of God was <u>HERE</u>. And all His miracles <u>back</u> that <u>up</u>. Everywhere He encountered the "works of the devil," He <u>rectified</u> them with the power of God--from <u>healing</u> the sick and refuting the <u>lies</u> of the religious leaders to appeasing the <u>storm</u>. He <u>proved</u> by the way He lived that the kingdom of God was HERE.

There's no "ho hum" anywhere in that! He came to impact man's mode of living. He came to set up a new government. --the kingdom of God.

You Cannot See the Kingdom of God Unless You're Born Again

(JN 3:3)

That verse is so intense. Jesus was not just talking about <u>entering</u> into the kingdom but was saying you're not able to <u>see</u> the unseen, to really <u>grasp</u> the things of the spirit. Paul explains how "the natural man <u>receiveth not</u> the things of the Spirit of God: for they are <u>foolishness</u> unto him: <u>neither</u> can he know them, because they are <u>spiritually discerned</u>." (1 Cor 2:14)

Conversely, this means that if you are born again, you're given the possibility to <u>see</u> the kingdom of God, perceive the unseen in the promises of God, and create through faith the possibilities to overcome impossibilities. "Jesus looked at them and said, "With <u>man</u> this is impossible, but with <u>God</u>, ALL things are <u>possible</u>." (Mat 19:26). But the reality is that "all things are possible with God"

is <u>connected</u> with "all things are possible with those who believe."

Remember when Moses sent twelve spies into the promised land? Ten of them could not <u>SEE</u> the <u>possibility</u> of going in to conquer the land. Only two of them could see the things of God because they <u>believed</u> in the promises of God. You can't see the <u>unseen</u> unless you <u>believe</u> in God. This is so intense. When you see the invisible, you can do the impossible.

Think of this; the entire generation of Israelites who were delivered from Egypt through a number of massive miracles of God could not enter into the promised land because they refused to <u>believe</u> God.

Now transpose this into our lives. How many people wander in the wilderness of confusion their whole life simply because they refuse to <u>BELIEVE</u> in God and therefore are not able to see the <u>unseen</u> in the promises of God as their GPS for life?

What a SAD verse this is... "So we see that they were <u>not</u> able to <u>enter</u>, because of their <u>unbelief</u>." (Hebrews 3:19). Those poor guys ended up not only wandering in the wilderness but DYING there in their unbelief.

Just think, if God was to show us all what we have missed because of our <u>unbelief</u>. Wouldn't that be downright sobering and even disappointing? What blessing of God are we <u>missing</u> out on because of our unbelief?

Already, I feel like I have wasted so much time in not seeing the full spectrum of truth in God's Word.

I've been a Christian, or at least rubbed against Christianity my whole life. Born into a Catholic family, then a Protestant with "limited" truth, and only in recent years have I started to fully understand the new identity we have been given, along with the inheritance of the kingdom, which made me get a better grasp on the whole concept of FAITH, along with the POWER and the AUTHORITY that we've been given through the victory of the cross. Wow... So eye-opening and so life-changing. In fact, so mind-renewing!

I had a lot of zeal but not a lot of knowledge, and that was good and bad. Zeal without the knowledge of the truth and the assistance of the Holy Spirit can do a lot of damage, and all the good that I did in my 45 years abroad as a missionary might be canceled out by all the bad that I did in operating according to false doctrines and false teachings. I could live in condemnation just from the fact that I have wasted so much time not understanding the things of the Spirit, not because I didn't want to believe, but because I didn't truly know and understand the Word.

I FLIPPED OUT when I fully understood that what Jesus did, we can also do because Jesus gave His authority to ALL BELIEVERS... "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Lk 10:19) For me, I think the saddest part about meeting Jesus will be when He opens my eyes to ALL that I had at my disposal and all I could have done with my life if I had believed Him just a little bit more. "If you can believe, ALL things are POSSIBLE to him who believes." (Mk 9:23)

Again, conversely, this means that praying without faith accomplishes nothing. Jesus explains how prayer works in Mark 11:24. He says, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." You believe it's yours before you see it in the natural. That's how the kingdom works. You see it before it is manifested. That's the kind of faith that

pleases God.

When we're born physically, we get the sense of sight. But when we're spiritually born again, we receive a new set of spiritual eyes. Paul prayed that; "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the <u>riches</u> of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the <u>exceeding</u> greatness of His <u>power</u> to <u>us</u> who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ." (Eph 1:18-20)

Unless you're born again, you can never <u>SEE</u> all that God has in store for your life. Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you <u>believe</u>, you will <u>see</u> the glory of God?" (John 11:40) God help us to stop nursing our worries and make some commitments in <u>FAITH</u>. We've got to step out and move against our fears and put on the "eyes of faith" given to us

with our new identity.

I've gathered some of the verses that confirm that God's thoughts towards us and His purpose for us are SO much bigger than what we understand. Take a moment to meditate on these:

- "For I know the thoughts I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11
- "Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
 And in Your book, they all were written, the days
 fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of
 them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me,
 O God! How great is the sum of them!" Psalm
 139:16-17
- "Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." Matthew 10:29-

31

- "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His Own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9
- "Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." Ephesians 1:4-5
- "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."
 Ephesians 2:10
- "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:3-4
- "As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the

knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:3-4

- "Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine." Exodus 19:5
- "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9
- "And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you.
 He will be with you, He will not leave you nor
 forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."
 Deuteronomy 31:8
- "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to

- separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39
- "But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life." Romans 6:22
- "But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:14.
- "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:2-3
- "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor

- sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:3-4
- "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:1

The Kingdom of God is HERE.

The Kingdom of Heaven is a place, but the Kingdom of God refers to the government of God. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus preached the "Kingdom of God." The exact wording of "the Kingdom of Heaven" is found in the Gospel of Matthew more than 30 times. The phrase "Kingdom of God" is used in the New Testament more than 70 times, with five of those mentioned in the book of Matthew. Paradoxically, Jesus refers to the <a href="https://christians."/christians."/christians."/christians."/reather He referred to us as friends and then sons: Sons of God, born into the Kingdom of God.

"For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God."

1 Peter 1:23

When Jesus first started His ministry, He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (Mk1:14,15). "Repent, the Kingdom is HERE." Most preachers dwell on "repentance," but what did Jesus mean by "the Kingdom of God is HERE?" It means that the fulfillment of God's government and will has now been reestablish on earth.

Even to Nicodemus, a <u>ruler</u> of the synagogue, Jesus preached the <u>Kingdom</u>... "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." He was telling him that being born again gives you <u>citizenship</u> of the Kingdom of God; the legal <u>right</u> to become a SON of God. (Jn 1:12). To be "born again" is a <u>legal</u> thing. You enter the Kingdom legally.

Your Right As A Child Of God

And then it says that He went on teaching and preaching "the Kingdom of God." In fact, He gave multiple examples and parables about how it <u>OPERATES</u>. He said,

"The Kingdom of God is as a man traveling."

"The Kingdom of God is a mustard seed."

"The Kingdom of God is as yeast."

"The Kingdom of God is a pearl of great price."

Why is there so much said about its

operations? Because He wanted to teach us <u>how</u> to MANAGE the Kingdom. That's why the parable of the "talents" (Mat 25:14-30). We're to be <u>rulers</u> and <u>managers</u> of His Kingdom on earth.

A big <u>change</u> of government took place when Jesus came. Not only were we <u>delivered</u> from the kingdom of darkness, but we were brought into the Kingdom of God (Col 1:13). A kingdom that operates entirely differently. That means we now go by a new set of laws. The Word tells us that we're:

- 1. redeemed from the curse of the law,
- 2. redeemed from the enemy's grasp,
- 3. redeemed from our sin-nature,
- 4. redeemed from every lawless deed,
- 5. redeemed from all wickedness, and
- 6. redeemed from death.

This is BIG. It's a major shift in how the world operates for <u>us</u>. Actually, how we operate <u>in</u> the world is because of the fact that we can apply the laws of the Spirit to work <u>for</u> us. That's why Jesus said, "They're in the world, but <u>not</u> of the world!" In a kingdom, the word of the King becomes <u>law</u> (Ecc 8:4). That's why we can <u>overrule</u> circumstances using the Word of the King.

You can command and decree God's will to happen... and it will

Speak the Word over your situation!

~Jamie Rohrbaugh

Get a load of this... Jesus came to redeem <u>THAT</u> which was lost. The <u>Kingdom</u> of God was lost on earth when Adam relinquished it to the devil in the garden. The rulership in man was lost. "Kingdom" means "dominion of a king"

(kingdom-inion). Adam had lost dominion and rulership. He was originally made to be a manager or a ruler over the earth, to colonize the earth just like in heaven. But he lost the Kingdom (dominion of the King) over the earth.

But look at what the apostle Paul says, "For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son He loves, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Col 1:13-14). "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through

God." (Gal 4:5). We now have the DNA of God... the Divine Nature of Abba, our dad.

We are no longer foreigners and strangers but sons of God and also heirs of Jesus' inheritance. We're now co-<u>heirs</u> with Christ. We're <u>children</u> of the King of the universe.

"The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, without painful toil for it."

Proverbs 10:22

In the world, we're taught, "You gotta work to make a living," and so it is. In fact, we're identified by what we <u>do</u>, not by who we <u>are</u>. People ask us <u>who</u> we are, and we reply by what we <u>do</u>. I'm a plumber, an electrician, a dentist, etc. In the Kingdom of God, we're identified by who we <u>are</u>. We're sons, not servants. Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom." And "Take no thought for your life."Why? He said, "For after

all these things do the Gentiles seek: for your Heavenly Father knoweth that you have need of all these things." (Mat 6: 25-34). The Word says we're <u>not</u> supposed to "be living to make a living."

"Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God..."

