

KINGDOM ASPECTS

During the ministry of Jesus, one can notice various aspects that Jesus seemed to cover in relation to the kingdom of God. There is a danger when studying a subject that one can become unbalanced, but Jesus was perfect in all of his life and teaching. As you read through the four gospels and the early church history in the book of Acts, you will discover the following aspects mentioned or illustrated. You will also find them throughout this website of jesusreigns.net. There are more aspects to the ministry of Jesus, but these eight are a good place to start. Be alert to them as you read the New Testament.

The biggest hindrance to experiencing God's kingdom is my kingdom. -Dallas Willard

8 Kingdom Aspects

- Words
- Wonders
- Walk
- Works
- Warfare
- Wisdom
- Wealth
- Warnings

Words

Words are important in the kingdom message and life as they are a primary way of communication. They reveal things that are in a person's heart. How would God in heaven reveal his heart? In the Old Testament he used prophets to proclaim messages to the world and to his people. However, he would later fully reveal himself when he sent his one and only unique Son, Jesus Christ, who was full of grace and truth. (see John 1:1-16)

And the Word became flesh, and lived for awhile among us. - John 1:14
No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side has made him known. - John 1:16

The life of Jesus was a model for what kingdom life is meant to be. His primary teachings were about the kingdom of God, which he also demonstrated with power encounters.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and disease among the people. - Matthew 4:23

Jesus spoke truth with authority and he often said: **'I tell you the truth'**. This was meant to emphasize the importance of what he was saying, because he often said things that seemed incredulous or hard to believe. He taught his disciples the power of words.

Have faith in God, I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go throw yourself into the sea' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. - Mark 11:22-23

God has called us to move mountains, not moan about them. Sometimes we pray about matters but in other times we are to give commands of faith, just as Jesus did in his ministry.

We are not to make oaths but to 'Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and let your 'No' be 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. - Matthew 5:36-37

For whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. - 1 Peter 3:10

For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil things stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to **give account** on the day of judgment for **every careless word** they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.

- Matthew 12:34b-37

Believe in your heart

confess with your mouth

This is how fear or faith are released with spiritual and physical consequences.

FEAR

'If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert!' - Numbers 14:2

The Israelites complained and God responded to them:

How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard these grumbling Israelites. So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Lord, **I will do to you the very things I heard you say:** In this desert your bodies will fall.' - Numbers 14:27-29a

FAITH

The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart that is the word of faith we are proclaiming: that if you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess are saved. - Romans 10:8-10

It is written: 'I have believed and therefore I have spoken'. With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.

- 2 Corinthians 4:13-14

In society and in some churches, people often pray silently. There may be occasions for that, but generally it is better to pray out loud so at least you can hear yourself. Jesus taught his disciples,

When you pray, say..... (verbalize your prayer). - Luke 11:2

Wonders

Jesus used words while teaching and preaching, but they were often accompanied by signs and wonders. Wonders draw curiosity and attention and signs lead us to a place or person, in this case to the kingdom of God and to King Jesus. Jesus performed supernatural things such as turning water to wine, healing the sick, touching lepers without fear, raising the dead, getting tax money from a fish, multiplying food, being calm in storm, calming a storm and walking on water. Jesus revealed a kingdom from God that defied religious and social elitism. Jesus ate with sinners, chose uneducated fishermen to be his closest disciples, forgave his enemies who had caused him to suffer the torment of the crucifixion. Most amazing was that he lived a perfectly pure life in a barbaric and corrupt world. He qualified to be the sacrificial Lamb of God without spot or blemish who would take away the sin of the world.

When Jesus had finished his most famous 'Sermon on the Mount', the crowds were amazed at his teachings, because he taught with **authority**. In one of his teachings to his disciples before his death, he talked about miracles and then made this statement.

