

# WHAT IS THE ETERNAL KINGDOM?



# Introduction

May your Kingdom come soon.  
May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
The whole earth will acknowledge the LORD and return to him.  
All the families of the nations will bow down before him.  
For royal power belongs to the LORD. He rules all the nations. (NLT)

There is a **Kingdom that has always been and will always be**. It is found in the heart of Jehovah God who has no beginning or end. He lives in eternity and rules over all that exists.<sup>1</sup> Before time began, before you were born, God had an **eternal purpose for your life**. Did you know that the only way to find and fulfill this **eternal purpose** is through a relationship with **The Eternal King, Jesus Christ**?<sup>2</sup> This book is about **The Eternal King** and **His Kingdom**. It is about how you can become a **child of God**, be part of **His Kingdom**, have a relationship with Him, and fulfill **His eternal purpose for you**.

Several years ago, **The Lord** woke me up in the middle of the night and showed me things so vividly that I can only describe it as a vision. Having a vision is one thing, but communicating it to others is another. At that time, I wrote down what I saw and called it “God’s Plan for Revival.” I now understand that **Jesus** did not come to bring us revival. He came to **establish His Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven**. Ultimately all power and authority rest in the hands of **The Eternal King, Jesus**. **Jesus** said, “**The Kingdom of God** is within you<sup>3</sup>.” We are part of **The Eternal Kingdom** when God’s **eternal life** is in us because He rules and reigns in our hearts. Being part of **God’s Kingdom** enables you to walk in The Spirit and find and fulfill **God’s eternal purpose for your life**. It makes it possible for you to walk in God’s power and have victory over all the challenges you face in life. You become part of **His Kingdom** when you decide to love **Jesus** with all your heart, soul and mind because of what He did on The Cross for you. When you repent of your sins and make Him **King** over your life, He gives you the indwelling presence of His Spirit and you become part of **His Kingdom**. His Spirit living in you enables you to have an obedient heart. You see, **The Eternal Kingdom** is the permanent presence of the life-giving power of God. The power of His Spirit is manifested through your obedience to Him. **Jesus** said, “if we would seek first **The Kingdom**, He would give us everything we need<sup>4</sup>.”

***The Eternal Kingdom*** is something you must pursue with all your heart, not something you just believe in with your mind. Only God can establish ***His Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven***, but He has called you to partner with Him in this great endeavor. God wants you to co-work with Him, and what you need to do is spelled out clearly in His Word, The Bible. Our hope is that this book will help you understand what God says concerning ***The Eternal Kingdom*** and what it means to be a ***child of God***.

In the New Testament there are two things God's people are told to do first. In **Matthew 6:33**, we are told to **seek first The Kingdom of God and His righteousness** (NKJV). In **1 Timothy 2:1**, Paul said: **"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men."** (NKJV) You need to ask yourself, "are the things you are doing building your own kingdom or ***establishing God's Kingdom***? Is all that you're doing based on hearing from God during time spent with Him? Or, is it just the ideas of men? Have you done the things God told you to do first before you do anything else? If you are to be what God wants you to be, you must be doing what He wants you to do.

*The vision God gave me and this book are the results of my own pursuit of "The Kingdom," something I have been doing for over 65 years. In 1982 I was diagnosed with stage four cancer. God healed me and sent me throughout the nations to walk with a cross. Through my world travels I have spread the Good News about Jesus. It has been a privilege to help others become part of The Eternal Kingdom by sharing how to know God and walk in The Spirit. This enables them to find and fulfill God's eternal purpose for their lives. The things written here are a result of these experiences and my quiet times with God. The narratives at the beginning of each chapter are based on my study of scripture and history. It is my prayer that this book will open your heart and mind to comprehend what The Eternal Kingdom is and how you can be part of it.*

A Servant of Jesus,

*Henry Pulsifer*

**References:**

OPENING SCRIPTURES: Matthew 6:10 and Psalms 22:27-28;

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 57:15; Psalms 103:19 and 145:10-13; and Revelation 5:8-9;

<sup>2</sup> 2 Timothy 1:9; <sup>3</sup> Luke 17:21; and <sup>4</sup> Matthew 6:33

(NKJV) refers to the New King James Version of the Bible

(NLT) refers to the New Living Translation of the Bible

CHAPTER 1  
THE ETERNAL KINGDOM  
(Are you part of The Kingdom?)

He looked like a wild man dressed in rough clothes. He ate a weird diet of locust and wild honey. He certainly didn't look like the messenger for a king. Yet, he boldly proclaimed that he was the one sent to prepare the way for *the coming King*. The people were ready. They wanted a king. He would restore their lost power and prestige. They would be the rulers of the Earth instead of the hated Romans.

They should have understood from his message that *The Kingdom* he spoke of was not what they imagined. "*Repent for The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand*," he said. In order to be part of *The Kingdom* they must turn from their sins. Those who repented of their sins were baptized. He told them to bring forth fruit in their lives that showed they had changed. His teachings were strange. He talked of doing good to our enemies and ministering to people's needs. This was the type of life that would show others the power of *The Kingdom*.

One day it happened. *The King* himself showed up. His name was *Jesus*. No one really noticed. He looked just like any other person in the crowd, but the messenger knew. He wanted to honor Him, but *Jesus* asked to be baptized just like everyone else. He said this would fulfill all righteousness. Immediately afterwards *The King's Father, God*, honored Him by sending a dove to light on His shoulder, and telling Him He was well pleased with Him.<sup>1</sup> Then *Jesus* left. He went to the wilderness to battle for *The Kingdom*.

*Jesus* knew that *His Kingdom* was not of this Earth. He understood that it would be established in the hearts of people. It was in His own heart, and from there it would spread to others. It had always been there. Even as a young man He had understood what *The Eternal Kingdom* was about. Now, He must do battle with the enemy of people's souls so that every person might be able to be restored to fellowship with God and be part of His family. He must face every temptation that other people face and be victorious. He knew that every sin involved either loving some person more than God, trying to do something God

did not want done, or trying to have something God did not want you to have.<sup>2</sup> Victory in every area must be achieved if *The Eternal Kingdom was to be established on Earth as it is in Heaven*. This victory could only be accomplished in the power of The Spirit, not through any earthly means. So, He went to be alone with His Heavenly Father. As He spent time with Him the plan became clearer. He was ready. Immediately the enemy, the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the devil and satan,<sup>3</sup> attacked Him in every area. The enemy invited Jesus to show His power by turning stones to bread. He promised to give Him all the kingdoms of the earth if He would worship Him. He questioned whether He was *The Son of God* and asked Him to jump from the top of the temple in Jerusalem to prove it. One by one He repelled the attacks through the power of *The Word*. It was time to go and share *The Eternal Kingdom* with others.<sup>4</sup> His first words were the same as the messenger, “*Repent for The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.*”

As He walked the countryside He talked about *The Eternal Kingdom*. He showed the power of *The Kingdom* by taking authority over and ministering to every physical, material, mental, emotional, and spiritual need that was brought to Him. He spent time with those who followed Him teaching about *The Kingdom*. He gathered a team of twelve and taught them. They would be the ones who would go to the ends of the Earth and begin to establish *The Eternal Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven*.<sup>5&6</sup>

The enemy did not like what Jesus was doing. This snake decided he must destroy Him. The enemy had stolen the hearts of people for so long with his trickery and he did not want to give them back to their creator, God. *The King* must be killed. Little did the devil know that He was following The Creator’s plan. A rugged wooden Cross became *The Eternal King’s* coronation throne. His crown was a crown of thorns. The coronation ceremony consisted of a beating until he was bloody beyond recognition, and then He was nailed to The Cross. At the end of the ceremony He died.