Jesus shifted life's priorities: "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." And He said, "Life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment...Do not be afraid, little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." (Lk 12:32). He said, "the Kingdom of God is NOW HERE, the sweating is over." Adoption as sons means we're back in the Kingdom of God now,

as the Kingdom was intended before the fall.

Again, shortly after the creation, the world's laws on earth shifted when Adam disobeyed. God told him, because you <u>disobeyed</u>, the ground is now <u>cursed</u>. You'll now have to work it and sweat to make it yield your provisions. Later, He told Abraham, "<u>IF</u> you obey Me, I will bless you. But if you don't obey, I will curse you."(Deut 28).

 welfare of His people.

So, we can now live on earth <u>authoritatively</u> enforcing the laws of the King. Plus, He's given us His Spirit to teach us how to "operate" the Kingdom. "But when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will <u>teach</u> you all truth." (Jn 16:13). Actually, Jesus even said to His followers who'd seen Him operate every day for three solid years, "Don't do anything, but <u>wait</u> till the Father sends you the <u>Spirit</u>, which will give you the <u>power</u>." "That the man of God may be <u>complete</u>, equipped for every good work." (2Tim. 3:17).

Paul said, "God's Kingdom is not just talk, it is <u>power</u>." (1Cor 4:20). Meaning, not in talking about it, but in <u>manifesting</u> its power. Jesus manifested the power of the Kingdom with tangible miracles, signs, healings, and deliverances. Each time He announced the

good news of the Kingdom, sin, sickness, demons, poverty, and death could not remain.

"For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of <u>righteousness</u> (sonship) and peace (with God) and joy in (through) the Holy <u>Spirit</u>." (Rom 14:17).

With the Spirit's <u>power</u>, the Word is <u>life</u>; it not only <u>changes</u> you but <u>energizes</u> you, and it does what is <u>impossible</u> to humans. Without the power, the Kingdom of God cannot be <u>revealed</u> through miracles, signs, and wonders, delivering humanity from bondage.

Without accepting the <u>power</u>, no matter how much you read the Bible, you will neither understand it nor can it change your life. For many have accepted the Word as the Word of God, taken a <u>form</u> of <u>godliness</u> through reading it, but denied the <u>power</u> which changes a

person. (2 Tim 3:5).

So Jesus was saying, "Seek <u>first</u> to get back to the citizenship of God's government (your new identity, your righteousness with God), and to operate on earth according to the King's Word, which is His laws, and all the provisions that you <u>seek</u> after will be taken care of by the King. Your <u>righteousness</u> is your rightful relationship with your King."

Take no thought... (You're embarrassing Me as your Provider). Come unto Me; I'll give you REST (the Sabbath rest means it's all DONE for you). Take hold of the blessings of God without stress, without sweat with it. (Pro10:22). If you've got to work for your blessings, it's no blessing. The blessing of the Lord is God's original plan for man. Contrary to religious

belief, God doesn't want you sick, broke, and lonely. He wants to bless you in every area of life -your health, finances, relationships, and more...

If you are righteous, you're in the right position to demand the King to hold to His promises. That's why there's no begging in the Kingdom. "He that cometh to God must <u>believe</u> that He is (the King) and that He is a <u>rewarder</u> (holds true to His laws) for them that diligently <u>seek</u> Him." (Heb 11:6).

"And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"

Luke 13:16

Jesus, when rebuked by the Pharisees for healing a woman in the temple who'd been bent over for eighteen years, said, "Is she not a daughter of Abraham? (She has a contract.) "Ought not she be healed?" (Doesn't she have a right?) (Lk13:17). Religion said that it was the wrong day. "And when He had said these things, all His adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him." (V.18). The Kingdom of God comes with rights and with the power to manifest those rights.

If you're a son of the King, "ought you not?" Do you not have a <u>right</u> to be healthy, a <u>right</u> to be provided for? Once you're born into the Kingdom... you have <u>rights</u>. You qualify.

Once righteous, you're dangerous. All angels

are looking after you. You put God under pressure. Why? Because God promised... The righteous can demand his <u>rights</u>. You tell cancer, "It's illegal for it to be in here." Everything you do, everywhere you go, you're blessed. Even the place where you work is BLESSED because of <u>you</u>.

Stand in faith. Live on earth with the <u>authority</u> of heaven and <u>manifest</u> God's power by <u>destroying</u> the works of the devil wherever you go.

The Kingdom is in POWER

"For the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power." (1 Cor 4:20)

The Kingdom of God is not in <u>word</u> but in <u>power</u>. That means that the Word of God, without the power of His Spirit, has no effect on you. Jesus said so. (Mk 7:13). Paradoxically, the Word with the Holy Spirit power is <u>alive</u> and can do the <u>impossible</u>.

Jesus explained to the Pharisees that He couldn't do the miracles He was performing without the <u>power</u> of the Kingdom of God. "But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God is come unto you." (Mt 12:28). He was saying that in the Kingdom of God, there are no diseases, disabled, insane, addicts, and people in bondages. And to reveal the Kingdom of God to

humanity, the gospel must have the POWER to set humanity <u>free</u> from bondage.

After His resurrection, Jesus gave instruction to the disciples to wait for the <u>HolySpirit</u> before they went out to witness so that they would have the POWER. He said, "Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but <u>tarry</u> you in the city of Jerusalem, until you be endued with <u>power</u> from on high." (Lk 24:49).

The Kingdom of God is not revealed in word but in <u>power</u>: miracles, signs, and wonders <u>reveal</u> God's Kingdom. When Jesus gave His disciples power, they were able to <u>heal</u> all manner of diseases and cast out demons. "And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, **He gave them <u>POWER</u>** against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."

(Mt 10:1).

Divine Healing

"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how
God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit
and with power, and He went about
doing good and HEALING ALL who
were oppressed by the devil for God was
with Him."

Acts 10:38

And when Jesus sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God, He said, "And as you go, preach, saying, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. <u>Heal</u> the sick, <u>cleanse</u> the lepers, <u>raise</u> the dead, <u>cast out</u> devils: freely you have received, freely give." (Mt 10:7-8). Jesus did not send His disciples to preach a <u>powerless</u>

Gospel which has no miracles, signs,or wonders. To the contrary, all of the early disciples operated in <u>power</u>. They did not just preach a gospel of mere words without miracles, signs, and wonders. The Holy Spirit was sent from the Father for miraculous power.

Paul said, "For our gospel came not unto you in word <u>only</u>, but also in <u>power</u>, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as you know what manner of men we were among you for your sake." (1 Thess 1:5). And to the Corinthians, he added, "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in <u>demonstration</u> of the Spirit and of <u>power.</u>" (1 Cor 2:4). The gospel preached by Apostle Paul was also accompanied by many miracles and wonders.

"For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ." (Rom 15:18-19).

The gospel of Jesus Christ has <u>power</u>; the true gospel is powerful; it is not of mere words without power. It <u>demonstrates</u> the POWER of the Kingdom of God. "And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, 'The Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." (Lk 10:9).

So the ultimate purpose of Jesus' mission on earth was to bring us the HolySpirit to empower us to demonstrate the SAME signs and wonders that He did while

with us. "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, Whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you <u>all</u> things, and bring <u>all</u> things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26).

So, in reality, the <u>power</u> of the Kingdom is synonymous to the <u>HolySpirit</u>. He comes in no other way. He's a <u>demonstration</u> of the power of God. He comes to activate Jesus Christ's gifts in us. These gifts include speaking in tongues, healing, prophecy, words of knowledge, etc. Each person has those gifts of the Holy Spirit, and they will each be manifest as we <u>practice</u> them.

The Holy Spirit, Key To Miracles

Every true disciple preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is followed by miracles, signs, and wonders. Sick people do not want to be preached to first but <u>healed</u>. People who are possessed by demons do not want to be preached at first but are set <u>free</u> from those demons. The disabled do not want to be preached to first but to be told to <u>rise</u> up and walk. This is <u>manifesting</u> in the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God is not dead but living and powerful. Thus the Word, with the power of the Kingdom of God, is able to do wonders. A true "Jesus Christ" Gospel has power in the Word through which signs, miracles, and wonders are seen, delivering people from bondages and revealing the Kingdom of God. The difference comes in pushing through in faith till you SEE miracles happen.

Without the power, the Kingdom of Heaven cannot be revealed through miracles, signs, and wonders, delivering humanity from bondage. Without accepting the MIRACULOUS power, no matter how much you read the Bible, you will neither understand it nor will it change your life. For many have accepted the Word as the Word of God and taken a form of godliness through reading it but denied the power which changes a person. Today's preaching in many churches is powerless, except perhaps in words. But how do you preach to the sick, to the disabled, to captives? They need deliverance first, not preaching. How can the gospel we preach not heal even one person? What's the difference, then? If the greatest of these is LOVE, do we love enough to push our faith through to a breakthrough for those in

need?

Most preachers claim that the signs of the Kingdom of God are such as becoming earthly millionaires, living in large houses, driving big cars, being successful, etc. That is a <u>sign</u> of God's favor, but it doesn't differ much from the message of the power preachers promoting self-sufficiency and self-success. Abundance wouldn't have to be wrong, but only if the signs of healing the sick, casting out demons, etc., were first part and parcel of the message.

"THESE signs shall follow them that believe."

The Holy Spirit was sent to us to perform the miraculous. Worldly success does not mean that a person is manifesting the Kingdom of God or that a person is living the

Kingdom of God. **Jesus said that the Kingdom of God should come FIRST in priority.** "But seek <u>first</u> the [manifestations of the] Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Mt 6:33).

You can't expect the supernatural when people walk in piously on Sunday morning, but the rest of the time, they are drunkards, in sexual immoralities, in adultery, boasting and showing off, money lovers, proud, etc., because they have denied the <u>power</u> but have a form of godliness.

