



MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM

Discipleship Foundations

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Second Edition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	“THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN HAS COME”	
	The Kingdom of Heaven has Come	6
	The Fall	11
	Two Perspectives/Two Kingdoms	15
	Welcome to the Family of God	21
	5 Steps for the New Believer	22
	How to Share the Gospel	25
	How to Share a Spirit-filled Testimony	27
CHAPTER 2	“THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM”	30
	God’s Wondrous Grace	32
	Life in the Spirit	34
	Spiritual Doors	38
	How to Know the Will of God	40
	10 Ways to Hear From God	42
	Worship as a Spiritual Process	44
	The Believer’s Core Values	45
	10 Ways to Hear from God – Biblical Study	46
	Never Called to be Perfect	65

Prayer that Ensure an Answer	67
Prayer as a Practice	69
Evaluative Prayer	71
When God is Silent	73
Seeing God	75
Assignment of Sin	77
The War Between Two Kingdoms	81
How to Walk in the Power of God	85
Truth About the Provision of God	90
The Cost of Governorship	93
The Ministry of Fellowship	97
A Biblical Look at the Ministry of Fellowship	103
Finding Forgiveness	109
God's Mercy and Grace	111
The Forgiveness Process	114
Discipleship Basics	116
The Spiritual Discipleship Process	117
Resistance to Leadership	120
Gifts & Anointing	124
Building the Right Way	128
A Better Way of Giving	131
Apostolic Introduction	132

The Kingdom of Heaven Has Come

“The Kingdom of Heaven has Come.” These were the words of Jesus as he preached the Good News about the Gospel of Salvation. Throughout the four gospels, Jesus suggests how either we WILL or WILL NOT inherit the Kingdom and it is based on how we live on the earth.

Matt.7:21

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

What was Jesus telling us? He was letting us know that the message about His Kingdom is not entirely a “Heavenly” reality as many think. In fact, for the people of God, it was also intended to be an EARTHLY experience as well. You see, salvation came to the world through Jesus Christ, and it provided us a door of “access” into this Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus’ death and resurrection restored the broken relationship between God and man, however, learning how to relate to God and live in relationship with Him would be a life-long learning experience. It is in this relationship with our heavenly Father (our creator) that the reality of the Kingdom is realized. Once a person decides to believe in the message of the gospel of how salvation and reconciliation came to mankind through the ministry of Jesus Christ, everything in the Kingdom of God now becomes accessible to them and it is only realized after being born in the spirit and becoming a Child of God. So, the mystery in this is that having ACCESS TO something and LIVING IN something are two entirely different experiences and this is the choice of each Born Again, believer. This is what Jesus was speaking of. So, what does it mean to be “BORN AGAIN?” Well, let’s look at the passage of scripture where this term is taken from.

John 3:1-21

1 Now there came a man of the Pharisees whose name was Nicodemus, a member of the council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could do the miraculous signs that you do unless God were with him.”

3 Jesus replied, “I tell you the solemn truth, unless a person is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother’s womb and be born a second time, can he?”

5 Jesus answered, “I tell you the solemn truth, unless a person is born of water and spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

9 Nicodemus replied, “How can these things be?”

10 Jesus answered, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you don’t understand these things? 11 I tell you the solemn truth, we speak of what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony. 12 If I have told you people about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

16 For this is the way God loved the world: he gave his one and only Son that everyone who believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through him. 18 The one who believes in him is not condemned. The one who does not believe has been condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. 19 Now, this is the basis for judging: that the light has come into the world and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone who does evil deeds hates the light and does not come to the light, so that their deeds will not be exposed. 21 But the one who practices the truth comes to the light, so that it may be plainly evident that his deeds have been done in God.

Becoming Born Again in the spirit simply means to be recreated with a nature and spirit of God, something every mortal human being is born without. Consequently, mankind by nature, inherently resists and rejects everything that acknowledges the reality of God and pursues to define and control his/her own life. The reason mankind needed to be born again is so that he would be reunited in his relationship with his creator and reoriented in his divine purpose as a created being. Becoming

Born Again causes the TRUTH of ALL THINGS to be revealed. Does this new reality and existence happen the moment one accepts Jesus as their Lord and Savior? Yes! Although a more accurate answer would be YES! You now have ACCESS to this realm of existence when you use the “KEYS TO THE KINGDOM.”