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. - John 14:12

People wonder what the greater things are, but they should first concentrate on doing the things Jesus did! There are believers in Jesus today who are healing the sick and raising the dead. The greater things seem to refer to quantity. While Jesus walked this earth he was limited in his time and location (nation of Israel), whereas there are millions of Jesus filled believers around the world who are carrying his presence, sharing the kingdom message in words and power.

I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done - by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have **fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. - the Apostle Paul / Romans 15:18-19**

New Testament evangelism included the good news of Jesus' life, death, burial and resurrection and was accompanied by demonstration of God's supernatural ability. This did not happen because of them but because they had **faith in Jesus' name** and believed that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead was in them. - Romans 6:10-11, Acts 3:11-16. To live in that reality, one must know certain truths. The apostle Paul reveals the key to this dynamic life in Christ with the following scripture

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but **Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20**

How many Christians say they invited Christ into their life, and yet they act as if he is not there. Sure, Jesus wants us to **receive him**, but just as important, he wants us to **release him**. Paul knew Christ lived in him and had faith that Jesus went with him wherever he went. Paul allowed Jesus to speak, bless and heal people through him. Great athletes would rather be on the playing field than sit on the sidelines. Jesus is the same, he wants to be active in your life instead of being unemployed on the sidelines. Signs and wonders follow Jesus' believers, are they following you?
Mark 16:17-20

Note: There are some Christians (cessationists) that teach the sign gifts ceased after the last apostle died. Wrong! They will continue until Jesus returns to earth once more. - 1 Corinthians 1:5-8.
Everything Jesus taught his disciples is to be passed on to the next generation! - Matthew 28:19-20

Walk

If anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: **Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. - 1 John 2:5-6**

The walk of a Christian is mostly about their character and integrity

- Walk in love.....for God is Love - Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 4:7-21, 1 Corinthians 13
- Walk in the light.....for God is Light - 1 John 1:5-9; 2:9-11
- Walk in faithfor it pleases God - Hebrews 12:1-2; Hebrews 11

- Walk in humility.....Jesus' key attitude and virtue - Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Peter 5:5-6
- Walk in servant styleJesus walked as a Servant King - Matthew 20:28
- Walk in truth and grace..... Jesus was full of both - John 1:14-17
- Walk in victory.....Jesus lived as an overcomer - Luke 4:1,13-14, John 14:30, 1 John 5:4-5
- Walk in authority.....Jesus was bold over evil forces - Luke 10:18-19, Acts 3:1-8
- Walk in power and wisdom.....Jesus' key resources - Isaiah 11:2-3, Acts 1:8, 10:38
- Walk in Holy Spirit fruit.....Jesus' character on display - Galatians 5:22-25
- Walk in Holy Spirit gifts.....Jesus' capability on display - 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- Walk in a kingdom mentality.....Jesus' primary cause
- Walk in the fear of the Lord.....Jesus' greatest delight was to please God not man
Isaiah 11:2-3, Hebrews 1:8-9, Matthew 22:15-16, John 8:28-29, Psalm 25:12-14; 31:19,
Psalm.33:8,18;34:9-14;Proverbs 1:7; 2:1-7; 3:7; 8:13, 9:10; 10:27; 14:26-27; 22:4; 23:17
- Walk.....Jesus did a lot of walking with his disciples. They met lots of people on the way, observed their environment and got healthy exercise too. Prayer walking is a great habit to cultivate. I like to walk and meditate on scripture and praise God for his beautiful creation and pronounce blessings over people and places as led by the Spirit.

Works

We are not saved by our works but by the work of Jesus when he shed his innocent blood on the cross. God gives us the desire to come to him.

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. - John 6:44

Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval. They they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works which God requires?' Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this; to believe in the one he has sent'. John 6:27-29

After we are born again by the Holy Spirit, our works are very important as we live in the kingdom of God and seek to advance God's interests and influence in the world.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves , it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do **good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. - Ephesians 2:8-10**

Do you work just to meet your needs? God has a higher purpose for your labor! Do something useful with your hands that you may have **something to share** with those in need. - Ephesians 4:28

Jesus tells us: **'Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth but lay up treasures in heaven. ' -Matthew 6:20-21**

The works of a Christian will be tested by Jesus. -1 Corinthians 3:7-15
'.....the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the **quality of each man's work. - 1 Corinthians 3:13**

Our motives will also be evaluated.