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those

that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of Godliness, but <u>denying</u> the [Holy Spirit] power thereof: from such turn away." (2 Tim 3:2-7).

Let's ALL <u>believe</u>in miracles, signs, and wonders as we go and preach the [MIRACULOUS] kingdom of God. Remember, it starts with <u>our</u> faith and pushing <u>through</u>. **We're ALL called to the MIRACULOUS.**

The Holy Spirit DEMONSTRATES the Kingdom

Unfortunately, the Holy Spirit is the most <u>neglected</u> person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is the energy with which God <u>demonstrates</u> His power. It is the power of God, the "dunamis." It is the spiritual energy in us to show the power of God, and it is the <u>privilege</u> of <u>every</u> believer.

"The same power that raised Christ from dead is living in you."

Romans 8:11

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He met with His disciples and said, "I'll leave you responsible to reconcile the whole world to God." "As My Father sent Me, so do I send you." (Jn 20:21). The plan of salvation for the world is left to us, and He told His disciples

how to do it. "Go ye, heal the sick, cast out, signs, wonders, and THEN preach," but He said, "Wait before you go, wait for the promise of the Father. Wait, you'll need the power to demonstrate the kingdom. He said, "John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and you'll be witnesses unto me, (not, you'll go out witnessing) you'll be a witness of the power of God."

All along, I was under the impression that the Holy Spirit will give you the power to witness and the boldness to stand up. Well, that's one aspect, but even more, He's the POWER to demonstrate, to do the signs and wonders. Let's re-read Mark 16:15: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized (by the Holy Spirit) will be saved, but he who does not believe will be

condemned. And [consequently, once you have the Holy Spirit] these <u>signs</u> [demonstrations] will follow those who <u>believe</u>: in My name, they will <u>cast out</u> demons; they will speak with new <u>tongues</u>; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by <u>no means</u> hurt them; they will <u>lay hands</u> on the sick, and they will <u>recover</u>." This means that **there can't be preaching without** <u>demonstration</u>. It's unscriptural. It's "hearing, without doing." It doesn't <u>demonstrate</u> the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Nowadays, there is so much talk and no demonstration of power. The Holy Spirit is the One who does the works. Power is imperative, not an option. You can't do the work of God without the power of God. "As many as believe and be <u>Baptized</u>of the (Holy Spirit), these signs shall follow them." It is so sad that we should

be baptized in the Holy Spirit, and we don't do anything with it. We either misuse it or abuse it. Or else confuse it and refuse it.

Let's face it, the biggest objection to Christianity is "I don't believe because it doesn't work. People don't see the WORKING of the Word," so they refuse to believe. There is no proof.

Or else we abuse the gifts of the Holy Spirit. And thousands of people reject it. The Holy Spirit was given for signs (proof) to heal the sick, cast out demons, not to have a weird dance, a scream, and a show... Paul calls it "zeal without knowledge." (Proverbs 19:2). The Word says, "One can chase a thousand, and two can put 10,000 to flight." (Deut 32:30) But, as it stands now, you can have a couple of thousand people in a gathering and still all those who came in sick, leave sick.

The Holy Spirit is not to raise a racket; He's to demonstrate the POWER of God. The church has a lot of information about the Holy Spirit but won't use the power. Education but no demonstration. Theory but no practice. Knowledge, but no power. Excitement doesn't get miracles. The Holy Spirit's power does.

Remember how Jesus' disciples all saw Him heal the sick constantly? They had information but not the revelation yet. Until Jesus gave them the POWER. He sent 70 of His disciples out, and He didn't just send them to preach. He gave them the <u>power</u> of the Holy Spirit to heal the sick, etc. Read it: "And as ye go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." (Mat 10:7-8). And when they came back, they said, "You won't believe what happened;

everyone we laid hands on got healed, demons obeyed us, the blind could see, it was AWESOME." --Here's the actual account, "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name." (Lk 10:17). It was unanimous; they all <u>performed</u> signs and wonders.

In the old testament, the Holy Spirit could not come <u>in</u>to the prophets but rather came <u>upon</u> people. That's why they'd say, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me..." However, in the New Testament, the whole fullness of the Spirit of God was <u>in Jesus</u>; in <u>full</u> measure, the Holy Spirit operated fully in and through Jesus. "After His baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened, and He saw the <u>Spirit</u> of <u>God</u> descending like a dove and

settling on Him." And John 3:34,35 says, "For He whom God has sent utters the Words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand."

So this is why Jesus had to tell His disciples, "Wait till I go up and fulfill the new testament with the Father, and you'll receive the "Promise of the Father," the Holy Spirit will not only be with you but IN you.

After His resurrection, He gathered the 12 and said, "As my Father sent me, so do I send you." (Jn 20:21) And He BREATHED on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Before they were followers, but now they could be sons. Remember at creation when God BREATHED His Spirit in Adam, and he became a living

soul. He breathed His Holy Spirit from the start. So by sending the Holy Spirit into each one of us, it <u>completed</u> the mission of Christ; to bring back the Spirit into man, so we could be fully empowered to represent God and bring the will of God on earth as it is in heaven. We're fully equipped to do the works of God, as Jesus demonstrated. He said, "I do nothing of my own. I only do what My Father shows Me." They are ONE; they all move as ONE.

Jesus never said that He performed miracles. He talked about the works of God. He said, "The works that I do, you will do also, and greater works will you do." God works. "My Father is always working" (Jn 5:17). He transforms the impossible into the possible. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is the power of doing the "works" of God, the power

to demonstrate that the kingdom of God is here, now.

"The Power of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:1-21

The word used in Greek here for power is the "Dunamis" of God, meaning the "POWER of enablement". The power to <u>do</u> it. Not just to go out "witnessing" but to <u>BE</u> the WITNESS, the <u>proof</u>. It's the demonstration that matters. Jesus said, "If you don't believe the <u>Words</u> that I say, believe me for the <u>works</u> that I do." In other words, I'm <u>proving</u> what I'm saying. "If I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God is come upon you" (Lk 11:20).

When Jesus told the disciples that they would receive the Promise of the Father, He said, "and you shall be witnesses unto <u>Me</u>, not of the Gospel, but <u>proof</u> of My <u>power</u>, proof of the Kingdom, you'll be able to prove that it's the <u>real deal</u>. You will receive the "power of enablement." You'll be able to say that Jesus is the real deal. You'll be able to say, "Here, let me heal your illness." You preach the kingdom by demonstrating the power of the kingdom.

Earlier, when Jesus sent out the 70, He gave them <u>power</u>. He imparted the Holy Spirit's power on them before they went, but Jesus later told them that the Spirit shall be "in" you. "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate (lawyer, to defend your rights) to help you and be with you <u>forever</u>—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you <u>know</u> him [it's ME], for He lives <u>with</u> you and will be in you. I will not leave you as

orphans; I will come to you. [in the form of the Holy Spirit]. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but <u>you</u> will see me... Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and <u>we</u> will <u>come</u> to them and <u>make</u> our home with them."

Jesus told His disciples, "I'm giving you the same responsibility My Father gave me. I'm giving you the same job. "As My Father sent Me, so do I send you." So, what was that responsibility? "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised (Lk 4:18).

And He gave them the same Holy Spirit <u>power</u> to do the job. We have the energy of God

working through us. As soon as God speaks, the Holy Spirit moves. The Holy Spirit activates God's Word (Jesus). They all work together. That's why Jesus said, "We will make <u>our</u> abode in you."

None of this resembles religious services nor a one-hour-a-week acknowledging what we believe. The Holy Spirit is the bottom line of the Christian <u>faith</u>. **You believe**, **you** <u>demonstrate</u>. Less talk and more show. Less hearing, more doing, demonstrating! We have the <u>charisma</u> of God in us. The Holy Spirit is the energy of God that brings into reality what God says. Charismatic means filled with the charisma of God, the SPIRIT of God acting out God's will through us.

Let's <u>demonstrate</u> the gospel of the kingdom of God. Hallelujah for the Holy Spirit.

Wanted: MANAGERS for the Kingdom on Earth

The most important aspect of the Kingdom is management (See the parable of the talents in Mat 25:14-30.)

God calls us to be <u>managers</u> of His Kingdom on earth. The Kingdom is in the business of managing resources; souls, funds, property, community, rights, and yes, <u>all resources</u> on earth. Therefore, Christians should definitely study "business management" because it is a fundamental principle of the Kingdom of God. "If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will <u>entrust</u> to <u>you</u> the true riches?" (Lk 16:11).

Most people believe that God operates on <u>emotions</u>. If they can just get God to feel <u>sorry</u> for them in prayer, they can get anything they want. That's not how it works. The Kingdom of

God operates by <u>laws</u>.

God's Laws Are NON-NEGOTIABLE

We must start from the fundamental understanding that everything belongs to God, all resources on this earth belong to Him, and we are to be the <u>managers</u> of <u>His</u> resources. However, if we become focused on <u>accumulating</u> wealth for <u>ourselves</u>, we become driven by <u>greed</u> and are never content. Greed opens the door to many other sins.

King Solomon, who was the richest man who ever lived, said, "Whoever <u>loves</u> money never has <u>enough</u>; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless." (Eccl 5:10). He also said, "Those who <u>trust</u> in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf." (Prov 11:28).

"The Earth is the LORD'S and everything in it."

Psalm 24:1

Jesus explained the difference between making money for yourself, which is greed and being a manager of God's money. He said, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Mat 6:24). There's nothing wrong with money, it's the <u>love</u> of money (greed) that is the <u>root</u> of all evils.

He said, "For it is from within, out of a person's <u>heart</u>, that evil thought come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <u>greed</u>, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these evils come from inside and defile a person." (Mk

7:22,23). All those evils are <u>related</u>, and they all come from the inside.