This Kingdom of Heaven (aka the Kingdom of God), while heavenly, is a very real place of existence. It is not a spiritual reality conjured up from an overactive imagination. No, the Kingdom of Heaven is REAL. It is a governmental system, a realm that is controlled by spiritual laws. It is a realm with recognized authorities and an established citizenship and like all world governments there are also hostile governments in this heavenly realm with hostile agendas against the citizens of God’s Kingdom and that government is called the Kingdom of DARKNESS.

Matt. 6:9-15

“Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth, as it is in Heaven.”

The Lord’s Prayer

“Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.”

These words that Jesus prayed served as an illustration for how the people of God are supposed to pray. The prayer was not articulated this way because it sounds good, no, Jesus was speaking about a spiritual reality of our existence on the earth. The people of God are Born Again to serve as “Ambassadors” of God’s Kingdom and their primary role is to establish God’s kingdom reality in the earth (1Corin. 5:20). Why is this important to God? It is because the earthly world currently exists without knowledge of God, and it is the commission of the children of God to make that presence known. Salvation and reconciliation to God came to the world through one man – Jesus Christ. Through that one man, the blessing of God’s salvation plan would come to ALL mankind. Unfortunately, according to John chapter 1, not all mankind will believe or want to receive this plan.

John 1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him, nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.) 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

The salvation that God brought into the earth was not only a message; it was a literal work in the spirit that restored man's relationship with his creator and one true God. This awareness caused us to recognize that God IS among us and will give to those who choose to believe, access to His kingdom. This is why prayer is so valuable to the children of God. Prayer is an on-ramp into a spiritual realm of existence that is on a level playing field with all things (good and evil) in the spirit. What is even more compelling about this is that no one, who is presently separated from God, will have the privilege of knowing and experiencing God from this advantage point. Remember, you must be BORN AGAIN.

The Kingdom of God is not easily found even after you have been given access to it. God's Kingdom is a mystery and only those who commence establishing a

relationship with Him, through Jesus Christ, will have the ability to discover His Kingdom in full reality. Jesus is our Savior and what he provided for us through his death and resurrection is a covenant agreement between God and mankind. This covenant established the terms of an agreement whereby mortal men (and women) may have a relationship with an immortal God. Now that's "Pretty AMAZING!" This relationship according to Jesus is founded upon Spirit and Truth.

John 4:23-24

23But a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such as these to worship Him.

24God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

This relationship we have with God is SUPERNATURAL! We know this because only the children of God are supernaturally empowered to "live against the grain of the world" and take dominion just as light takes dominion over the darkness. The Kingdom of Heaven is a place. It is an atmosphere attained in the spirit (heart and mind). It is a reality where the "sons (and daughters) of God" LIVE! The Kingdom of Heaven is a civilization. It has a social culture. It has principles and moral values. It has art, music, dancing, and a language to call its own. It has a King who governs through an atmosphere of peace. Peace in heart, mind, and spirit. In fact, the way of peace and holiness (living set apart from the world) is the mark of every true citizen.

Matthew 5:9

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Luke 6:35

"But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He, Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men."

John 1:12-13

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man but of God."

Ephesians 1:5

“He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.”

Philippians 2:15

“So that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.”

1 John 3:9-10

“No one who is born of God practices sin because His seed abides in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God. By this, the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.”

Romans 8:18-25

“18Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. 19For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, 21the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. 24We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it. 25But if we look forward to something we don’t yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.”

Romans 8 says, “the whole earth groans for the appearance of the sons of God.” Why is this so? It is because the whole earth also fell victim to the fall of man through Adam & Eve (Gen. 3:1-24) and the consequences of that fall was sin. The nature of sin was now born into every human being and even the earth felt its impact. The biblical definition of sin is separation from God and separation from God is DEATH. Death is a condition of living in darkness. This is not merely a physical state of darkness in as much as it is a mental, emotional, and psychological state of being separated from God. This place of existence can be defined as the "spirit of man."

When this lens through which mankind experience life loses its divine meaning and purpose, darkness will invade their reality. However, the bible tells us that this darkness is far deeper than the surface of what we experience in the earth. It is indeed a separation of our spiritual nature with the Spirit of God. John 4:23-24, Eccl. 12:7, Matt. 10:28 Therefore, the dilemma of mankind is that, until they come into the revelation that is found in Jesus Christ (alone), all human beings are born into the world in a state of SIN which means, all mankind is born into the Kingdom of Darkness and guess what? They don't have a choice in the matter because sin is a condition, not a mindset.

Not until Christ came and became the first of redeemed mankind (because of his death and resurrection), mankind was doomed to live forever separated from his loving creator and clueless about the devastating state he was in. It is like being a survivor of a near fatal accident and suffering from a severe case of amnesia where only Jesus Christ can shock him back into remembering his true identity.