Judge nothing before the appointed time; waiting till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the **motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his **praise from God.****

1 Corinthians 4:5

The Gospel of the Kingdom is not just personal but also social. **'Faith without works is dead'** James 1:27; 2:14-18. The compassion of Jesus causes true believers to feed the hungry, provide water, offer hospitality to strangers, clothe the needy, visit prisoners, look after orphans, take care of the sick etc. - Matthew 25:31-46. All these things should be done in the name and for the glory of Jesus - Colossians 3:23. Jesus brought a whole gospel for the whole of man.

Christianity that does not begin with the individual does not begin.
Christianity that ends with the individual ends. - E. Stanley Jones

Warfare

The first warfare began when Lucifer sought the throne of God for himself. God fired him from his position as chief musician. He was immediately cast out of heaven to the earth. Satan was bitter and he continued his battle against God by seducing the first couple to disobey God. Adam and all mankind lost their freedom and dominion over the earth as Satan became the 'god of the world systems.' However, God already had a battle plan in place, for he would send **Mighty God** (Hebrew = **Hero**, Isaiah 11:6) who would defeat Satan and restore what mankind had lost. Over a period of a few thousand years, God would work through the nation of Israel to prepare the way for the coming liberator/ Messiah. Satan was aware of some of God's plan and waged warfare against God's people during the Old Testament period. Israel had to fight off pagan practices in order to pave the way for Messiah. Jesus was finally born and began his **military rescue operation** at the age of 30. He fought off Satan's temptations in the desert and began his public ministry. His weapons were not carnal or earthly but spiritual ones endowed with power and authority through the Holy Spirit. - Zechariah 4:6, 1 Corinthians 10:4-5. Dark spiritual forces can not be defeated with worldly weapons.

The boldness of the flesh disgusts. The boldness of the Spirit disarms. - Unknown

Jesus' main weapon was the Word of God and the Holy Spirit presence and power. We have the Word of God, the Spirit of God and other weapons such as faith, the blood of Jesus, the name of Jesus and the supernatural love of God. Jesus lived victorious over the world, the flesh, the devil, demon inspired enemies, disease and death. He saw anything from the kingdom of darkness as an enemy of God's kingdom and so should we.

Our warfare is not only the battle to walk in personal victory and freedom, it is also to claim new territory for Jesus. Jesus told his disciples to **'Occupy til I return'**. Satan has infiltrated all areas of society which includes at least 7 mountains of influence. God has his kingdom agents in all those areas who are making a difference by being salt and light. There is always resistance in warfare, but we belong to the winning side with Jesus.

Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is that overcomes the world? Only he believes that Jesus is the Son of God. - 1 John 5:4-5

Wisdom

Wisdom is an important part of God's kingdom and Jesus is the King of the Kingdom. No one ever walked this earth with so much wisdom as he did. He did not make decisions by appearances/ Isaiah 11:3. If mankind had walked in wisdom from the beginning, there would be no need for miracles. Jesus spent part of his ministry in meeting people's crisis needs for healing and deliverance etc. However, the other part of his ministry was teaching principles of wisdom for daily living. When your car breaks down, it is good to

know a mechanic who can accurately diagnose and make the repairs efficiently and effectively. However, preventive maintenance of your car will minimize the need for costly repairs. Jesus was and still is the Great Physician who is able to discern what a person's real need is and how to set them free. He was able to meet people's needs in minutes because he spent hours alone with God and was led by the Holy Spirit. He also taught his disciples the key principles of the kingdom so they could pass them on to others. This would enable people to live more effective and fruitful lives, which is preventive maintenance for all areas of our lives.