Jesus warned against gathering riches for <u>ourselves</u>, "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for <u>himself</u>, and is <u>not rich</u> toward God." (Lk 12:20,21). And He goes on to tell His disciples not to focus on money, "Life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. "Beware! Keep yourselves from <u>covetousness</u>, for a man's life doesn't consist of the <u>abundance</u> of the things which he possesses." (Lk 12:15).

Greed is the <u>mismanagement</u> of resources for <u>personal</u> benefit. You're using God's resources for your own. Jesus said,

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." (Lk 12:15).

But God wants us to be financially smart. God made man to manage the garden..."Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there He put the man He had formed. And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food." (Gen 2:4). God had not vet sent rain on the earth because there was no man to manage the earth. God was withholding growth because there was no man to manage the earth for Him. God's motivation for the creation of the earth was for man to manage the ground by the principles of the Kingdom of God.

I was raised in religion, and everything was always pointing to heaven, not earth. Yet, in the very prayer template that Jesus taught, it says, "Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven." We're supposed to manage His Kingdom here on earth. We've received the Holy Spirit to help us here on earth. Religion claims that God owns the cattle on a 1,000 hills, and yet there's never any money. We claim, "The wealth of the sinner is laid up for the righteous." (Proverbs 13:22). But we see <u>none</u> of it. I ended up getting confused because I couldn't see religion working for me. There were all those promises about finances, and I couldn't see them working for me. Sure, He supplied my daily needs, but I couldn't see how it could multiply to abundance according to His promises. I could see rich people and

poor people and didn't understand the principle.

But then, I had a revelation that God wants managers. The domination of the earth was to be through the management of His resources. God withholds and protects His resources from bad management. The principle "key" of the kingdom of God that was given to Jesus' disciples was to "bind and to loose" on earth, and heaven will back you up. We have been given the authority to destroy the works of the devil to bring God's kingdom to earth in every sphere of community.

The topic of management is not addressed enough in church. It's always about worship services and joining the choir, but God needs managers to extend His

kingdom to the community. Management demands work, not miracles. In a way, miracles cancel out management. Miracles are like the lottery you gain without work. Money is attracted to diligence and good management.

God is generous and compassionate in answering our desperate situations with miracles. And thank God for that. But it is sad that we should be waiting for a miracle from God to sort out the mess we got ourselves into, whether it's "rent money" or losing the house because we can't pay the mortgage, and we wonder why God didn't come through... the mailbox. But a lot has to do with our own mismanagement, which leads to poverty. (Lk 14:28-30 and Pro 10:4).

The definition of management is an

"effective, efficient, correct, and timely use of another person's property and resources for the purpose for which they <u>delegated</u> it, with a view to producing the expected <u>added</u> value." That means you don't <u>own</u> it; you only <u>manage</u> it, and you bring it back with <u>more value</u>. A great deal of managing has to do with learning to be a good steward of what He gives you. The parable of the Talents is all about that.

In prayer, God's not apt to give us what we pray for, only what we can manage. If you don't tithe, and you have a dirty house, you don't take care of your car; He can't answer your prayers in these regards. He'll protect His resources from you. If He gave you what you're requesting, it'd be bad management on His part.

God will not give you your own business until

He sees what you do with another's business first. What kind of employee are you? Do you rob your boss by arriving late, taking long breaks, and wasting time on the job? God is watching and waiting for you to learn to be faithful and diligent before He can entrust you with more.

That's why we can't exclude our secular life from our spiritual life. It's all the kingdom as far as God is concerned. And He wants us to exercise His authority in all areas of our lives. We can't have a private life and a work or public life. We're God's ambassadors everywhere.

God doesn't play the lottery. He won't give a million dollars to someone who's not faithful with the little He's giving them already. You buy a dress for \$200, you spend \$150 on your hair, and you tithe \$20. Tithing really doesn't have anything to do with God needing money. But it is a <u>test</u> of our stewardship and management.

Tithing and offerings is God's management program for man. doesn't need anything from us, and vet He wants 10% of everything. Because consistency in tithing shows that you remember Who's money you're managing. He's checking your management discipline by your faithfulness to tithe. Tithing exposes your accountability, your discipline, vour honesty. vour diligence, vour faithfulness, and your trustworthiness. Those are all integral virtues in the character of a manager.

Jesus had to feed 5000 men (actually closer to

12,000 people counting women and children), and He first <u>organized</u> the distribution by dividing them into groups of 50 and 100. Then, He <u>multiplied</u> the resources by changing what He had on earth to the kingdom's laws. He first <u>thanked</u> His Father, then gave it to the disciples to <u>distribute</u> to all.

And it says, "All were satisfied." And still, He asked His disciples to pick up the <u>fragments</u>. That's a sample of diligence and good management.

God's watching every little detail of your life to see if you'll pick up the crumbs. Just think about how this country is built on waste. We go to the buffet, and we waste so much food and think nothing of it. God cannot encourage waste. God doesn't give money to worshippers; He gives to managers, the good

and faithful stewards. He says, "Well done, thou good and <u>faithful servant</u>."

The worst thing that ever entered the body of Christ is "money is coming to you." --"Name it, Claim it"-- but haven't you been claiming it since 1982? Yes, you can claim it, but you've got to act on it. That's faith. Faith without works is dead. God withholds from bad management. "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich." (Pro 10:4).

God said that He's given us the power to create wealth. (Deut 8:18). He WANTS us to have <u>plenty</u> of resources to further the kingdom. God doesn't give you money; He gives you <u>ideas</u>. But we don't want His ideas; we want cash.

"Faith Without Works Is Dead."

James 2:14-16

THIS Gospel of the Kingdom

Why did Jesus, when sending His disciples, say, "As you go, preach <u>THIS</u> Gospel of the Kingdom?" (Mt 24:14). He didn't send the disciples to announce a new religion, but His Kingdom.

A Kingdom, Not a Religion

If we label Christianity as a religion, we lower Christ to the level of Muhammad, Buddha, and all the gods of Hinduism and so many others. Christ is a king, not a religious leader. He is the King of kings. And He told Pilate before His crucifixion, "My kingdom is not of this world." He didn't talk about religion. He talked about an actual kingdom. The Kingdom of God has returned to earth, and Christ has empowered

man to have dominion on earth through the Holy Spirit.

THE GREAT COMMISSION IS THE INSTRUCTION JESUS GAVE TO HIS FOLLOWERS TO REACH The Entire World.

I had a misconception of what Christianity was all about. God said, "My people are destroyed because of their lack of knowledge." (Hosea 4:6). The message that Jesus preached was simple. "Repent, turn away from the world, because the Kingdom of God is here. I am bringing back the rulership of man on earth." In other words, through His sacrifice, Jesus restored mankind into full sonship, and we now have access to the full inheritance of Jesus, and we are given His authority and power to be

rulers and ambassadors of God on earth.

GREAT COMMISSION "THEN JESUS CAME TO THEM AND SAID, "ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME. THEREFORE GO AND MAKE THE DISCIPLE OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE."

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Only in recent years did I understand the revelation about the kingdom. I was saved, and

my *forte* was to lead souls to Jesus, but I was not really introducing people to the Kingdom of God but to a religion. I was not aware of the essence of the "new identity in Christ," the authority that comes with it, and especially not that the "dominion on the earth" was restored to believers.

Of course, I knew about joy and peace and all the gifts of the Spirit but was not aware of the full commission that comes with the "born again" experience. Jesus said, "As My Father has sent Me, so send I <u>you</u>." (Jn 20:21). In other words, all believers are appointed and commissioned to bring the Kingdom of God on earth, the same as He did.

We may not all walk in all the gifts of the Spirit as soon as we're born again, but as believers, we have <u>truth</u> and <u>light</u>, and that makes us accountable to share it. "Except a corn of wheat

falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone, but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit." (Jn 12:24).

We're all called to deny ourselves in order to save the world. And while we may all go about it in different ways, our responsibility is to preach and teach the Kingdom of God. We're all made ambassadors of the kingdom.

"But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, your spirit is alive because of righteousness."

Romans 8:10

Our life on earth, in some ways, has ended the day we were born again. We <u>died</u> that day. We were crucified with Christ, and He now lives through us. (Gal 2:20). We changed nationality when we were born again. We now carry the passport of the Kingdom of God. Not only is

our identity different, but we live under a different constitution, and because of the inheritance we've been given as sons, we have God-given rights that empower us to destroy the works of the devil in order to enforce the Kingdom of God on earth.

Jesus rose as the <u>conqueror</u> in a war against the devil by recovering the stolen rulership of the world. He came to reinstate eternal life and righteousness as it was intended from the beginning of the world. He came to restore the Kingdom of God on earth. And after His resurrection, He said, "All power is given unto Me" (Mat 28:18), and in the same sentence, He empowered the believers and commissioned them to go preach and teach the Kingdom of God and make disciples.

"For everyone who has been born of God OVERCOMES the world. And this is the VICTORY that has overcome the world—OUT FAITH."

1 John 5:4

Let's face it, in the heart of every human on earth is a hope that utopia will come, either through religion or some form of government, but in the process, we created a mess. The Bible says, "It's not in man to direct his steps." (Jer 10:23). We're all looking for something better. We're not happy with the life we're living. We face sickness, debts, broken homes, depression, suffering, crime, prejudice, violence, and divorce. We find all these ills even under democracy, which we think is the best form of government. The best we have ain't good

enough. We're all looking for the <u>one</u> solution that will resolve all these problems. We're looking for "that which was lost."

But Jesus actually came to redeem THAT, which was lost. And He introduced laws that were very different from the laws the world system was living by. We've tried all sorts of solutions through religion and government. We've even tried to separate religion and state. We don't want morality imposed on the government. But how can you separate your values and convictions from your mode of operation? How can you tell your kids to be good without instilling good values in them? They won't be able to stand on their own.