In the eyes of the world it seemed like the enemy had succeeded. It was just more of the devil’s trickery. Suddenly Jesus was there; right in the middle of hell.<sup>7</sup> He walked right up to satan and took the keys of hell and death that the

enemy had used to hold people in bondage.<sup>8</sup> The snake could not stop Him. *Jesus* was without sin and the enemy had no authority over Him. Instead of killing *The King*, the enemy had made Him *The Lamb of God who paid for the sins of the whole world*. The enemy was defeated, and people could overcome sin and become part of *God's Eternal Kingdom*. When people repented of living to please themselves and trusted in *Jesus*, with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength, they would receive *eternal life* and begin an unending relationship with God. *The Eternal Kingdom would be established in their heart and soul forever.*<sup>9</sup>

## HOW TO FIND THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

Life is a journey. It can take you to *The Eternal Kingdom* or, away from it to the darkness of Hell where the nightmare never ends. All of us begin life headed in the wrong direction. We are all born with sin and rebellion in our heart. Our journey begins pursuing our own lust. We start out headed for Hell and away from *The Eternal Kingdom*. We must make a conscious choice to find our way to *The Kingdom*. Sin, which is disobedience to God, usually involves loving some person more than God, trying to do something God does not want you to do, or trying to have something God does not want you to have. In order to change your life's direction and become part of *The Eternal Kingdom* you must yield everything in your life to *Jesus*. This means your relationships, your goals, ambitions, and your possessions.<sup>2</sup>

*One of the earliest memories I have is the summer when I was five years old. My mother could not take care of me due to illness so I was sent to stay with family friends. They had a home on Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire. That summer God's presence in my life took on a whole new dimension. I spent time wandering the woods talking to the only person who knew what was in my heart, God. I fell in love with God and totally yielded my life to Him. I didn't understand it at the time, but that was the beginning of my life long journey that would take me deeper into God's Kingdom each day.*

I am nobody special. God speaks to the heart of every person born. From an early age, each one of us knows deep in our heart that there is a right and a wrong. We know there is a God we will eventually have to face. We perceive that God alone has the ultimate authority over where we spend eternity. God's desire is that we become part of *His Kingdom* and

spend eternity with Him, but He will not force that upon us. The choices we make on our journey through life determine whether we find and fulfill **God's eternal purpose for us** or, we waste our life doing what pleases us. The latter can end up separating us from **God and His Kingdom** forever.

When I was growing up there was a man who, other than my father, had the greatest influence on my life. This man loved **Jesus** and showed it in the way he lived. He had two sons. He loved them both and tried to help them find **Jesus** and **live their life to fulfill His purpose**. One son followed **Jesus** on his journey through life. He became a minister and helped others to find **Jesus** also. The other son followed his own lust and lived to please himself. He ended up a criminal spending most of his life in jail.

Where are the choices you are making leading you on your journey through life? God knew when and where you would be born. He knows your circumstances. He destined you for success as part of **His Kingdom**. Success in life is not a matter of money, education or popularity. It is a matter of total heart surrender to do the will of God whatever that might be. It is living as part of **God's Kingdom** so that physical death is just another step along the path of fellowship with God. You and every person born can find and fulfill **God's eternal purpose** and be part of **The Eternal Kingdom**. Let me paraphrase something Frank Viola once wrote. As part of **The Kingdom** people have **eternal fellowship** with God the Father because of their **eternal relationship** with **Jesus** the son through the power of the **eternal indwelling** of God's Spirit. The fairness and justice of God is that this is available to you and every other person.

As we have already pointed out, God speaks to your heart and the heart of every person through His Spirit saying, "You know you are a sinner headed for judgment. If you repent of your sin and love **Jesus** with all your heart you can escape eternal punishment. More importantly, you can have an **eternal relationship with God** and be part of **His Kingdom**."<sup>10</sup>

Keep in mind God desires for you and every other person to be adopted into **His Family** and become part of **The Eternal Kingdom**. As we have already said, He will not force you to join **His Kingdom** for that would hinder the fellowship He wants to have with you. Instead He mercifully and graciously invites you with an invitation written with His own blood. Through faith in what **Jesus** did on The Cross you can have a relationship with God

and be part of **His Eternal Kingdom**. All you have to do is surrender your heart and will to **Jesus** and reach out to touch the scepter of forgiveness He offers. My hope is that you have already done this. If you have not, you can do it now by surrendering your heart to God and trusting **Jesus** to set you free from the power of sin. Pray something like this:

***"Father God, thank you for the love you showed in Jesus. I need you. I want to find and fulfill the wonderful plan you have for me. I repent of my sins. Come into my heart and save my soul. Take control of my life. Be my Lord and Savior. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit so I might live for you. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."***

Do you believe with all your heart in the redeeming work of **Christ** on The Cross? Are you willing to tell people that He is your **Lord and Savior**? If so, God will establish **His Kingdom** in your heart and guide you by His Spirit down the pathway of **eternal life**.<sup>11</sup>

Have you surrendered your heart to **Jesus**? Are you living to fulfill **His eternal purpose for your life**? Are you part of **His Eternal Kingdom**? These are the questions you need to ask and the choices you need to make if you want to end up in **The Eternal Kingdom** at the end of life's journey.

## MANIFESTING THE ETERNAL KINGDOM ON EARTH

**God's Kingdom** is a family of priests and kings.<sup>12</sup> When you become part of **The Eternal Kingdom** you become part of a **Great Eternal Family**. *This is something I have seen as I have traveled the world. One of the things God has led me to do is walk from town to town throughout the U.S. and village to village overseas carrying a cross and sharing The Good News of The Kingdom. Many times, I have not been sure where I would spend the night or what I would have to eat, but God always provided. Other believers would welcome us with open arms and take care of our needs like a member of their family born in their own household.* **God's Family** is big. It includes everybody in the world that loves **Jesus**.

If you are living to fulfill **His eternal purpose for your life**, you are part of **His Family**. Another name for **God's Family is The Church**. We will be sharing more about **The Church** in chapter 6, but there are some important things to remember about **The**



**Church as part of The Kingdom.** **The Church** is the people who are part of **God's Eternal Kingdom**. It is not a building or religious organization. It is made up of all those who follow **Jesus** by faith. God has chosen to propagate **His Eternal Kingdom** through all those who are part of **His Kingdom**. **God's Family, The Church** is the world's only hope. They are **His Body**, His physical presence in the earth. **In Matthew 18:18-20 Jesus says:**

**"I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven. <sup>19</sup> I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."** (NLT)

This scripture makes it clear that whenever two or more members of **God's Family** gather in **Jesus'** name He is there in the middle of all that is going on. **Jesus** is saying He is present in a special way. And because He is **The Church**, He has the power to deal with every problem mankind faces. When you are in agreement with God and other believers you can make things happen. You can stop what is evil and release what is good. You can set in motion the cure for every ill in society.

*As a team of us were walking into a village in Asia, some of the team members informed us that the village was very hostile to the **Good News about Jesus**. They had stoned and tried to kill other people who had witnessed there. People in the U.S. and Asia were informed and began to pray. As we preached at the bottom of the hill where the pagan temple stood, over 20 men stepped out of the crowd, gave their hearts to **Jesus**, and asked us to start a church. This is what the power of agreeing prayer can do.*

You need to understand that the purpose for gathering with other members of **God's Family** is to help each other fulfill **God's eternal purpose for our lives** and establish **His Kingdom on Earth in the hearts of men**.<sup>13</sup> When we acknowledge Him and His purpose, He will work through us to establish **His Kingdom**. Only as **God's Kingdom** is established in people's hearts will we see true peace and justice on earth. At our request, He will do whatever it takes for this to happen.

Transforming the world around us by walking in The Spirit and establishing **God's Kingdom** is the life God wants the members of **His Family, The Church**, to live. It begins with seeing **The Church** the way He sees it; seeing the family of believers and its purpose.

That purpose is to work together as a team to ***birth God's Kingdom in people's hearts. Through His death and resurrection Jesus gave us all power and authority to bring forth His Kingdom on the earth as it is in Heaven.*** This should lead us to minister to all people, and especially those who are part of **The Family of God**. It should cause us to seek opportunities to be salt and light by praying for people, sharing an encouraging word, or ministering to needs when we are able.