The Bible is a book of wisdom. If we follow Jesus around in the gospels, we can learn many things that will prevent us from living crisis to crisis. If the Bible was taught in schools today, there would be less crime and immorality in our societies. Even just the book of Proverbs in schools would make a great difference in the lives of so many. The Founders of America received the ideas for our Constitution and Branches of government from the Bible. In recent decades, our leaders and judges have taken the Bible out of our schools along with any respect for God and his moral teachings.

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. - Romans 1:22

America was founded by geniuses, but is now run by idiots.

- Senator John Kennedy speech in spring 2022

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. - Proverbs 9:10

Jesus delighted in the fear of the Lord and had great reverence for God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 11:2-3. He was full of the Holy Spirit and full of the Word of God; a powerful combination for wisdom and power that God has provided for us too.

KING JESUS	The Person we live for who gives us character and capability
KINGDOM	The Principles we live by the kingdom is our cause and course

The Gospel involves both the Person (Jesus Christ) and the Plan (Kingdom of God)

The Person without the Plan yields personal piety only.

The Plan without the Person yields social reform but not its essential source and power.

- E. Stanley Jones

Wealth

Wealth = Abundance of valuable possessions or resources,
Abundant supply, profusion - Websters New Collegiate Dictionary 1973

Since the early days of mankind, property, physical and natural resources have been signs of wealth. Cattle, sheep and other livestock were very valuable and often used as a form of barter. Later on gold and silver were used for money exchange. Today there are also intellectual properties among other things. The Bible and history are filled with battles over territory and possessions.

At the beginning of the Bible, we see that the word abundance is an accurate description of God's creation. One of the early names that God revealed to mankind was God Almighty / The Hebrew is El Shaddai, which means 'The All Sufficient One' or 'The God Who is More Than Enough'. Gen.17:1-2. **Jesus talked much about material possessions because he knew it would always be a relevant topic. He knew the blessings and dangers of money and possessions. He also came to earth to let us know that there are things more valuable than material things.**

**What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world,
and loses his own soul. - Mark 8:36**

Spiritual wealth is of utmost importance. God has blessed believers in Jesus with **every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly realms in Christ.- Ephesians 1:3. Secondly, God has given us an earthly world along with all the physical and material benefits for our comfort and enjoyment. 1 Timothy 6:17

- The garden of Eden, abundant provision, variety and beauty for Adam and Eve to live in
- Adam was to be a steward, caretaker, guardian of what God had provided - Genesis 2:15-16
- Adam's sin/disobedience opened the door for the curse which affected all areas of life
- Jesus brought good news for the poor, prisoners, the blind and the oppressed, Luke 4:18
Jesus brought good news for all areas of life, but he lived a modest lifestyle.
- You cannot serve God and Mammon/money (the Pharisees loved money) Luke 16:13-15
- How we handle worldly wealth is a test of our ability to handle true riches - Luke 16:10
- God is concerned about where our **heart** is and what we treasure. - Luke 6:19-21
- God rewards faithful servants and takes from the unfaithful ones - Luke 19:24-26
'Looks like Jesus is not a socialist' - Bill Johnson
Socialism is the antithesis of Christianity. It is urged by people who have lost faith in God and the power of their religion to motivate men, and who have resorted to government and coercive power of the State as a substitute.' - Archbishop Fulton Sheen 1961
- Blessings from God are to bless others besides ourselves. eg. Abraham - Genesis 12:1-3
- Jesus was not poor as he had a treasurer, supported his travelling disciples and had a lake home in Capernaum, or at least access to one. - Matthew 4:13, Mark 2:1
- Poverty is not a sign of spirituality. In India, so called 'most holy men' forsake all and keep only 3 things: a loincloth, a walking staff and a begging bowl as they wander around the country. How different this is from true Christians, who seek to bless the world around them. Missions experts from Fuller Seminary discovered that wherever Christian missionaries went there was 'redemption and lift'. The standard of living rose where Christ was exalted. When I was in India, one could notice which villages were more prosperous, it was the Christian ones.
- Every Christian has a unique calling, purpose and capacity to handle wealth. God calls some to be entrepreneurs who support God's ministries while others may live simply in order to serve the Lord. Wealthy Joseph of Arimathea provided the tomb for Jesus, while the Apostle Paul lived simply and sacrificially for the cause of Christ. Both of them trusted in God not money.
- Generous and joyful giving is sign of grace, faith and love in a Christian's life
- 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9 speak of the Principles, Purpose, Policies and Promises of giving.