We tell the younger generation not to take drugs, but we do tell them to believe in God. We tell them not to have promiscuous sex but don't teach them the value of marriage. They have no moral compass to base their behavior on. To tell a young person to be celibate without moral conviction is abusive. That is demanding something the child cannot deliver.

In actual fact, the greatest of all human desires is <u>power</u>. To have the power to control our circumstances and our future. We want control over our money, our health, our education, our families, and even over our government. We're constantly in search of solutions. We want POWER over our circumstances because we see <u>circumstances</u> have power over us.

Let's go to the gospels and look at Peter and John and the early disciples who were fishermen. When Jesus asked them to follow Him, what was it that made them drop everything and follow Him? Actually, they were businessmen; they caught fish to sell at the market. And that night, they had fished all night, and they caught nothing. Business was in trouble. The circumstances ruled over their business. The Bible says they were depressed...

So Jesus said, "Let's go back out." And He said, "Cast your net on the other side." And they caught so <u>many</u> fish.

They saw the <u>power</u> firsthand. He had <u>solutions</u>. What they didn't know is that Adam had shown up again. They saw a man who had the same power as Adam. Remember the first thing, when God gave Adam dominion, He said, "Have dominion over the fish of the sea." (Gen 1:20). For the first time in 4000 years, the fish heard the authoritative voice of Adam.

Jesus demonstrated <u>power</u>. Not just in commanding the fish to rush into the nets (twice), but in healing the sick, in feeding the multitude, in turning water into wine, in stopping the wind and the storm. What kind of man can do this sort of thing?? They said, "What manner of man is this? The winds and the storms obey Him; evil spirits depart at the sound of His voice." Even His preaching was so powerful that they said, "No man has ever spoken like this before."

So, when Jesus called Peter, saying, "Follow Me, and I will make you a fisher of men." It wasn't just mushi-gushi love that motivated Peter. He saw <u>power</u>.

Jesus said, "I'm gonna teach you to do this with men." Peter said, "I'm in..." And James said, "Me too." They saw that He was not just a Rabbi like any other; He had to be the <u>one Messiah</u>. And when Mary Magdalene became a devout follower of Jesus, she <u>knew</u> Jesus had power; she had been delivered of seven powerful devils.

The apostle Paul explains that Jesus was the second Adam (1 Cor 15:45-49). "As was the earthly man (the first Adam), so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven (Jesus), so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven." In the born-again experience, we are made like Jesus, "in the likeness of the Man from heaven". That's so intense...

And that authority, that identity, and the power of Jesus is passed on to us who believe. By being born into the Kingdom of God, we are empowered to enforce the will of the Father on earth as it is in heaven. The same as Jesus did.

Why Seek the Kingdom FIRST?

Anxiety is the plague of this century. People don't know how to discipline their minds and control their thoughts. They're at the mercy of the media. Therefore they live in fear and have frequent anxiety attacks. Why? Because when you start worrying, the devil gets a hold of your mind and can spin it just about every which way. The same as when you're plagued with jealousy, anger, and bitterness; you then have no control over your thoughts. We were not created to manage negative emotions. Our mind spins out of control and causes our body to stress, which causes maladies.

That's why Jesus insisted on this one priority: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Mt 6:33). When you think on the things of God, and focus on trusting, then God provides peace, joy, love, and all the other gifts of the Spirit. (Gal 5:22).

At the re-birth, we've been re-created in His image. We now have the mind of Christ. We're ambassadors of God on earth. And we've been given the Spirit of God to guide us in our every move. We're to use the talents and gifts God gives us to grow the kingdom. "Seek first the kingdom" means focusing totally and only on enforcing the kingdom of God in your life. "All good gifts come from God," and for His purpose.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO MEDITATE?

It means to think personally, practically, seriously, and earnestly on how the truth of God's Word should look in life.

Jesus taught a <u>basic principle</u> to help us manage the kingdom. He said, "Don't worry about food and raiment, for after all these things do the <u>Gentiles</u> seek. For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." (Mat 6:32). That means, don't fret, don't stress, don't fear.

Our thoughts have to be constantly on the Kingdom of God because **whatever we magnify** in our thoughts, whatever we **focus on**, we become the slave of. "Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Rom 6:16).

It Is Your Decisions And Not Your Conditions That Determine Your Destiny.

Our thoughts are very important. They will ultimately define our destiny. James says that our tongue is the <u>rudder</u> of our boat; what we speak, we become. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." (Mt 24:34b). Meaning that our thoughts become our speech, and our speech becomes our destiny. It all starts with our thoughts. That's why Jesus kept <u>repeating</u>, "Take <u>no thought</u>, don't worry, don't fret, don't be anxious, don't fear, don't focus on tomorrow's problems, focus on the kingdom." (Mt 8:26; Mk 4:40; Mk5:36; Lk 12: 4,5; Lk 12:32; Jn14:27; Jn 16:33).

This principle of not worrying about tomorrow is all throughout God's Word.

God tells us to stay fixed on what He says: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt <u>meditate</u> therein <u>day</u> and <u>night</u>, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have <u>good success</u>. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." (Joshua 1:8,9).

GOD'S ABUNDANT SUPPLY

~Jeff Syverson

"Elisha's word to the woman demanded two things: obedience to God and expectant faith."

God told the children of Israel when they were in the wilderness to pick up manna for <u>one</u> day <u>only</u>, or it would rot. (See Exodus 16). Why? **He wants us to trust in His provision**. God was angry when they picked up for two days and told Moses, "When will you start trusting Me?" He provides our daily bread, <u>daily</u>.

Yes, we are supposed to plan, but only as a farmer plans for his harvest by sowing seeds. But we are not supposed to worry and be anxious. Jesus gave so many parables explaining how the Kingdom of God operates. And most of the parables that He gave about money were of the fact that we are supposed to be good stewards and <u>managers</u> of what God gives us in terms of gifts, talents, or provisions. We are God's representatives on earth. We're His managers of the kingdom on earth.

Your Talent Is God's Gift To You. What You Do With It Is Your Gift Back To God.

If you were a king, needing to manage the affairs of the kingdom every day, would you be constantly thinking about your next meal or what you'll be wearing? No, you'd be focusing on the more <u>important</u> affairs of the kingdom. That's why Jesus said, "Take no thought about

your needs..." (Mt 6:31-34). <u>Life</u> is <u>more</u> than that, more than what? --More than worrying about your petty needs. If we say we love God, we must trust Him. **Love and trust reinforce each other.**

We're Not Subjugated Servants; we're Royal Sons of God

Christianity today is categorized as a religion. But Jesus can't be classified with religions. He's a King. He's far above all religions. The world was changed by Him. And the Kingdom of God is the <u>inheritance</u> of believers. "It is the Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom." (Luke 12:32). That's right... we've inherited a kingdom. It makes us "the head and not the tail". (Deut 28:13).

You Are a Son of The King

The commonwealth of the kingdom means that wealth is <u>common</u> in the kingdom. In the Kingdom of God: "My God shall supply <u>all</u> my needs according to <u>His</u> riches." In the Kingdom of God, instead of the subjects dying to protect the king, the King died to protect His subjects. Hallelujah.

It's the only kingdom where we can walk right into the courts of the King and have intimate communications with Him anytime we want. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (He 4:16).

We're so blessed, we're so equipped, and we're so empowered.

We're not <u>subjugated</u> servants; we're empowered <u>sons</u> of God. Remember the prodigal son, when he decided to return to the father's house, he said to himself, "I'm not worthy; I'll ask my father to make me just a servant," but the father ran to him and greeted him back as a <u>son</u>. He said, "My <u>son</u> who was once lost is <u>found again.</u>" God wants <u>sons</u>. (Lk 15:24).

The kingdoms of the world make their people "subjects." But in the Kingdom of God, we're all "family." In fact, Jesus is the King of kings. We're ALL made royalty. We're a royal priesthood. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." (1Pt 2:9).We're a commonwealth of kings; not religious

believers, but legal citizens of a kingdom. "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power (legal right) to become the <u>sons</u> of God, even to them that believe in His name (Jn1:12). The word 'Christian' was never used by Jesus. It was introduced by pagans in Antioch. Jesus called us SONS of God.

Jesus said that God is looking for true worshippers. "The hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him." (Jn 4:21-23).

TRUE WORSHIP

What's the TRUE Gospel?

- What was Jesus' main <u>assignment</u> on earth? What was the <u>main</u> reason He came to earth?
- What was it that He came to <u>preach</u>?
- Was it so that man could be born again?
- Was it to redeem mankind of its sin nature?
- Was it to destroy the works of the devil?
- Was it to be a witness of the truth as He told Pilate?
- Was it to die on the cross or to resurrect from the dead?

All these are good answers, but the Word of God says that He came to redeem <u>THAT</u> which was lost. As soon as Jesus started to preach, He

said, "Repent, for the <u>Kingdom</u> of God is here." The "fall of man" was actually the <u>loss</u> of the dominion of man on earth. Man was no longer a <u>representative</u> of the Kingdom of God. So the promise of redemption was to <u>restore</u> the <u>Kingdom</u>. Man had lost the rulership of God's Kingdom on earth.

God's will is not only for man to be in heaven. "Father, do not take them <u>out</u> of the world, but keep them from the evil." (Jn 17:15). And He gave us the power to overcome evil through sending His Holy Spirit as our helper.

God's intention (or will) was for man to rule on earth, as it is in heaven, with His authority and power. So the program of salvation was not only for us to have eternal life in heaven but to reinstate the Kingdom of God on <u>earth</u> and the rulership to man. All the other reasons for Christ's coming to earth were essential parts of the main program but not the main goal. Calvary was only a part of the program, but not the ending. The cross was only a part of the program. Jesus didn't preach Calvary, nor should we preach the <u>cross</u>. They're part of the program that takes us to the good news of the <u>Kingdom</u> of God being re-established on earth and reassigned to man.