When you catch a vision of the power that can come from **Jesus** through **His Church**, then you will want to gather regularly with fellow believers to stir up love and good works in each other.<sup>13</sup> You will do more than attend a “church meeting” on Sunday to fulfill your religious duty. You will spend time each day with God. You will get together daily with fellow believers in your family and share what God is doing in your lives and pray for each other. You will meet regularly with other believers where you work, in your neighborhood, or where you go to school, in order to share and pray for each other and the needs around you. If you are a leader, you will get together with other leaders for fellowship and prayer. Living out ***The Good News of The Kingdom*** will be part of your daily life. When God's people do this **The Church** will be the salt and light in this world that **Jesus** intended it to be. Society will be transformed into a place where ***God's Kingdom is manifest in power*** on a daily basis in all that is happening.

The world wants to see **God's Kingdom**. As a family of priests and kings we are a nation who is called to work together as a team to bring the nations of the Earth into ***The Eternal Kingdom***. A friend of mine, Don Crum, refers to **God's Family** of priests and kings as ***God's Royal Dynasty***. He explains that as part of ***The Royal Dynasty*** we have ***two purposes***. As priests we ***minister to God***. As kings we ***walk in God's authority to establish The Eternal Kingdom on Earth, as it is in Heaven, in the places He sends us to. We must fulfill our purpose as priests in order to walk in God's power and authority as kings.*** Those who live in God's presence have His power and authority to defeat the enemy in every situation in life. They will prevail against the gates of Hell and ***establish His Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven.***

People want to find real answers to their problems. When you ***become part of God's Kingdom and fulfill your purpose as God's priest and king***, you will overcome every problem and challenge you face. As this happens in your life, other people will see ***The Eternal Kingdom***. Many will want to become part of it.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

There is a ***Kingdom that has always been and will always be***. Before time began, before you were born, God had an ***eternal purpose for your life*** as part of ***His Kingdom***. Do you want to find and fulfill ***God's eternal purpose for you***? Are you willing to turn from your disobedience to God and love Jehovah God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? Are you willing to trust in ***Christ's*** death on The Cross and His resurrection as the only way to God so you can have a relationship with ***The Eternal King, Jesus***? This is the only way you can become part of ***The Eternal Kingdom*** and fulfill ***your God given destiny***.

### References:

<sup>1</sup> Matthew chapter 3; <sup>2</sup> Luke 14:26-27, 33; <sup>3</sup> Revelation 20:2; <sup>4</sup> Luke 4:1-13; <sup>5</sup> Matthew 4:12-25; <sup>6</sup> Luke 6:13; <sup>7</sup> Ephesians 4:8-10; <sup>8</sup> Revelation 1:18; <sup>9</sup> Matthew chapters 26, 27 & 28; <sup>10</sup> John 16:7-11; <sup>11</sup> Romans 10:9-10; <sup>12</sup> 1 Peter 2:9; and <sup>13</sup> Hebrews 10:24-25

CHAPTER 2  
THE BATTLE FOR THE ETERNAL KINGDOM  
(Why we need to establish The Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven.)

He looked like he was perfect. When God created him; God made him with living gold, silver and precious stones. His purpose was to be the guardian of *The Kingdom*. A third of the angels were under his command. Then it happened. His heart was lifted up with pride. He rebelled against God seeking his own desires.<sup>1</sup> He became the enemy of God, the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the devil and satan.<sup>2</sup>

Immediately the time of satan's total destruction began. All around him was without form and void. The gold, silver and precious stones which were part of him died. God began to work to take away from him all that made him valuable and beautiful. For this purpose, Jehovah created the Heavens and the Earth. On the Earth he placed mankind, a being inferior to the devil whose purpose was to fellowship with God, defeat satan and establish *God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven*. Man was an eternal being with a living soul. He was given control of the Earth. Through his obedience mankind could defeat the enemy of God and take from him all that was part of *God's Kingdom*. The only thing mankind had to do to defeat the enemy was to obey God. When the serpent tempted people to disobey God, all people had to do was refuse.<sup>3</sup>

Initially, God gave mankind only one command; do not seek to know the difference between good and evil. The serpent thought if he could get man to disobey this rule he might be able to defeat God and keep the things of *The Kingdom* that were part of him when he was created. These things were of *eternal value*. As long as he possessed them he could have access to the presence of God.<sup>4</sup>

The serpent tempted man and man failed the test. Man chose to believe the lies of the devil and disobey God. He thought the knowledge of good and evil would make him like God. Instead it made him just like the devil, a rebel separated from God and *the life of The Eternal Kingdom*.<sup>5</sup> Because satan had defeated man, he gained control of the Earth.<sup>6</sup> As long as he kept people in disobedience satan could keep the gold, silver and precious stones God used to

create him. These things were dead, but satan understood they had eternal value and he wanted to keep them.

But, Jehovah God had a plan. He would come to Earth as a man. He would subject himself to the limitations of mankind and defeat satan. He would restore man's fellowship with God and empower people to *establish God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven*. Through their obedience people would take from the devil all that had *eternal value* and restore it to *The Kingdom*.<sup>7</sup> So Jesus came to Earth, died on a cruel cross, went to hell and took the keys of hell and death, and returned to heaven. He then released His Holy Spirit into the Earth to empower people to live in obedience to Him.<sup>8</sup> All who accepted the invitation written with His own Blood could have a relationship with God and be part of *His Eternal Kingdom*. They would be the priests and kings who would *establish God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven* through their obedience.

#### UNDERSTANDING THE BATTLE FOR THE KINGDOM

I trust the narrative above has opened your eyes to understand what the battle for *The Kingdom* is all about. If you have not already done so, please read the scripture references given at the end of this chapter. They will help you see what happens when we defeat the devil through our obedience to God. **In 1 Samuel 15:22 Samuel wrote:**

**“What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.” (NLT)**

There is only one thing God wants from His creation, **obedience**. Why does Jehovah want us to obey Him? His eternal unchanging laws were set up so that *His Eternal Kingdom* would always be victorious. In His infinite wisdom God made *The Eternal Kingdom* a place of light, goodness, love, blessing and life. In order to maintain *The Life of The Kingdom*, His laws will not allow disobedience. Anything that would take away from *The Life of The Kingdom* cannot be allowed to remain. This creation is His response to the things that would pollute *His Kingdom*. Through people's obedience evil will be completely removed from this creation.<sup>9</sup>

Now God is in control. ***His Eternal Kingdom*** will always be a place of blessing and goodness.<sup>10</sup> His desire is for every person to be delivered from evil and become part of ***His Kingdom***. Everything God is doing is so people will escape the eternal judgment of satan and his rebels and live in ***eternal fellowship with Him***.<sup>11</sup> For those who know God, life is not about getting to Heaven. It is about ***bringing The Kingdom of Heaven to Earth***.

Our efforts cannot establish ***God's Kingdom***. The religious things we do will not ***establish God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven*** unless they are a result of seeking to obey God's voice.<sup>12</sup> As a nation of priests we are to seek to live in God's presence. As a nation of kings, we are to obey The Holy Spirit's voice in dealing with the situations we face in life. This can only be done as we maintain a heart of praise in all circumstances.

*He was all alone out on the hillside taking care of his father's sheep. His father had sent him off to do the nasty job of tending sheep and had seemingly forgotten about him. He could have given himself to despair; instead he used his time with the sheep to learn about his Heavenly Father, Jehovah God. He played the harp and sang praises to God no matter what happened. He became a man after God's own heart that lived in God's presence. As he maintained a heart of praise and obeyed God, he had victory over everything he faced in life.* David in the Old Testament is an example to us of how to live in God's presence through praise and worship. If you read the introduction to many of the Psalms that David wrote, you will see that they were not written when things were going well, but in difficult times. When David had a problem, he would write a song, praise God, and seek to hear and obey God's voice.<sup>13</sup>

If God's people are to live in God's presence and hear His voice, they must maintain a heart of praise just like David did. **In Ephesians 5:15-20 Paul wrote:**

**So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.** (NLT)

Paul is telling us that the secret to knowing and doing the will of God is maintaining a heart of praise. Maintaining a heart of praise enables us to live in God's presence, hear His voice, and opens the door for God to empower us with His Holy Spirit so we can do what He tells us to do. Only obedience that comes from this kind of relationship with God can **establish God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven**. It enables us to function as Kings in God's Kingdom as we take control and gain victory over every problem we face in life.