**True prosperity is God-centered, not man-centered. Prosperity is about giving.
If God can get money through you, He can get money to you. God is more concerned with the motive behind the action than the action itself. Giving with a wrong heart is of no benefit - it's just attempted bribery.**

- Jim Baker / Zion Christian Fellowship

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. - 2 Corinthians 9:8

**Real prosperity is defined by how much we give away,
not by how much we keep for ourselves. - Andrew Wommack**

Money is your servant to expand the kingdom. God is your Master. You are His steward called to manage money under His direction. We are to use money to serve God, not use God to get money. - Craig Hill

Poor people are preoccupied with having more money.

Rich people are preoccupied with the things they have with their money.

Wealthy people are preoccupied with ideas. - Myles Munroe

(for a great message on the 7 different types of wealth, go to the following message from Myles Munroe, who taught worldwide on the kingdom and leadership.)

You Tube: The 7 Spheres of Wealth / Myles Munroe

Christianity would allow each man to have the use of all he earns. This encourages capital expansion, greater production, more jobs, less poverty and increased well being. Christianity also teaches each man voluntarily to share the results of his success with those who are less fortunate. - Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Adam and Eve lost their paradise because they were guilty of taking what did not belong to them. From the beginning of time, God revealed himself as a generous giver. Each part of creation was designed to give something to the world around it. The sun gives light and warmth. Bees pollinate flowers. Goats provide milk. Fruit trees provide fruit. Plants give us oxygen. Humans exhale carbon dioxide to plants. People are meant to give love to others. The essence of living is giving.

Warnings

A Kingdom has a ruler, the ruled and rules. God's kingdom is open to all persons, but they must be willing to submit their lifestyle to the King's ways. Jesus gave many warnings to those who will not enter the kingdom or that hinder others from doing so because of their attitudes or actions. Warnings are not given to harm us, but protect us or enable us to enjoy life in his kingdom.

Religious leaders received more warnings from Jesus than any other group (see Matthew 23) This is because being a spiritual leader is one of the most dangerous jobs in the world. Why is this so? It is because religious leaders have a key role and influence in the eternal destiny of souls. Often religious leaders are entrenched in their own power, positions and traditions and thus they resist God's advancements. Jesus was not afraid to confront sin when it was necessary. Not to do so would be spiritual malpractice. He warned religious leaders about pride, greed, hypocrisy, spiritual blindness etc.

Jesus did not give people what they wanted to hear, but what they needed to hear. **He did not seek to be popular but prophetic** as He only spoke of what the Father had taught Him - John 8:28. Matthew 28:16. Jesus gave warnings because he loved people and wanted them to enter into and enjoy living in Father's wonderful kingdom forever. He did not want anyone to live an empty, selfish, fruitless life without God in this life which would end in despair and eternal separation from God in hell.

Thanks for taking time to read through all the topics in our website. Each section has various messages which will help you appreciate all that God has provided for us in His kingdom and how we can bring pleasure to Him as loving and fruitful citizens in His kingdom.

Even though I have written these messages, I still read through them again and again, for I need to absorb and apply them to my own life. **Such information saturation increases the likelihood of life transformation.** That is **God's goal for us, to be conformed to the image of Jesus.** Romans 8:29.

jesusreigns.net

January 2023

