

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU

Text: *Luke 17:21: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the Kingdom of God is within you.*

Romans 14:17: For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Whatever you may be able to do to convince people that the Kingdom of God is at hand, you should do in sincere purpose, realizing you have the approval and support of the Spirit of God.

The important thing to convince others of the reality of the mighty Kingdom coming is the King of Glory reigning in your heart. This comes first. Then, we can pray, ***Matthew 6:10: Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven.***

Acts 2:1-4:

¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

² And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.



The power of the Holy Spirit fell on the Church to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. They were more concerned about Jesus setting up His millennia Kingdom on earth than they were about the Kingdom of God set up in the hearts of mankind. Thus, Jesus answers their inquiry about the Kingdom recorded in ***Acts 1:6:***

wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

He answers — not with a denial of the Kingdom coming — but with a confirmation, reproof, and admonition.

Acts 1:2-9:

2 Until the day in which He was taken up, after that He through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom He had chosen:

3 To whom also He shewed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God:

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the Promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of Me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His Own power.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.



The ambition to reign with Christ got ahead of the desire and purpose of Christ reigning in the souls of men. When the world sees you smile and rejoice in these days of confusion and perplexity, they know with strong assurance that you are in the Kingdom of God. When you radiate the love of Jesus in return for their frowns and threats, and return a blessing for a curse, this is reassuring them your salvation is of Divine origin.

The most important place for you to begin work for the Lord is at home. There must be maintained an atmosphere of prayer, peace, love, and holy living before your loved ones, as before the Lord. The moment the devil makes you so busy with other things that you can't take time to pray, he is taking Jesus from you and is trying to put out your light. Swiftly seek the place of prayer! Cry out to the Lord to preserve your home and prevent satan from coming to take over again.

First, the husband must go up and pray. He is the head of the Godly home. He has the responsibility of the spiritual life of his household.



Then, the wife should go up and talk to the Lord, and come back with a mind fixed to obey and be subject to the Word of God.

The husband and wife should pray together daily. Both husband and wife, who are subject to the Word and the Spirit of God, will soon discover the gates of Hell cannot prevail against them, for the King and the Kingdom of God are within you.

The Church is the beginning of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Therefore, it should be governed by the laws of Heaven — not by trustees, bishops or presbyters — or the customs of the forefathers. It was established by Jesus Christ who said in **Matthew 16:18:**

Upon this rock I will build My church . . . ”

Therefore, it should be ruled by the Word of God that sets forth who its members should be, who should be pastors and who should not, and who should be deacons and who should not.

The laws of Heaven are those that make for peace, holiness, cleanness, purity, reverence, and self-discipline. The Word of God sets forth that to be a member of Christ's Church, you must live a life above sin. If you are a married man, you will be true to your wife and love her. If you are a married woman, you will cleave to your husband, love him, and be a keeper at home. You will be subject to the Word of God because you are subject to Christ Who is King of your heart.

Next, you will be a good example to your neighbors, while praying for them to be saved.

Your neighbor may not have a happy home like you, because he doesn't know the Lord Jesus like you. If you are the right kind of Christian neighbor, you can exert a strong influence in their home to set up therein the altar of the Lord. You must NOT peek through the window and say, "Look at them — just a bunch of devils". Before Christ entered your home, remember, you had a lot of devils there, too! Bringing Christ into your heart, then into your home, makes all the difference in the world. What He did for your home, He will do it for theirs.

The grievous trouble with our homes now is so much shut-mouth religion. It was for a while that many said their life was their testimony, and now that alibi is worn to shreds by inconsistent living.

As long as it is my portion to dwell in this wicked world, I must let my light shine. That they will see my good works and glorify my Father which is in Heaven. I want to glorify my Lord, so I will maintain my integrity with the Lord. Then, in that day when God shall judge the world in righteousness, the ungodly will not be able to use me to relieve them of full responsibility for their wicked deeds.



Psalms 1:5: Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

Beloved, you can't stand there without a good understanding of the Word of God. Just because you have a loud voice and use it freely in the Church, it is no indication that you are full of the power of the Holy Spirit. Because you shake the foundation of the church when you should and leap, it is no indication you are full of spiritual power and strength. When the beans burn tomorrow and a husband comes home kind of out-of-sorts and cranky, and the children are fussy; or the wife is heavy-hearted and worn to a frazzle with the children, and the house doesn't look just so-so, and the meal isn't on the table the second you come from work — that is the time to prove how much victory you really have! Amen, - or OH, my!

It is not hard for a true child of God to see clearly that you must live above sin. This simply means doing what is right all day long. Do right by your wife, your husband, your children, your neighbor, your enemy -- and your Lord and Master! Why? Because Jesus has set up His Kingdom within you.

Since God has fixed it so that your conscience will accuse you or excuse you, you will know all the time without having the preacher, or your parents, or the law to tell

you what you are doing wrong. When your conscience accuses and smites you, you are doing wrong, and you know it. When there is no condemnation, you are doing right, and you don't need a Doctor of Divinity, or PhD, or a college degree of alphabet soup to be known as a saint of God.

I have learned it is not the way a person looks that always determines how good and saintly they are. It is how they act that really counts. I have seen some pictures in the paper of men and women who looked pretty handsome and attractive, but beneath the picture was an article saying: "Wanted for..." murder, robbery, or swindle.

1 Samuel 16:7: But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

When the heart is wrong, sinful — it is wicked and unto every good work a foreigner. Only Jesus can make our hearts right, so try Him. He said in **John 3:5:**

John 3:5: Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

This is the only way to get in. There are no short cuts.

Salvation through faith in Jesus' Blood, alone, brings us into the Kingdom —

Romans 10:17a: So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God

— hearing of the sinfulness of our sins: of the Great Love of God; of the Value of the Blood of Jesus; of the Power of the Lord Jesus to deliver and set the captives free; and of the glory of the changed life thru the Power of the Gospel.

The remedy for sin is in the Savior. The cure for an evil heart is in Jesus.

Romans 1:16: . . . the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

This Gospel of Christ is the only sure remedy for a sinful heart, for it is God's Answer to our need.

Jesus is God's Answer to your heart's yearning to be clean. The groan in Gethsemane, the bloody sweat, the nails and thorns of Calvary, the last dark tortures of the One who cries out in,

Luke 23:34: Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.

John 1:29: The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

God Almighty speaking of His Son from Heaven:

Matthew 3:17: This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.

Genuine faith in "Him who died for me" takes the drunkard, the man of envy, the woman of selfish ambition, the greedy, the hoarder, the hardened thief and murderer, the liar, and the hater, and renews that life into undreamed peace, love, joy, forgiveness, pardon, and newness of life. Our countless failures in trying to reform are over. Christ makes us new creatures!

Your faith in Christ Jesus and your surrender of your life to Him will bring you into the Kingdom.

Your faith in Christ Jesus and your surrender of your life to Him will bring you into the Kingdom. Faith lost by earlier years of sinning from childhood will be restored as you hear and believe the Gospel.

Ephesians 2:8b: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

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