We need to understand the strategy of the enemy. It is nothing new. It was mentioned in Chapter 1 and it is found in Genesis Chapter 3. Satan attacks our mind and heart with lust. If we win the battle there, we can defeat him.<sup>14</sup> First, he gets us to doubt that God loves us and wants the best for us. Then he tempts us in three areas: relationships, goal and ambitions, and possessions. He tries to get us to love some person more than God. He tempts us to do something God has not given us permission to do. The devil can attack our heart so we desire to possess something God has not given us permission to have. The only way we can overcome these temptations is to come to The Cross daily, deny ourselves and follow **Jesus** with a heart of praise.<sup>15</sup> We must keep every area of our life surrendered to **Christ** daily. Even the things God has called us to do.

When I had stage 4 cancer God told me to get up from my sick bed and walk to Canada. He supernaturally gave me the strength to do it and healed me along the way. As I was approaching the end of my journey, winter set in making it difficult to walk. I forgot to maintain a heart of praise and began to complain to **The Lord** about the situation. He spoke to my heart, "Is this your walk or mine? If I want you to stay here until Spring, what is that to you?" I said to Him, "**Lord**, it is your walk. I will stay here until Spring if you want me to. God then, supernaturally, moved back winter for three days so I could finish the walk. The weather man came on the radio and said, "We do not understand, all the cold fronts have moved back."

For years I did something with my ministry that seemed to go along with what God had called me to do. The problem was that I always struggled getting finances to do this particular thing. One day I was talking to **The Lord** about why I did not have the finances to do it. He spoke to my heart and said, "Did I tell you to do that?" I said, "Come to think of it, you did not." I immediately stopped doing it. It was not a bad thing. In fact, many people

would say it was a good thing. The problem was, it was not something God had given me permission to do.

Keeping our heart and life totally surrendered to God daily is the key to hearing His voice clearly and living in obedience to His Holy Spirit. In the Appendix, at the end of this book, there is a prayer list that will help you examine your life to see what may be hindering you from hearing God's voice plainly. We can only hear the voice of God clearly when it is unclouded by the things of this world. This enables us to walk in victorious obedience and redeem the things from this creation that have eternal value. This is a big part of what the battle for **The Kingdom** is all about.

### THE BATTLE REQUIRES AN ARMY

What we need to understand is that defeating the devil is not something we should try to do alone. It requires a team effort involving all those who love **Jesus**. Accountability to other members of God's family is where team work begins. When **Jesus** sent his disciples out to **establish His Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven**, He sent them out two by two.<sup>16</sup> When Paul went out to fulfill his calling in life he took Barnabas and later Silas with him.<sup>17</sup> God knows we are flesh and blood. The reason He sends us out with other people of equal spiritual maturity is so we can watch each other's backs. We all have areas in our lives where we tend to be blind to the attacks of satan. Having a partner in **Christ**, who is mature in **The Lord**, helps protect us from the tricks of the enemy. Many of the failures ministers have are because they did not have a friend of equal spiritual maturity to be accountable to. Working as a team can also help us see things God is doing that we may not see on our own.

While we were working as a team in Europe, I encountered the importance of spiritual partnership. We made a schedule of things we had planned to do. During our time there, we learned of a refugee camp nearby. If we visited the camp, it might interfere with our schedule. After talking and praying we felt that God wanted us to visit the refugees. As a result of that visit God opened the door for a colleague to go and work alongside other believers who were ministering to the refugees. This probably wouldn't have happened if we had just stuck to the schedule, but because we worked as a team, God was able to open the door.



**Jesus** made it clear that He did not come to establish an earthly kingdom, but **an Eternal Kingdom in the hearts of people.**<sup>18&19</sup> God shows us in His word what we should do in order to defeat the enemy and **establish His Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven.** In the following chapters we will be discussing in detail how God's family, The Church, is God's army. We will explain how God wants them to work together as a team to **establish The Kingdom.** We will talk about the **things that people who make up The Church must do**, so that **God's Kingdom can come on earth as it is in heaven.** These are **Keys to the Eternal Kingdom.**

## HOW WINNING THE BATTLE DEFEATS THE ENEMY

**In 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 we read:**

**For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. (NLT)**

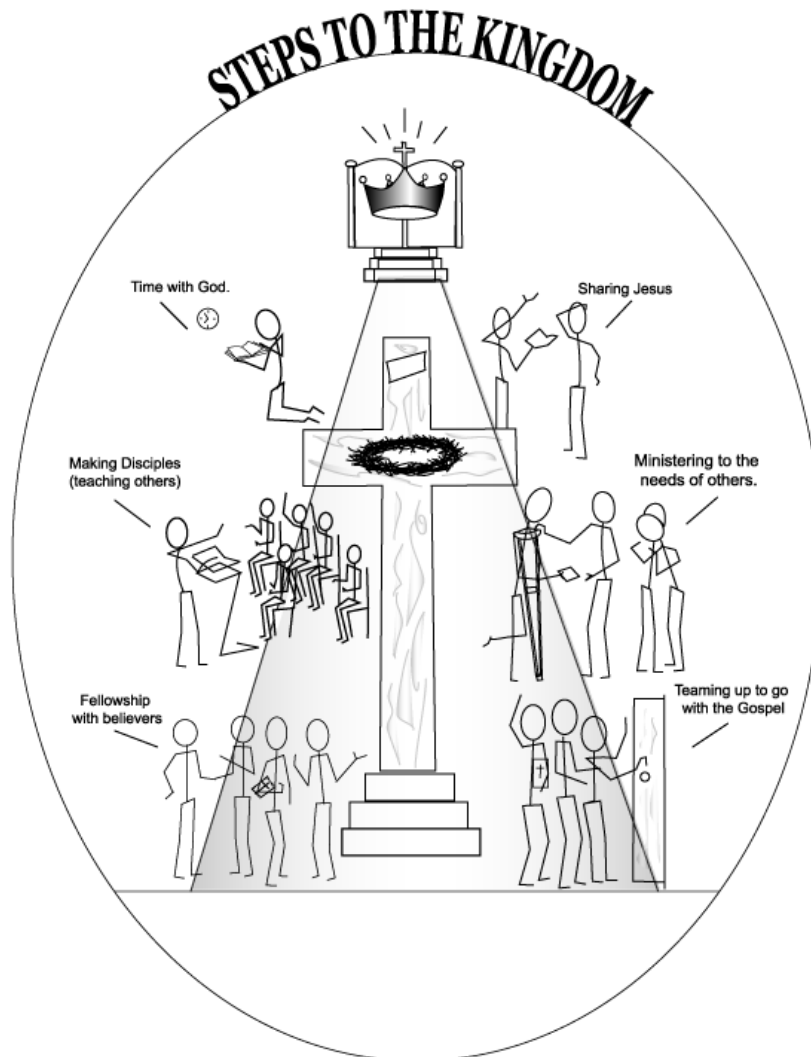
In this scripture, the Apostle Paul is making it clear that living to do God's will is the only way to receive an eternal reward. The reward is living gold, silver and precious stones like satan had when he was created. Only as we live a life of obedience to The Holy Spirit can we receive such a prize. The battle for **The Kingdom** involves God's priests and kings fulfilling their God given destiny and taking from satan those things that gave him eternal value. When this transaction is complete then **God's Kingdom will come on Earth as it is in heaven.**<sup>20</sup>

## QUESTION

What are you building on the foundation that Jesus laid?