The Kingdom was originally given to Adam. After Adam disobeyed, immediately, God promised that He'll get the Kingdom <u>back</u>. He told the serpent, "My seed will crush your head (authority)" He more or less said, "Not to worry, we've got this; I'll take back the government through my seed."

"But He said to them, I must announce the gospel of the kingdom of God to the cities also, because for this I was sent."

Luke 4:43

Remember what Jesus said, "I must proclaim the good news of the <u>Kingdom</u> of God to the other towns also because <u>that</u> is <u>why</u> I was <u>sent</u>." (Lk 4:43). That's <u>why</u> Jesus came, to regain <u>that</u> which was lost. The <u>government</u> of God. To return it to man. When you realize you're a <u>governor</u>, your attitude changes. You can walk in peace. Because you know everything is covered by God in the government of God.

Check out this prophecy in Isaiah 9:6-11: "For to us a child is born, to us a <u>Son</u> is given, and

the <u>government</u> will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, <u>Prince</u> of <u>Peace</u>. Of the greatness of His <u>government</u> and peace, there will be <u>no end</u>. He will reign on David's throne and over His Kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and <u>forever</u>. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this."

God's bringing back the power for <u>you</u> to <u>overcome</u> all your problems and to <u>destroy</u> the works of the devil, as Jesus demonstrated. You've not only been made righteous, a son of God, but God's promises are His children's <u>rights</u>. Your rights are what moves God, whatever your needs are. "And all these things (needs) will be added unto you."

Jesus' number one goal after His resurrection was to send the Holy Spirit back into everyone. "His Spirit into all flesh." The first thing He did was to <u>breathe</u> the Holy Ghost into His disciples (Jn 20:22). The goal of the cross was to "clean you up," bring you back in <u>fellowship</u> with God through Christ's righteousness, so the Holy Spirit could get into you and you could <u>manage</u> God's Kingdom, through Holy Ghost <u>power</u>. So, understanding how the laws of the Kingdom of God work is a very important thing.

So, we must preach and demonstrate (manifest) the Kingdom of God. --Not prosperity, not the cross, not healing, not casting out demons. All those aspects of God's power and provision are byproducts of the power of the Holy Ghost and our <u>rulership</u> as

God's children and co-heirs with Christ on earth as His <u>Vicerov</u> of the Kingdom of God.

And we have the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our life, against which there's no law. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." (Gal 5:22,23).

(To be continued)

We Live by a Different Set of Laws

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." (Rom 8:2).

"The law of sin and death" is the earth's cursed system. After the fall of Adam, the Lord told Adam that because he disregarded obeying God's command, the earth was now cursed, and man would have to till the ground and sweat for his needs and provisions (Gen 3:19-24). Grace was no longer.

"...to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Romans 8:5-6

But Christ has restored us who believe back to

grace. The cursed earth and its sorrows and toils don't apply to us. With the establishment of the new testament, we live by the Kingdom's laws on earth as it is in heaven.

The laws of PROVISION and DOMINION that Adam had in the garden (the Sabbath rest) are reinstituted by Christ thru GRACE (Heb 3 and 4). That's how Jesus could say, "Labour not (don't sweat) for the meat which perisheth, but (trust the Father) for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall GIVE unto you: for him hath God the Father SEALED (in grace)." (Jn 6:27). And again, He said, "Seek ye FIRST the (laws of) Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and ALL these things shall be added unto you." (Mt 6:33).

DELIVERED FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS

"Who HATH delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son."

Colossians 1:13

We have been: "Delivered from the power of <u>darkness</u> and have been translated into the Kingdom of His dear Son." (Col 1:13).

The same as the law of lift/thrust supersedes the laws of gravity, the laws of grace supersede the earth-cursed laws. As long as Adam and Eve believed God, they had life — abundant life and abundant provisions, full of the joy of sweet fellowship with their Father. Trusting God with all their heart would have protected them. But disobedience caused them to die

spiritually and fall from grace.

"IF CHRIST IS IN YOU YOUR SPIRIT IS ALIVE."

Romans 8:10

But when Jesus came, He said, "I am the resurrection and the life." (Jn 11:25). He meant that He had come to <u>reverse</u> this <u>curse</u>. "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made <u>alive</u>." (1 Cor 15:22). "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree that we might live to <u>righteousness</u>." (1 Pet 2:24). "The wages of sin is death (earthcurse), but the free gift of God is eternal life (of grace) through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom 6:23).

Why is believing in Christ so crucial?

Because the fall of Adam and Eve was the <u>failure</u> to <u>believe</u> and to <u>trust</u> in God. However, because "God so loved the world, He gave His only Son that whoever <u>believes</u> in Him will not perish, but have eternal <u>life</u>." (Jn 3:16). Jesus paid the penalty for this treason of Adam by bearing the curse (Gal 3:13). And everyone who believes in Him is raised from the dead (and its curse) just as Jesus was resurrected (1 Cor 15:52–53).

"Open the eyes of others and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Him."

Acts 26:18

Now, "That which is born of the Spirit is Spirit." (In 3:6). When a person believes in Jesus, they are "born again" into the Kingdom of God (John 3:3). The believer is sparked again with the <u>life</u> of God which Adam lost. To this believer, He says," I am in you and you are in Me." (In 14:20).

Adam's one act of disobedience brought both sin and death upon mankind. Christ's one act of obedience on the cross brought about the solution to this curse. The work of Christ offers all men not only the promise of the forgiveness of their sins but a new identity and a new beginning in Christ. As a son of God and, therefore, a NEW MAN, we have entered into the Sabbath REST (salvation, healing, all provisions, all wisdom, and the full inheritance of Christ).

"The Spirit alone gives eternal life Human effort accomplishes nothing."

John 6:63

That's why Jesus rebuked the Pharisees who had so many rules about the Sabbath, saying, "The Sabbath (REST) was made for man and not man for (the suffering of so many rules of) the Sabbath." (Mk 2:27). (We were made to be provided for, not to sweat for provisions). "So the Son of Man is <u>Lord</u> even of the Sabbath." (Mt 12:8). "Christ is the end of the law (earthcurse) for everyone who believes." (Ro 10:4). Jesus' redeeming grace and all its provisions supersede the earth-curse laws of sweating for life's needs.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to FULFILL them." (Mt 5:17). – to

<u>complete</u> it and to show you how to work the <u>laws</u> of the <u>Kingdom</u>.

When God RESTED, He was admiring the completion of all that was DONE; all were provided for. There was no work left for Adam to do but to govern. Adam entered into God's rest, full provision, full dominion, full authority, and power. He was the god on earth, made after the image of God.

"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God."

Romans 8:17

All through the Old Testament, God insisted on the Sabbath as a <u>sign</u> that God wanted to be the <u>source</u> of man's provisions. He was trying to show them that He could supply everything needed for man, and He even caused double provisions on the 6th day so that on the 7th, there was no worry, no concern, no sweat, just fellowship and communion. Sabbath means "cease from work/sweat."

The Jews were constantly "laboring" to make themselves acceptable to God. Their labors included trying to obey a long list of do's and don'ts. But Christ, "after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right of God" (Hebrews 10:12). Just as He rested after performing the ultimate sacrifice, He sat down and RESTED—ceased from His labor of atonement because there was nothing more to be done, ever. And, because of what He did, we ALSO enter into that same REST. We no longer have to "labor" in law-keeping nor in self-effort in order to be justified in the sight of God. We enter into His rest, into God's grace. Jesus was

sent so that we might again find that REST (of grace) in God.

"THE SPIRIT WHO LIVES IN YOU IS GREATER THAN THE SPIRIT WHO LIVES IN THE WORLD."

1 John 4:4

Jesus brought <u>righteousness</u> back to anyone who believes. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in <u>Him</u> we might become the <u>righteousness</u> of God" (2 Cor 5:21). We can now cease from our spiritual labors and rest in Him, not just one day a week, but always.

Salvation includes not only healing but the full REST of God... GRACE is the full Sabbath. The <u>original</u> non-sweat testament given to Adam is reinstated and made perfect In Christ. It's all <u>done</u>. All is provided. No self-effort, only <u>faith</u> in the promises.

"WHAT I SAY IS THIS: LET THE SPIRIT DIRECT YOUR LIVES AND YOU WILL NOT SATISFY THE DESIRES OF THE HUMAN NATURE."

Gal. 5:16

We no longer rest for only ONE day, but we've entered into His rest FOREVER, and therefore we cease our laboring and sweating. We can live by the laws of the Kingdom in full dominion by commanding and enforcing Christ's Victory. That's how we "enter into" the Sabbath rest provided by Christ.

"There remains, then, a Sabbath rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest <u>also</u> rests from <u>his</u> own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of unbelief" (Heb 4:9–11).

Our Father in heaven your name be honoured, your kingdom come, your will be done

Paul insisted on that when he wrote, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a <u>living</u> sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not <u>conformed</u> to this <u>world</u> ('s laws), but be ye <u>transformed</u> by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:1). He was telling us that by renewing our minds to God's Word, we

can live by the laws of the Kingdom of God and be <u>proof</u> of God's will in this world.

There is no other Sabbath rest besides JESUS. He alone satisfies the requirements of the law, and He alone provides the sacrifice that atones for the cursed earth. He is God's plan for us to cease from the labor of our own works. We dare not reject this one-and-only way of salvation (John 14:6).

So this is VERY important because it unwraps so many of Jesus' instructions.

