

KINGDOM LIFE



Kingdom Life

(Col 1:13) He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

When you became a disciple of Jesus you were literally transferred to a different, very real Kingdom. His Kingdom manifests both in us (Lk 17:20-21) and through us (2 Cor 2:14).

(Mat 11:12) From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

The coming of Jesus began a war in the earth, the Kingdom of Heaven advancing against the kingdom of darkness (Mt 6:10). This war will only end when the entire world is ruled by Christ's Kingdom (1 Cor 15:24-25).

(2 Tim 2:3-4) You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

When you became a disciple of Jesus, you became a soldier, and entered a war already in progress.

His Kingdom in Us

We are body, soul, and spirit (1 Thes 5:23).

In the Garden of Eden man had an eternal body, a pure soul, and a living spirit. When man fell corruption entered all of creation (Rom 8:20-21), and sin and death entered the world (Rom 5:12). This caused man to have a mortal body, a defiled soul, and a spirit dead in sin (Eph 2:1).

The Law given to Moses did not change our condition in that it could not make us righteous (Rom 8:3, Gal 2:21). The purpose of the Law was to reveal our need for Christ (Gal 3:19-24).

When we were Born Again (Jn 3:3-8) our spirit was made alive in Christ (1 Cor 15:22, Eph 2:1, 5-6, Col 2:13-14).

(2 Cor 5:17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

(2 Cor 5:21) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Our spirit man has been re-created anew because Christ's righteousness has been imputed to us (Rom 4:11, 23-25). However, our body remains unchanged, still subject to the temptation of sin (Rom 7:14-25).

This means our soul now has a choice, or a battle, whether to align with our spirit or flesh (Eph 4:22-24).

(Gal 5:16-17) I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. (Rom 8:13-14) For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

We cannot make a peace treaty with our flesh; it must be conquered (Gen 4:7, Rom 13:14).

(Rom 6:11-14) Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

3 Steps: Reckon, Resist, Present

Our identity and focus must always be in our spirit man, that we are the righteousness of Christ! That is the real you. Your sin does not define you, and it does not change God's love and acceptance toward you (Rom 8:38-39).

(Rom 6:1-2) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

While His grace forgives all our sin, it is not a license to sin (Heb 10:26-29). The purpose of grace is to free us from sin, not enable us to sin freely.

(1 John 3:21-22) Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Our sin does not affect God's love toward us, but it does rob us of confidence toward Him.

(Heb 4:15-16) For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Col 3:1-10) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

(1 John 3:1-3) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

So we must confidently stand in our position of righteousness in our spirit man and pursue righteousness in our soul (Mt 5:6, 2 Tim 2:22), because we will be restored to Garden of Eden condition when we receive our glorified bodies (1 Cor

15:42-44, 50-53), including direct fellowship with Him.

Contrasting Kingdoms

The kingdom of light (truth) overcomes the kingdom of darkness (deception). (Eph 5:8, 11)

(John 10:10) "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 8:32, 34, 36) "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

(2 Pet 2:19) While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

goals:

kingdom of light – abundant life, freedom

kingdom of darkness – kill, steal, destroy, bondage

motives:

kingdom of light – love (Col 1:13)

kingdom of darkness – fear (1 Jn 4:16-19)

methods:

kingdom of light – truth, authority

kingdom of darkness – lies

(John 8:44) "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."

(Mat 28:18) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

We have been given this same authority.

(Luke 10:18-19) And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

Kingdom Support

(2 Pet 1:3-4) 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.

We've already been given everything we need to live

a godly life through knowing Jesus. We can access all the resources of His kingdom through every promise found in scripture!

(2 Cor 10:3-5) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

The main battle we must win is in our minds. We access everything in the kingdom through faith (2 Cor 5:7, Gal 2:20, Heb 11:6).

(Amos 3:3) Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

(James 4:7-8) Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Faith is just agreement. When we agree with God's word, we walk with Him. If we agree with Satan's lies, he can walk with us, but he flees when we resist him with the truth of God's word (Mt 4:1-11). His only weapon is to get us to question God's word (Gen 3:1).

Kingdom Unity

(Rev 12:10-11) Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

We must avoid participating in Satan's ministry of accusation and condemnation against believers.

(Phil 2:1-8) Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

We are to consistently engage in the ministry of encouragement.

(Heb 3:13, Eph 4:29-30, 1 Cor 14:3, Rom 14:19)

Recommended Reading

Victorious Mindsets by Steve Backland

Culture of Honor by Danny Silk