### References:

- <sup>1</sup> Ezekiel 28:11-19; <sup>2</sup> Revelation 20:2; <sup>3</sup> Genesis chapters 1 and 2, John 8:44 and 1 John 3:8; <sup>4</sup> Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-7; <sup>5</sup> Genesis chapter 3; <sup>6</sup> Luke 4:5-7; <sup>7</sup> Matthew 6:19-20; <sup>8</sup> Acts 1:8 and 1 Peter 1:2-9; <sup>9</sup> 2 Corinthians 10:3-6; <sup>10</sup> Malachi 3:6, 1 John 1:5 and 4:8, Psalm 36:7-9, and Luke 18:19; <sup>11</sup> 2 Peter 3:9; <sup>12</sup> John 15:5; <sup>13</sup> The books of 1 and 2 Samuel, and the book of Psalms; <sup>14</sup> James 1:13-15; <sup>15</sup> Luke 9:23; <sup>16</sup> Mark 6:7 and Luke 10:1; <sup>17</sup> Acts chapters 13 and 15; <sup>18</sup> Luke 17:21; <sup>19</sup> John 18:36; <sup>20</sup> Revelation 11:15-18 and 19:6-8



These steps are keys to bringing  
**The Eternal Kingdom**  
On Earth as it is in Heaven.

## CHAPTER 3

### STEP 1

#### LEARN ABOUT THE KINGDOM

(Spend Time with God!)

He got up early in the morning and headed for a quiet place to be alone. He spent this time with His Heavenly Father, listening to what He had to say. *Jesus, The Eternal King*, knew that *His Kingdom* would be built on relationships. The relationship with Father God must take priority over everything. It was out of this relationship that *His Kingdom* would grow in people as they learned how to love God with all their heart, and to love those around them more than they loved themselves. As He listened, The Holy Spirit gave Him revelation of what He had to do. When He spoke and ministered He did the things that had been revealed to Him during His time with The Father.<sup>1</sup>

Throngs followed *Jesus* as He showed them *The Kingdom* through what He said and did. In the crowds were those who had a hunger to know Father God. He instructed them in the things of *The Kingdom*. He told His followers that without fellowship with God they would not have the power to do the work of *The Kingdom*. He encouraged them to talk with Father God in *Jesus* name. He told them if they had a desire to see *His Kingdom* come that whatever they asked for would be given to them.<sup>2</sup> He knew that only by spending time with God could they find and fulfill *their purpose* as part of *The Eternal Kingdom*.

When *Jesus* left He told them not to leave Jerusalem until they had received the gift of The Holy Spirit from their Heavenly Father. They were just a small group of people, only 120 out of an empire of millions. What could they do to change the wicked world in which they lived? It was given over to idolatry and self-indulgence. People actually worshipped their political leader. Would they really be able to make a difference? “Tarry,” He had said. So, they did. They began to pray in the room where *Jesus* had met with them just before His coronation.

They had thought all was lost. *Christ* was falsely accused, convicted and executed. All this happened less than a day after their final meal together. He

had said there would be *A Kingdom*, and then He died. They didn't realize His death was His coronation. They did not know that His crucifixion paid the penalty for their sins, not only theirs, but for the whole world. Then *The King* returned. They spent time with Him as He walked and talked about *The Eternal Kingdom*. Their understanding was opened. *His Kingdom* was in this world but not of this world. It was an *Everlasting Kingdom that would be established in the hearts of people*. It could not be established by anything man did. It would come through their relationship with God as they fellowshipped with Jehovah, learned to hear His voice, and sought to obey the things The Holy Spirit spoke to their spirit. His death, burial, and resurrection had set the stage. *Jesus* had all authority in heaven and the earth. He had given this authority to His followers. Now it was time for the work to begin. He explained all this to them and then He left. He had told them that when His Spirit came it would empower them and tell them what to do.<sup>3</sup> The Spirit would reveal the details of His plan for *The Kingdom* step by step. So, they waited.

They talked with Father God in *Jesus'* name. That's what He had told them to do. His promise was that whatever they asked they would receive. They asked for the power of The Spirit so they could establish *The Eternal Kingdom*. Days went by and nothing happened. Then, all of a sudden there was a noise. It sounded like a hurricane, cyclone, and tornado combined. They were not blown away, but they could feel God's presence. Suddenly their souls were on fire. They could see it on everyone there. The Spirit of God filled their beings and flowed out from them as they spoke the things of God. They experienced the power of God's indwelling presence, and they knew they would make a difference. They would change the world in which they lived. *The Eternal Kingdom was established in their hearts*. Now they would show it to the world.

The prayer continued. Daily they met to share the things The Spirit revealed to them during their time alone with God, and to give testimony of what He was doing in their lives. As they shared they grew in their understanding of *The Eternal Kingdom*. They spent personal and group time with Father God. Because of what *Jesus* had said, and His example, they knew this time with God was foundational to building *God's Kingdom*. His plan was working. The

evidence was seen as the power of His Spirit flowed through them in their daily lives and transformed the people around them. The family of God, The Church, God's royal priesthood, grew as *His Kingdom* developed in the hearts of the men and women they came in contact with every day.<sup>4</sup>

## TIME WITH GOD

My hope is that if you were not part of *The Eternal Kingdom* when you started reading this book that by now you have decided to yield your heart and life to **Jesus** and become part of *His Kingdom*. The rest of this book will not mean much to you if you have not done this.

***The Eternal Kingdom is first and foremost a relationship with Father God through Jesus Christ.*** In a time when men are encouraged to seek and establish their own plans and will, it is good, even necessary, to stop and remember only God's plan will succeed. When it comes to establishing ***The Kingdom of God on this earth***, God's Word tells us that the **first step is prayer**<sup>5</sup>. Personal prayer and group prayer are foundational to building *The Eternal Kingdom*. They are part of our priestly service to God.

When a building is being built there is first a blue print, a plan laying out what the building is to look like and a list of materials to be used. The plan is given to a contractor who brings together a crew. Each day the crew meets with the contractor and receives instructions on what they should do so the building will be finished according to the plan. It is the same way in building *The Eternal Kingdom*. **Jesus** is the contractor who has the plan. **The Church** is the crew He has asked to build *His Kingdom*. We must personally and as a group meet with Him as often as possible, hear what He has to say, and do it in order to build *His Kingdom according to His design*.

**Jesus tells a story in Matthew 7:24-27 that illustrates this truth. He said:**

<sup>24</sup> "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. <sup>25</sup> Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. <sup>26</sup> But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. <sup>27</sup> When the rains and floods

**come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.” (NLT)**

## PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD

Just as your physical body needs the right diet and exercise to be healthy, your soul needs the right spiritual diet and exercise to be adequately prepared for the mission of fulfilling **God’s eternal purpose for your life** and building **God’s Eternal Kingdom**. If **Jesus** started His day with personal prayer, who are we to think we can make it through the day without it? **In Matthew 4:4 Jesus tells us God’s Word is to be our spiritual bread**. Daily personal time praising God and praying, as well as studying and meditating on His word is the only spiritual diet that will make it possible for you to find your place in **His Kingdom**. It will empower you to walk in The Spirit and fulfill **His eternal purpose for your life**.

Your personal time with God should not be something you do out of religious duty. It should come from a hunger to be with someone you love with all your heart. Reading God’s Word becomes a burden when we do it because we have to. It becomes a joy when we see it as a personal word to us given by our Heavenly Father.