"Therefore I say unto you, Take <u>no thought</u> for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life <u>more</u> than meat and the body than raiment?" (Mat 6:25)

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry

about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Matthew 6:34

"Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ve then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven: how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or

what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Lk 12:23-31)

Jesus was telling people that faith in God's REST would open the door to all provisions and all of your needs. He said, **why do you go after all this stuff like the heathen** (the people living by the earth-cursed laws) do? Your Father is aware of your needs, and He wants to provide for you the same as He does for the sparrow and the lilies. He said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Lk 12:32)

"DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT LIFE." Matthew 6:25

"Come unto me, all ye that <u>labour</u>(sweat) and are heavy laden, and I will give you REST. Take my yoke upon you, and learn (the Kingdom's laws) of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find REST unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Mat 11:28-29)

Now, re-read **John 15:7** if you want a real RUSH.

Don't WASTE your money. INVEST

I don't know if you keep track of where you spend your money. But you should, if only to find out if you are investing it or wasting it.

Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves <u>treasures</u> in <u>heaven</u>, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For <u>where</u> your <u>treasure</u> is, there will your <u>heart</u> be <u>also</u>" (Mat 6:19-21).

You can make your money grow. Instead of wasting your money on pleasures, invest it in books that make you grow spiritually or in seminars that will give you a new boost to do more for Jesus. "seek <u>first</u> the kingdom of God" (Mat 6:33). You can actually make your money GROW.

I used to be on the <u>defensive</u> financially. I would <u>pinch</u> the pennies in order to pay my bills, and I'd end up with <u>nothing</u> to show at the end of each month.

A few years ago, I asked my eldest son, who was on his way to returning to the Lord, and seeing that he already was involved in the money world, to join me in going to a seminar on 'God's finances' which was held by Andrew Wommack in Colorado springs.

Both my wife and I, along with my son, went, and it changed our lives. It gave us not only a new vision of how to invest in God's

Kingdom but a <u>boost</u> of inspiration to see other Christians <u>abounding</u> and <u>flourishing</u> and <u>GIVING</u>. -- people who used their Godgiven talents to prosper the kingdom of God. That's when I truly understood that the best investments that anyone can make are in the kingdom of God.

You can <u>invest</u> in your personal growth. **Your** money can help you grow spiritually. You can use it to develop skills, to educate yourself, to become a better leader, a better Christian, or just a better person.

Before spending your money, you should ask yourself, "Will I take that investment to heaven with me? Will it improve my character or someone else's?" If not, spend <u>sparingly</u>.

You're not taking your fancy car to heaven, nor your comfy couch, nor your fancy watch. But you are taking your character. It may be tempting to invest in comfort, but God wants you to use your money to invest in something that's going to heaven—your character.

So invest in spiritual growth. You can share your money with a young person to go to a Bible Camp. Or else pay for a friend to go to a retreat to help him grow spiritually. The dividends will be enormous. Invest in God's Kingdom. Call it your "Kingdom Growth Fund". It's the best investment you'll ever make.

There are different ways to invest in God's Kingdom. Definitely, you should support the pastor, evangelist, or YouTube teacher whom you are growing the most

from his teachings.--your discipleship teacher. You can also give to missionaries who are involved in preaching the gospel. Whatever you do, be a giver to the Lord's work. Sow where the soil is fruitful. You will reap eternal dividends if you give to doers of the word.

The Bible says, "Why spend your money on something that is not real food?... Listen closely to me, and you will eat what is good; your soul will enjoy the rich food that satisfies" (Isa 55:2 NCV).

Don't spend your money on junk food but on soul food.

He WHO LAYS UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN LOOKS FORWARD TO eternity.

~Randy Alcorn

There's no "HO HUM" about JESUS.

The claims of Jesus in the Bible, from a carnal view, are absolutely outlandish and preposterous! If these are false, He would be the greatest deceiver that the world has ever seen!--Or He'd be the greatest lunatic that has ever stepped on this earth. However, since Jesus <u>fulfilled</u> all claims about Himself, then it <u>changes</u> EVERYTHING.

Jesus, as it turns out, <u>never</u> came to introduce <u>religion</u>, never intended church buildings, and never purposed anything but the restoration of the <u>kingdom</u> of God back in the hands of man. Man, at creation, had <u>lost</u> the <u>rulership</u> over the earth which had been given him by God. The kingdom of God was intended to be on <u>earth</u> as it is in heaven. But Adam relinquished it to the devil. Adam became

powerless and <u>spiritless</u>. He was now separated from the Spirit of God. He was on his <u>own</u>, having to work the ground at the sweat of his brow. And we've been doing that ever since.

But God made a way for man to <u>regain</u> control on earth. And that's why He sent His Son Jesus to be that very One to <u>pay</u> the <u>price</u> for the redemption of the Kingdom of God, not just the redemption of man; he paid a price that we could <u>not</u> pay, a sacrifice too great for us to pay.

The end purpose was not only so that man could be again reconnected to his Creator but so that we could regain rulership of the earth. And so that God's will may be on earth as it is in heaven. This is the reason why after His resurrection, Jesus BREATHED the spirit of God into His followers. That's the ultimate reason and purpose for Jesus coming to earth so that we would regain the SPIRIT of

God. He told all the disciples before He ascended back to heaven, don't go anywhere and don't do anything until you be <u>filled</u> with the Spirit of God. And it says, "They were endued with <u>POWER</u> after that, the <u>Spirit</u> of God came upon them." (Acts 1:8)

Jesus paid the <u>ransom</u> for the sin-nature of man --the contaminated and rebellious nature of man. Man, through rebellion against God, had lost the <u>Spirit</u> of God living in him. And man was now merely a <u>mortal</u> creature, no longer breathing the Spirit that was BREATHED in him by God at <u>creation</u>. But Jesus came to regain control over the earth, return the rulership to man, and <u>return</u> the Spirit of God back into man, so that man could again be the <u>Vice-Roy</u> on earth. The representative of the King on earth.

This is why Jesus is the <u>center figure</u> in history. This is why He's not just a <u>man</u>. This is why He can't be

"framed" in history with all <u>religions</u>. It's a <u>kingdom</u> that He reinstated, not a religion. It's the original kingdom and dominion that was given by God to man on earth at the outset of creation. This is why He got so upset with the religious leaders who tried to box God's plan in a set of <u>rituals</u> and <u>condemnatory constraints</u>. So it's vital that we understand what Jesus offers to man as the opportunity to be <u>reunited</u> with God and fulfill his original <u>purpose</u>.

What all He proclaimed is so intense...He said that **He came to preach the gospel of the kingdom**. The kingdom of God is here and available to all through faith alone, without any of your good works or efforts. The dominion or rulership that was originally given to man is now restored back to man through belief in Jesus as the redemptor. His victory over the treason of the devil is permanent ("ALL power is given unto me in heaven and in earth"), and He said that unless you believe and receive His victory, you cannot **find your**

way back to the FATHER. That's why He said,"I'm the way...no one comes to the Father, but by me" And without Him, you cannot have the **greatest healing** of all. The healing of the <u>contaminated glitch</u> in man's programming.

"JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE."

John 14:6

If you've ever TRULY <u>loved</u> someone, you know that one of the great dynamics of that relationship has to be <u>forgiveness</u> and <u>reconciliation</u>. Making up is an integral part of a relationship, and God extends <u>reconciliation</u> to us through Jesus. It says, "God sooo loved the world...He gave His son" to <u>redeem</u> mankind's relationship with God.

That's why He's the most powerful figure in history. He changed the world's governing powers. He

reinstated the kingdom of God on earth in man's heart. That's why to be a <u>believer</u>, we must <u>ACCEPT</u> the <u>presence</u> of Jesus (and His Holy Spirit) at the <u>steering</u> <u>wheel</u> of our life. Jesus asked His followers, *"Who do YOU say that I am?"* This is a life-or-death challenge to all of us. Because it <u>matters</u> for all eternity, the ramifications of the claims of Jesus Christ will hold for you eternal SIGNIFICANCE.

Man can <u>continue</u> to <u>go around</u> as it were in <u>circles</u>, trying to recreate or redefine who God is and who Jesus is. Or he can receive the free gift of redemption to restore him to a life <u>empowered</u> by the Spirit of God in Him. WOW... **That all makes sense now.**

Jesus Christ is the lone <u>Saviour</u>. He's the one true God, the <u>Redeemer</u>, and the forgiver of the sinful nature of man, and He's the One who extends to you rebirth and <u>eternal</u> life. He's the One that says, "I'll give you a <u>new life</u>, and "he that comes to me will never die."

The Spirit of God in you will empower your life.

What will you do with Jesus? You can't <u>ignore</u> him. You can ask anybody their opinion of Jesus, and they're going to have <u>one</u>. No one is ever <u>silent</u> about Jesus, but the issue for you personally is, what do <u>YOU</u> say about Jesus, and what is your understanding of who Jesus Christ is?

That's why being <u>offended</u> by religious doctrines, churchy rituals, and doctrinal arguments doesn't hold enough <u>excuse</u> or <u>justification</u>. Jesus doesn't and never will offer <u>religion</u>. He's the cornerstone upon which man's life must be <u>rebuilt</u>. He's the One through Whom we can find true meaning and true freedom. It's not only about heaven and hell; it's about living your life as a <u>victor</u> now rather than as a powerless victim.

That victory is made available to everyone for free through His redemptive sacrifice? That oughta be a deal of a lifetime. And it is indeed.

There is no premium to ignorance. Not in this world, nor in the world to come. You can't tell the policeman when you're pulled over, "I didn't know the law." You can't let your search for knowledge lead you away from knowing JESUS.

In the case of your eternal destiny, it's not what you know; it's **WHO** you know that's important.

