

The Kingdom of God - Part IV

- * We often hear ourselves and others refer to “The Kingdom of God”.
- * I am convinced that we are simply parroting a religious word without actually knowing what we are saying!
- * What is *the kingdom of God*?
- * In most instances in the New Testament the original word for “kingdom” is *basileia*.
- * It means sovereignty, royal power, dominion!
- * In short, the Kingdom of God is the “sphere of God’s rule!”
- * This causes the Lord’s prayer to be an even more powerful prayer:

Matthew 6:10 (NIV)

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

(Father, Your sovereignty, royal power and dominion be done on earth!)

- * Notice how that changes the feel of that prayer! It invokes God!
- * We are asking for God’s sovereign will, His divine power and dominion to cause our lives, circumstances and situations to reflect His perfect will!
- * With that said, let’s begin a journey of discovering The Kingdom of God.

- I. Understanding the Kingdom of God is only possible by understanding The King of that Kingdom! Only by getting to know the character of The King! Only by knowing Jesus Christ as He truly is!

John 14:7-11 (NLT)

7 If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!” 8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? 10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. 11 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

- A. Paul expressed this passionate desire to the Philippian Church!

Philippians 3:10 (AMP)

10 And this, so that I may know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely] and [in that same way experience] the power of His resurrection [which overflows and is active in believers], and [that I may share] the fellowship of His sufferings, by being continually conformed [inwardly into His likeness even] to His death [dying as He did];

1. E. Stanley Jones, a lawyer turned missionary/evangelist to India, Japan and other countries, died in 1973. He said:

“What is the nature of the Kingdom of God? After God’s personal character nothing is more important than the nature and character of His reign, His Kingdom. His Kingdom must be by its very nature a total Kingdom, for God is not a half God ruling a half realm, ruling over the personal but not the social, or ruling over the social but not the personal. He must be totally present and totally relevant or totally absent and hence totally irrelevant. There is no middle ground.”

2. I must come to the place in my life that WHERE I spend eternity is second to WHOM I spend it with!
3. As Paul said, “I want to KNOW Him...!”

B. We read a very interesting phrase in a very familiar scripture:

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

1. I believe the Holy Spirit inspired scripture!
2. I believe scripture communicates exactly what The Lord desires!
3. Notices the phrase “acknowledge Him!” Not His ways, His commands or His principles! BUT HIM!
4. “Acknowledge” is a Hebrew word that means:
 - a) to know
 - b) to ascertain by seeing
 - c) observation
 - d) to become acquainted with

C. Unfortunately, living a Christian life to many has become mechanical rather than relational!

1. I certainly do not want to be “sensational” about this; nor do I want to be legalistic or condemning, but listen to this:

Mark 4:10-12 (NIV)

10 When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. 11 He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables 12 so that, “they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”

2. There is a part of God’s character and nature that many

- haven't understood!
3. SEEKING-GOD.
 4. God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah and said:

Jeremiah 29:12-13 (NIV)

12 Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

5. Jesus told His disciples this:

Matthew 7:7 (NIV)

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

6. The original language is very interesting here! It is a continual action and not just an event!

Matthew 7:7 (NLT)

7 "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

II. To understand the Kingdom of God requires an understanding of *WHY THE WORD BECAME FLESH* in the first place!

A. What is all of this stuff about my Christian faith all about?

1. When I really begin to seek God for Who He is and put a relationship with Him as a priority of my life, all of the arguments and differences of how we express our faith become so unimportant!
2. After all, it's not about me and my faith, it's about God and WHO HE IS!

B. Psychologists tell us that humans have three (3) basic needs: significance...security...belonging!

I am significant, I am secure, and I belong!

Romans 8:31-39 (NLT)

31 What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? 32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? 33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36 (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. 38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.