*As a young boy I can remember always having Bible reading with my family and saying my prayers with my dad before I went to sleep at night. As I grew older I began to read the Bible for myself and pray on my own during the day. It became a lifetime habit that has kept me out of trouble and guided me to fulfill **God’s eternal purpose for my life**. I have watched the lives of other great men of God I have been privileged to meet, and I have read about great men of God throughout history. All had a life built on personal time with God and obedience to the leading of God’s Holy Spirit.*

When you pray, begin with praise. This will help you empty your heart and mind of the things around you and the cares of life. It opens the door for the Holy Spirit to speak to you and fill you with God’s power so you can do the things He speaks to your heart during your time with Him.<sup>6</sup> Pray with a desire to see **God’s Kingdom come and His will done on earth as it is in heaven**. **In Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus tells us, “Pray like this:**

**Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be kept holy.**

**<sup>10</sup> May your Kingdom come soon.  
May your will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.  
<sup>11</sup> Give us today the food we need,  
<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our sins,  
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.  
<sup>13</sup> And don't let us yield to temptation,  
but rescue us from the evil one. For yours is  
the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” (NLT)**

Praying just for what you want or need will keep you from hearing what God has to say to you. Praying from a totally surrendered heart that desires ***God's Kingdom to come on earth*** will help your spiritual ears to be tuned to hear what ***Jesus*** wants to tell you. What does it mean to have a totally surrendered heart? ***Jesus makes this clear in Luke 14:26, 27 and 33. He says:***

***“<sup>26</sup> If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. .... <sup>33</sup> So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.” (NLT)***

In these verses, He tells you the three areas of your life that have to be surrendered to God in order to find and fulfill ***His purpose for you***. We mentioned them briefly in Chapter 1. Relationships, goals and ambitions, and possessions are the things that keep us from serving God. Trying to please someone other than God, trying to do something God has not told you to do, or trying to have something that is not His will for you to have can hinder your fellowship with Him. It can keep you from hearing the voice of His Spirit. You need to learn to hear His voice not only during your quiet time, but in the midst of life's daily activities. A heart that is totally yielded to Him will enable you to do that. As we mentioned in Chapter 2, at the end of this book, there is a “**Kingdom Prayer List**” which will help you find anything in your life that may be keeping you from hearing God's voice.

All through The Bible we find things we need to pray for. As you spend time with God, He will speak to your heart about the things He expects you to ask from Him. Making a written list can help you to not forget the things He has told you. Some of the things that you need to pray for are your enemies; the transformation of society; salvation of lost family members, friends, and acquaintances; the needs of your community; and church and political leaders. By praying for the things God shows you, by His Spirit, reaching out in prayer

becomes a regular part of your daily life. During your prayer time, you need to always have an attitude of gratitude for what **Jesus** did for you. You should pray with authority from a heart filled with faith that God will do what His Word says He will do. You need to realize it is ***through your prayers that you speak into being the things of The Kingdom.***

*A good example of **speaking into being the things of The Kingdom through prayer** is George Mueller. He lived in England during the 1800's and felt led by God to reach out to the orphans that were wandering the streets. His work began in Bristol in 1836 when the care of two young children was cast upon the church he pastored. He had only two shillings, but he resolved never to tell anyone what his needs were. He told them to God in prayer with the confidence they would be met. Over the next sixty years God supplied \$7,500,000 to meet the need. New buildings were built or purchased, staff was hired, and hundreds of children had food at every meal. Sometimes prayers were said over empty plates and the food would arrive at the last minute.*

In addition to prayer, God's Word the Bible, needs to be part of our personal time with God. The Bible is God's written blueprint for **The Eternal Kingdom**. It is the only book that is truly scripture. Inspired by the Holy Spirit; it contains the Alpha & Omega (the beginning and the end). As we mentioned earlier, **Jesus** said that every word of it must be our spiritual bread. Every follower of **Jesus** needs to read it from Genesis to Revelation. It must become part of your heart and soul so that the living water of **His Kingdom** flows out from you to a thirsty world. It is only as His Word, not the thoughts and ideas of men, comes out of your mouth that the strongholds of the enemy can be broken and **God's Kingdom established in the hearts of people around you.**<sup>7</sup>

There are specific things that must happen for earthly food to give life to your physical body. It is the same way with the spiritual food of God's Word. In order for God's Word to give life to your soul, certain things need to happen. Reading God's Word gets it into your mind.<sup>8</sup> Studying, meditating, and memorizing it gets The Word into your soul and spirit.<sup>9</sup> Writing down what God gives you in a daily journal often helps this process.<sup>10</sup> You exercise yourself spiritually by applying to your life what God says to your heart when you read.<sup>11</sup> You fulfill **His eternal purpose for you**, give life to others, and build **His Kingdom** as you walk in obedience to His Spirit. This is the way the life of **God's Kingdom** flows and **His Kingdom** grows.



Without God guiding your life, all you do amounts to nothing. As you spend personal quiet time with Him and obey His voice all things are possible.<sup>12</sup>

## GROUP TIME WITH GOD

As we mentioned in Chapter 1, **Matthew 18:18-20** tells us what God wants to happen when followers of **Jesus** gather. Let us look at it again. **In these verses Jesus said:**

**“<sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven. <sup>19</sup> “I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”** (NLT)

**Jesus** is trying to show us the power and authority of **His family, The Church**, God’s royal priesthood. To carry out His plan and establish **His Kingdom on earth** this power must flow through us. He is making it clear that in addition to personal time with God, regular corporate or group prayer is an essential step in establishing **The Eternal Kingdom**. It was after this type of prayer that the day of Pentecost came and **The Church** was birthed. Acts chapter 2 indicates that it was probably 24-7 prayer. That is, prayer 24 hours a day, seven days a week. History tells us that it was a 24-7 prayer meeting for 100 years on Count Zinzendorf’s estate in Germany that launched modern missions. In our day, God has used 24-7 prayer in Korea to touch that nation for **Jesus**. Several years ago, a small group in England started what has now become a modern 24-7 prayer movement touching hearts and lives around the world. If you look up 24-7 prayer on the internet, you will see what I mean. It is clear from scripture and history that this is the only type of prayer that will achieve the changes on this Earth necessary to establish **The Eternal Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven**. There is a reason for this. Victories that come through this type of prayer are clearly not man made, but from the throne of God itself. It brings glory to no man, but God alone. Bringing in **The Eternal Kingdom** is a team effort. The very nature of 24-7 prayer requires that the whole **Body of Christ** get involved. I have known many great intercessors in my lifetime, but none of them is able to sustain 24-7 prayer for any length of time. Also, spiritual power increases as the number of people involved in prayer grows.<sup>13</sup>

*Can a small group of relatively unknown people make a difference in our day? A few years ago, I received an email from the 24-7 International Prayer Network. It told about a group of ordinary people who went as a 24-7 prayer team to the Spanish island of Ibiza, the*

nightclub capital of Europe. It was dubbed “Sodom and Gomorrah” by one secular U.K. newspaper. God turned up in the most incredible way. Ibiza's police chief went on record as saying that the island's crime rate dropped during their time of intercession. Ibiza was in a drought. They prayed for rain and it rained. It hadn't rained in July in Ibiza for 27 years.

Many desire to see changes in society that reflect the standards established by God in His Word. Much hope has been put in electing or appointing political leaders who love The Lord. Surely, we should seek to have Godly men in every position of leadership. Whether it is the president, attorney general, governor, mayor, or the father who is head of his house; all should know God and walk in daily fellowship with **Jesus**. This by itself will not establish **The Eternal Kingdom**. Godly leaders will only be able to change their society to the extent they are lifted before **The Lord** in prayer. People of God in leadership are not the answer, but simply an opportunity for God's people to pray in the things of **The Kingdom**. Change will only come as God's royal priesthood, **The Church**, get on their knees and win the victory.

**The Church** in the book of Acts is a pattern for changing society. They lived in an almost totally pagan culture with Godless leaders. The things they did produced miraculous success because they were undergirded with prayer and seeking to understand God's Word. The more people prayed and did what God told them to do the greater the results. If **The Church** is truly going to see **God's Kingdom come**, they must continuously stand against the enemy of our souls in Spirit led group times with God. The Apostle Paul put it this way, **“Pray without ceasing.”**<sup>14</sup> It is physically impossible for any one person to do this, but it is very possible for a church dedicated to 24-7 prayer to do it.