And Then... The End Shall Come

When the disciples asked Jesus: "Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of Thy coming and of the end of the world?" Jesus went through a whole <u>list</u> of <u>signs</u> that will take place in the end, and then He said, "**But the end is not yet."**

He enumerated all the signs of the end of time, but then He said, "But the end is <u>not yet</u>." However, He continued, saying, "When <u>this</u> gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached into <u>all</u> the world for a <u>witness</u> unto all nations, <u>then</u> shall the end come."

I was just witnessing to this lady today who is a Christian, and she was asking my opinion about the end time and all that we see in the news being like a confirmation of the signs of the time spelled out by Jesus in Matthew 24. And I told her, "Yes, it's all true, but these are only signs that we're living in the end

time, but Jesus says, "But the end is not yet."

The end will come when "THIS Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached unto all the world." And THIS gospel is His gospel of the Kingdom. Then the kingdom of God being on earth now, whereby all believers have the ability to enforce the kingdom of God here on earth. He came to restore the kingdom of God on Earth. He came to show us how to do it, and then He gave us the Holy Spirit to empower us to do it.

Every believer is giving not only the knowledge but the responsibility to enforce the kingdom of God by using the light of the Word of God to push against the darkness of the devil's lies. That's where the real war is. That's how Christians ought to be militant. That's what believing really means. It means not only believing with your heart but also saying with your mouth what you truly believe in your heart. Faith cannot be silent.

I feel the urgency to wake Christians up to being doers of God's Word. And even the people that we lay hands on, and are thereby healed, out of sheer thankfulness and appreciation for God healing them, and therefore completely changing their lifestyles and oftentimes their destiny, such as no longer being crippled or on their way to their death bed, they ought to turn around and become healers. If nothing else, they ought to testify that the kingdom of God is here. They've seen it; they're the proof of it.

This ought to be a wake-up call to Christians who are not doing anything to enforce the kingdom of God, as well as to people who have been healed and have tasted of the goodness of God and are therefore indebted to the Lord to turn around and do the same for others.

If we're seeing the signs of the end all around us, the more the reason to get out there and go to war against the devil and preach this gospel of the kingdom to the ends of the world. We have something that no one else has... Signs and WONDERS.

It is a real shame that it takes people like Jordan Peterson and Ben Shapiro and Mark Walsh, and many others out there who don't necessarily profess to be Christians, and yet they're fighting for truth and are pushing hard against the works of the devil. Why don't we see more Christians standing up?

We ought to ask ourselves what being a Believer truly means. Jesus himself said that if you only hear His Words and don't do it, you will fall with every wind of man's doctrine, philosophy, theology, and traditions of men, which make the Word of God of no effect. But when you are a doer, you are living Jesus' Words in 3D and therefore have the proof of the pudding to not only radiate His light and stand out in wisdom with the Words of God that comes out of your mouth but also to testify that God's Word works; because you're seeing

the results.

So it's due time for the dormant Christians to give it their all. We are getting closer to the finish line, and it is time to go all out.

I told that lady today: imagine if all Christians were to just shine their light upon others every day and truly turn, if only but ONE person onto this gospel of the Kingdom once a week and turned him/her into a militant believer, those two then win again two more a week later. If you do the math, we could have this thing wrapped up in quite a short time.

It is so much easier to win people when you are a doer. Because they can see you beaming with love, truth, and light. The results are all over your face.

When Jesus mentioned "THIS" gospel, it implied that there would be other gospels, and when He said, "for a witness," it meant it has to be seen or manifested.

A witness has a testimony. He had to have been there. He had to have lived it. In other words, <u>this</u> gospel has to be demonstrated. When we have to preach <u>this</u> gospel of the kingdom and demonstrate it to all the world, the end will come.

The end depends on all of us, believers, witnessing, living out, and demonstrating the Kingdom of God.

And then Jesus added, "**But as the days of Noah were**, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be " (Mat 24:37-39).

Noah took 120 years to build the ark. And then, the flood came. If the ark had been built in 50 years, then the flood would have come. The flood was <u>waiting</u> on Noah's completion of the ark. **God had already**

promised the flood.

So as soon as we finish our task of preaching and demonstrating <u>this</u> gospel, the end will come.

Casting Your Pearls Before Swines

Success in life is a great achievement, but success in the wrong pursuit is the saddest tragedy of all. Time spent in pursuit of the wrong purpose or without purpose entirely is the greatest waste of human potential.

We all have a purpose specifically designed for us by God. When we follow that purpose, our lives become filled with joy, peace, and accomplishment. We gain a wealth of knowledge and truth that we can share with others, and in doing so, we will find fulfillment every day.

At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus detailed the concerns and worries of people, explaining that if they put the kingdom of God first, everything else would fall into place. He instructed us not to be anxious about worldly things like food, clothing, and shelter. Instead, we should seek the kingdom of God above all else, and everything else will fall into place.

"Do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and 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. Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Mat 6:31-34).

What a radical approach to life! –Especially since most of us spend a great deal of time worrying about numerous things, setting our priorities specifically around them, planning our days and our entire lives around those worries. Worrying is, in fact, the opposite

of seeking the kingdom of God. Medical scientists have now proven that worry is the main cause of all illnesses, as it causes stress. It is an attempt to figure out our lives on our own. According to God's Word, "It is not in man to figure out his steps." (Jer 10:23).

Jesus' command to seek first the kingdom of God really changes everything when it comes to prioritizing our lives. Interestingly, He never provided a second priority or what some may call "God's second best." He said that if we seek first the kingdom, all other things will align themselves and be provided for and added on to us, causing everything to fall into place. He essentially destroyed our "prayer list" by asking, "Why worry about what you're going to eat, what you're going to wear, and how you're going to pay rent." He said, "Tune in to one thing; the kingdom of God and everything else will fall into place. Don't even think about the rest. Take no thought."

Actually, Jesus never preached anything else but the kingdom. At the very outset of His ministry, He said, "The kingdom of God is here within your midst." The Pharisees later asked when the kingdom of God would be revealed, to which Jesus replied that it would come in a silent and unseen manner; its establishment was quietly underway among them, much like leaven working in dough. "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." (Matthew 13:33). It had already begun right under their nose. He was the King, bringing back the kingdom of God on Earth.

He also told them that His miracles were evidence of the arrival of the kingdom of God: "If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." (Luke 11:20). He demonstrated the kingdom through acts of love

and compassion. He emphasized the importance of seeking the kingdom above all else. He compared it to a man seeking pearls, who, when he found that one pearl of a great price, he sold all the other ones, including everything else that he had, in order to get that one pearl, the one that had the most value, the most worth for his life.

So let's add this all up: He preached only the kingdom and told them that He was bringing the kingdom without worldly fanfare or political overtaking but by changing the present world from within. He told them that the kingdom was the greatest value anyone could find, worth selling everything for, and told people to make the kingdom and His righteousness their No.1 priority, and everything else would be taken care of. And He mentioned that His miracles were evidence that He had begun the new reign of God on earth. So what's the message?

What does it mean for us to "seek first the kingdom of God?" For us, believers, it means to live ready. -Ready to give, ready to love, ready to heal, ready to pray, ready to destroy the works of the enemy in people's lives. Jesus led by example in all these aspects of life, exhibiting obedience to His Father, and He set the standard for His disciples to follow and to produce good fruit by loving others, infiltrating the world and making disciples. We are to prioritize God's values over worldly values and possessions. Jesus assures us that He will care for our needs if we focus on living in obedience to His teachings and spreading the good news of the kingdom. We're to bring the kingdom of God on earth in words and in deed, by being a doer of His teachings and by extending His Kingship on earth. That's our assignment, and that's what we are to seek first. The kingdom and His righteousness.

In reality, Jesus only preached about the kingdom of God, never about healing, deliverance, abundance, baptism, prosperity, or even being born again. And He told us to put the highest value on the kingdom. And, when He sent out His disciples to all the nearby towns, He told them, "As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give." (Mat 10:7,8).

This commission and prioritization from the Lord call for the re-examination of how we spend our time and what we prioritize in our lives. Time is our most valuable commodity, and spending it on non-productive activities is equivalent to squandering it. Our schedules are chock-full of unproductive tasks that don't bear good fruit in

our lives.

I'm convinced that keeping people occupied with pointless activities is one of the devil's most effective tools. Though we may be busy, most of us believers aren't accomplishing as much for the kingdom as Jesus instructed us to. Being productive should be valued above being busy. Paradoxically, failure can be the result of working hard and doing excellent work, yet on the wrong thing; missing our destiny and purpose altogether.

In view of what Jesus gave us as our priority, many of us need to reset our compass. Our time is the most valuable currency we possess. How we spend our time shapes our destiny; we are the culmination of all the time we've invested. Each day we're all given the same currency: 24 hours. The key is to use that time wisely and focus on activities that will help us promote the kingdom of

God, as per the one priority given to us by the Lord.

The Bible teaches us to redeem the time because the days are evil. Time is an actual currency that you can measure life with, not money. You actually use time to buy life. Whatever you have, you have purchased it with your time. That's why people pay you to hire out your time; doing what they want you to do with your time.

Even our friends and family can demand our time. It becomes more and more important to check the time wasters in our lives. The book of Proverbs is full of advice on choosing our company and activities. Otherwise, we could be "casting your pearls before swine" -expending effort or resources on unworthy pursuits—just like the prodigal son did, paying a high price for worthless pursuits.

When we waste a significant amount of time, the feeling is the same as a hangover–emptiness, frustration, and dissatisfaction with nothing to show or gain from it. Divertissement is entertainment that diverts you from your priorities, goals, and challenges and is equivalent to spending a night at the casino, seduced by a streak of luck and ultimately losing everything.

We have a greater calling, and consequently, we must find the 'off' switch on the remote control, on wasteful habits, and on being lured by advertisements, on those "shining objects" that the world entices us with. Spending unproductive hours in media distractions will only leave us intellectually and spiritually impoverished, without any gains in wisdom or knowledge.