

**THE GENERAL SUBJECT:
LIVING IN THE REALITY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

Message One

**The Kingdom of God—
the Realm of the Divine Life**

Scripture Reading: John 3:5-6; 18:36; 1:12-13; 2 Pet. 1:4

- I. The kingdom of God is the realm of the divine life—John 3:3, 5, 15-16; 18:36; 1:12-13:**
- A. The New Testament regards the life of God as *the* life, that is, as the only life that is truly life and that can rightly be considered as life—Eph. 4:18.
 - B. The Lord Jesus came that we might have life, and for this He laid down His soul-life to release the divine life from within Him, and in His resurrection, He imparted the divine life into God's chosen and redeemed people—Matt. 16:24-26; Luke 9:24-25.
 - C. The kingdom of God is an organism constituted with God's life as the realm for His ruling, in which He reigns by His life and expresses Himself as the Divine Trinity in the divine life—John 3:5; 15:1-8, 26.
 - D. The kingdom of God is God in Christ as the totality of life with all its activities—11:25; 10:10b; 14:6.
- II. The unique way to enter into the kingdom of God is to receive God as life and gain God Himself; this is regeneration—3:5, 16; 1 John 5:11-12:**
- A. The kingdom of God is a divine realm to be enter into, a realm that requires the divine life; hence, for us to see or enter into the kingdom of God, God requires regeneration—John 3:3, 5.
 - B. Because through regeneration we receive the divine life, the life of God, regeneration is the unique entrance into the kingdom of God—vv. 3, 5, 15.
 - C. We have been born into the kingdom of God, and now the divine life in our spirit knows the kingdom of God—vv. 5-6.
- III. The sense of life is the feeling, the consciousness, of the divine life within us—Rom. 8:6; Eph. 4:18-19:**
- A. The source of the sense of life is the divine life, the law of life, the Holy Spirit, Christ abiding in us, and God operating in us—Rom. 8:2, 10-11; Phil. 2:13.
 - B. The sense of life involves both the feeling of death and the feeling of life and peace—Rom. 8:6; Isa. 26:3.
 - C. The sense of life makes us know whether we are living in the natural life or in the divine life and whether we are living in the flesh or in the spirit—Rom. 8:6.
 - D. In living a grafted life, we should live according to the principle of life, not according to the principle of right and wrong—Gen. 2:9, 16-17; 2 Cor. 11:2-3.
 - E. If we would follow the sense of life, we need to live in a calm, steady, and unhurried way, living an ordinary life in the divine dispensing—John 14:27; 16:33; 1 Thes. 5:23; 2 Thes. 3:16; Isa. 30:15; 32:17.
 - F. The sense of life guides us, governs us, controls us, and directs us—Luke 1:79; Rom. 3:17; Prov. 21:1.

- IV. The believers receive the divine life by believing into the Son, in whom the divine life is and who Himself is life, and by being born of God, they are born of the Spirit—John 3:6.**
- V. The believers have life not in themselves apart from God but in the organic union with the Lord, that is, they have life only in Christ—15:4-5; Rom. 8:2.**
- VI. The divine life in the believers is the life of the Body of Christ, and thus it is not an individual life but a corporate life, Christ as the life of the Body experienced and enjoyed in the Body—1 Cor. 12:26-27; Col. 3:4.**
- VII. For eternity the believers will experience and enjoy the life of God—Rev. 22:2.**
 - A. To grow in the divine life is the increase of the element of God, the increase of the stature of Christ, and the expanding of the Holy Spirit—Eph. 4:15-16.
 - B. The growth in the divine life is the decrease of the human element, the breaking of the natural life, and the subduing of every part of the soul—1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18; Col. 2:19.