Can **The Church** do great things for God without 24-7 prayer? Yes!! Can **The Church** fully accomplish all God has for it without it? The scriptures and history indicate that it probably cannot. In the book of Acts, on Count Zinzendorf's Estate, and in Korea, 24-7 prayer was and is held continuously in a specific location. It was and is led by the Spirit, and not by any one man. The people simply cried out to God about the things on their heart. God answers and gives them His plan. His plan works and establishes **The Eternal Kingdom**. **The time for The Church to rise up to take the land is now.** The Spirit of God is calling His people to 24-7 prayer so this will happen.

Continuous prayer will only be effective as part of the total prayer life of **The Local Church**. As we have already shared, every Christian needs to be encouraged to pray and spend personal time in The Word seeking God's direction for their life. Group prayer time should not be a substitute for personal prayer time. Besides 24-7 prayer, there are other things local churches can do to establish **God's Kingdom** where they are. They can conduct regular corporate prayer meetings seeking God's direction for their church and interceding for their community. They can pray together for local, state, national, and worldwide revival, spiritual awakening and transformation. Local ministers can meet regularly to pray for their fellowships and the needs in their community. You and other believers can seek to gather with other Christians where you work, at school, and/or in your neighborhood to share what God is saying and pray for each other and the needs in your community. A community wide network of intercessors can be established so emergency prayer request can immediately have the prayer power they need. Community wide prayer vigils can be held periodically where you and other Christians unite to pray for God to move by His Spirit and meet the needs of your community. You and other believers can prayer walk your neighborhoods, towns or cities standing against the powers of darkness and claiming it for **The Eternal Kingdom**.

One of the things God has called me to do is to walk with a cross and pray for the nations he sends me to. One of the countries where I walked had never been open to The Good News of the Kingdom. After we walked and prayed it was opened to The Good News about Jesus for the first time in history. Another country where I walked had a sign at the airport honoring a spirit of witchcraft. After we walked that sign was taken down. God has promised to give His followers the places where they walk. This promise is available to all who believe, receive and act upon it.<sup>15</sup> It is one way that you can establish **God's Kingdom** where ever He sends you.

Prayer is the first step in establishing **The Kingdom**. If you and other followers of Jesus don't do it, it will not happen. If you do, **His Kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven**.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

When we spend time with God personally and as a group of believers ***The King, Jesus,*** will give us His plan. It is the only plan that will succeed. The power to build ***His Kingdom*** will not come any other way. Are you spending time with God personally and with other believers? What is God asking you to do so ***His Kingdom*** will be established where you are?

### References:

<sup>1</sup> Mark 1:35 and John 5:19; <sup>2</sup> Luke 12:31-32 and John 14:13; <sup>3</sup> John 16:13; <sup>4</sup> Acts chapters 1 and 2;  
<sup>5</sup> 1Timothy 2:1-4,8; <sup>6</sup>Psalm 100 and Ephesians 5:18-20; <sup>7</sup>Hebrews 4:12; <sup>8</sup>Ephesians 3:4;  
<sup>9</sup>Psalms chapter 1 and 119:11; <sup>10</sup> Habakkuk 2:2; <sup>11</sup> Hebrews 5:14; <sup>12</sup> Mark 9:23; <sup>13</sup> Leviticus 26:8;  
<sup>14</sup> 1Thessalonians 5:17; and <sup>15</sup> Joshua 1:3



WE MUST SPEND TIME WITH GOD IN ORDER TO KNOW  
HOW TO ESTABLISH ***HIS KINGDOM ON***  
***EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN***

## CHAPTER 4

### STEP 2

#### TELL ABOUT THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

(Share Jesus with others)

The prayer had continued non-stop. They spoke openly about *Jesus* to everyone. God even gave them the supernatural ability to tell people about *The Eternal Kingdom* in languages they had never studied. They gave up everything they had for *The Eternal Kingdom*. Miracles were an everyday occurrence. They spent every spare minute in the pursuit of souls. At work, in the market place, and with their family, neighbors and friends they shared *The Good News of The Kingdom*. They talked about how sin had separated us from God, but He loved us so much He came as the *Messiah, Jesus*, to pay for our sins. They shared how our only hope was to repent of our sins and live for Him. Daily people yielded their hearts to God. Immediately they invited these new believers to their homes for a time of fellowship. They became part of *God's Kingdom*. Faithfully they taught them about *The Kingdom* as *The King* had commanded. What it meant to follow *Jesus*, the cost and the rewards were made clear. Obedience to His Spirit was the life they were called to live. Personal life, family life, church life, evangelism, and discipleship according to God's principles were shared with the new members of God's Family, The Church, and God's royal priesthood. The small group grew to thousands. The whole city was impacted. They had favor with everybody. Then it happened. Persecution came. Stephen was stoned to death. A man named Saul felt his life's work was to get rid of The Church. They were a threat to the traditions and culture of their society. How would they respond?

The Family of God could not stay where they were. They scattered. As they traveled, they continued to tell others about *Jesus* knowing it might cost them their lives. The Church continued to grow. Rich and poor, the influential and ordinary, people from all walks of life became disciples of *Jesus, The King of Kings and Lord of Lords*. *His Kingdom* was established in their hearts. Eventually a once pagan Roman society was known as Christian. What a change!!!<sup>1</sup>

**There is one hope for the world; *The Good News of Jesus and His Kingdom.***

Who has the responsibility of getting His message out? **Jesus** told His followers in **Mark 1:17** they were to become “**fishers of men**”. Time with God is necessary, but it is only the first step. **The next step is putting feet to your prayers.** In **Acts 1:8** **Jesus** said **His followers were to be His witnesses where they live, and to the uttermost part of the Earth.** Part of our purpose as kings, in **God’s Kingdom**, is to be ambassadors of **The Kingdom.**<sup>2</sup> This means we should make telling people about **Jesus** a priority in our lives.

If you are a follower of **Jesus** and do not tell people about Him, who will? **Jesus** told us that being a witness is a sign of the Holy Spirit’s power. Just like in the book of Acts, every believer is to be a witness where their daily life takes them. Whether at home, work, shopping, or talking to your friends, neighbors and loved ones; telling about **Jesus** should be a part of your conversations. This is part of the way **His Eternal Kingdom** spreads.

For those who are in daily fellowship with God and seeking to do His will, telling people about **Jesus** is not difficult. They are continually aware of what God is doing in their lives. They cannot help but tell others. For those whose Christianity consist of going to meetings and trying to be good, witnessing often becomes a religious duty they struggle with.

Being a witness should be a fruit of your time with God. It is a product of making **God’s Kingdom** the priority in your life. The question is, are you totally yielded to **Jesus**? Is He your **King**? Or, is your faith simply a fire insurance policy so you will not go to hell? **Jesus didn’t die to take us to heaven. He died to give us eternal life.** In **John 17:3** He told us, “**Eternal life is to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent.**” That word “**know**” speaks of an intimate relationship such as a husband and wife are supposed to have. For those whose hearts are totally surrendered to **Jesus** witnessing is as easy as talking about what is going on in their family. This will happen if you are really living for **Jesus** each day.

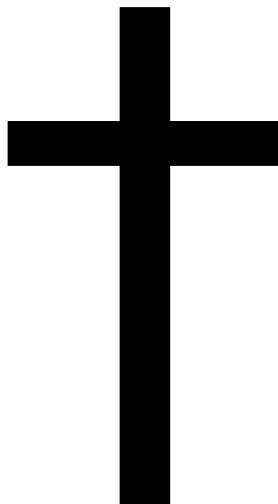
If the truths of **The Kingdom** are new to you, you may be asking, “How can I do this?” First, do what they did in the book of Acts, fall in love with **Jesus**. As we have already shared. Make sure He is **Lord** of your life. Believe He is the only way to God. Make Him your first

love. It is a decision of the heart. You must seek to stop doing everything you know does not please God. Make sure you are fully trusting in the redeeming work of **Jesus** on the Cross for everything in your life: physically, materially, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Love Him more than any person (including yourself), anything you want to do, and anything you have or desire to have.

After you fall in love with **Jesus**, feed on His Word, The Bible. Live at the Cross daily. As we shared in chapter 3, talk to God and feed on His word. Spiritual diet and exercise are more important than physical diet and exercise. The ***eternal destiny of your soul*** and those around you depend on it. No matter what you do, if **Jesus** does not return in your lifetime, your body will eventually grow old and die. ***Your soul will exist forever either living in God's presence, or dead and separated from Him.*** Only as we have the right spiritual diet and exercise will we hear; "Well done thou good and faithful servant." As we have already said, we need to read God's Word daily with our heart open to the Holy Spirit so we can hear what God has to say to us. Keeping a daily journal and writing down what He says can help you apply it to your life. Seeking to live in obedience to "His Spirit" should be your daily spiritual exercise. In our relationships with believers, and the lost, we must seek to walk in The Spirit, and do the things God reveals to us during our times with Him. This is how we become His witnesses.

**PRAYER** (1 Timothy 2:1-4,8)

(Hebrews 10:23-25) **FELLOWSHIP**



**WITNESSING** (Matthew 10:7-8)

**THE WORD** (Matthew 4:4)

If you are in love with **Jesus** you will not have a problem telling others about Him. It may be one-on-one as you meet people during your daily activities. Or, it may be as part of a team going out to share about **Jesus**. As you have opportunity, you will share ***The Good News about the Kingdom***.

The only way to change the world is to change the hearts of people. If you tell others about **Jesus**, He has promised in **Isaiah 55:11 His word will accomplish His purposes**. He will transform hearts. ***His Eternal Kingdom*** will be established.

### POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN SHARING ***THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS AND HIS KINGDOM***

As you talk to people who have not yielded their heart to **Jesus** it is helpful to remember certain things. **John 16:7-11 tells us:**

**“<sup>7</sup> But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I do not, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send Him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when He comes, He will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. <sup>9</sup> The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in Me. <sup>10</sup> Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no more. <sup>11</sup> Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.”** (NKJV)

Before you ever begin to witness the Holy Spirit is already there telling people that they are separated from God, **Jesus** is their only hope, and if they do not repent of their sins they face ***eternal judgement***. You are the second witness. The Holy Spirit is the first. You need to keep the conversation focused on the message about ***Jesus and His Eternal Kingdom***. Many people ask questions or make statements because they are under conviction. Most of the time what they say is an attempt to create a distraction from hearing the truth. The purpose in sharing ***The Kingdom*** is to help them understand that **Jesus** is their only hope. **Jesus** gave us a good example of how to do this in **John 4** when he talked to the women at the well. **Verses 7- 26 tell us:**

**“<sup>7</sup> Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.” <sup>8</sup> He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. <sup>9</sup> The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.” <sup>11</sup> “But sir, you don’t have a rope or a**



bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? <sup>12</sup> And besides, do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?” <sup>13</sup> Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. <sup>14</sup> But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.” <sup>15</sup> “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.” <sup>16</sup> “Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her. <sup>17</sup> “I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied. Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband—<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!” <sup>19</sup> “Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet. <sup>20</sup> So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?” <sup>21</sup> Jesus replied, “Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. <sup>24</sup> For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” <sup>25</sup> The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” <sup>26</sup> Then Jesus told her, “I AM the Messiah! (NLT)

In this account, **Jesus** shows us how to tell people about God. If possible, sharing “**The Kingdom**” should begin from the viewpoint of the person we are talking to. Ask God to show you what to say so they will be open to hearing about **Jesus**. **In a certain Asian country we visit, we often ask people if they have found the way to God, because finding the way to God is part of their religion.** As you share about **The Kingdom** you must help people understand that their sin has separated them from God.<sup>3</sup> Make it clear that religion or good works cannot take care of the sin problem.<sup>4</sup> Let them know that God loved them so much that He sent **Jesus** to die and pay the penalty for their sin.<sup>5</sup> After you share with them that **Jesus** died for them, encourage them to yield their heart, mind, will and emotions totally to Him.<sup>6</sup> Let them know that God has **a purpose for their life**. Help them understand that they need to let Him take control of their life so they can **find and fulfill that purpose**.<sup>7</sup> Encourage them to talk to God totally surrendering their life to **Jesus**.<sup>8</sup> If they don’t want to surrender their life to **Jesus**, you should pray that God will touch their heart and bring them to the point of heart surrender. If they do pray, you should immediately begin to teach them how to live for **Jesus**. Try to make sure they have a Bible in their language. Explain to them that they need to feed their soul like they feed their body. Encourage them to do this by spending time with God daily reading the Bible and praying. Help them understand that the Christian Life involves seeking to walk in obedience

to the Holy Spirit. Try to keep in touch with them at least weekly through personal contact, by phone, the internet or regular mail. This will give you the opportunity to help teach them the truths of God's Word, The Bible. God builds **His Eternal Kingdom** as we tell others about **Jesus** and show them how to live for Him.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to share **The Good News of the Eternal Kingdom** with many people around the world. I have found using the principles **Jesus** shows us in **John chapter 4** produces lasting results.

### YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY **ABOUT JESUS AND HIS KINGDOM**

One of the things that the Holy Spirit uses to touch people's hearts is our personal testimony. If you are a follower of **Jesus**, it would be helpful if you write out and memorize a brief one-page testimony of your experience with **Jesus**.

Write about your life before you found God. Tell how you realized you needed Him. Let people know how you became a follower of **Jesus**. Express how God has changed your life. Describe any special things God has done for you such as: healings, financial provision, and other things. People will see that you are not just talking theory, but you have truly had an experience with the living God.

In 1984 God healed me of stage 4 cancer. When I travel to different parts of the world I share this testimony. I find it helps people's hearts open up to receive **The Good News about Jesus and His Kingdom**.

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DAILY OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE **THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS AND HIS KINGDOM.** **BE A FRIEND!!**

The story of **Jesus** we just read in **John chapter 4** is a good example of being a friend to a stranger. Studies have shown that one of the most effective ways to reach people with **The Good News about The Kingdom** is to be a friend to them.

*A number of years ago, some prominent people in a country that was closed to missionaries, were reached when someone was a friend to them while they were in the U.S. studying. They helped them find housing, get a driver's license, and other things. This in turn opened doors for people to go to that country and share about **The Kingdom**.*

If you are living for **Jesus**, He will send people to you during your daily activities. These are opportunities to be a witness. It may be a first-time contact with someone new. It may be a conversation with someone you see regularly. Sometimes He will put someone on your heart, and you may seek an opportunity to share with them.

If you are a follower of **Jesus** (and we hope by now you are), you should pray for lost family members, neighbors, work associates, and others during your daily time with God. Ask God to set people free from the things the enemy uses to keep them from surrendering their heart to **Jesus**. As you do this God will give you a chance to be a friend to them. By being sensitive to their needs you will find open doors to help them. It may be by speaking a word, praying with them, meeting a need or a simple act of kindness. Mature Christians live to serve others.

When God opens the door, you should share as much of about **Jesus** and/or your testimony as you can. You may be able to give them a tract, New Testament or Bible. Sometimes writing a personal message to them will mean a lot. You should not be afraid to ask people if they have any prayer needs and pray with them when you can. As we have already shared, if they yield their heart to **Jesus** you should begin to share with them about how they can know God and fulfill **His purpose for their life**.

#### WAYS WE CAN SHARE **THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS AND HIS KINGDOM.**

Being a witness simply means living your life in obedience to God's Spirit and taking advantage of the daily opportunities God gives you to share about **His Kingdom**. People should see **Jesus** in you by what you do and what you say. There are many ways this can happen.

First, realize that your lifestyle is one of the greatest witnesses to **The Kingdom of God**. The difference people see in you should be a demonstration of the love and power of God. If you are mature in **The Lord** you will come to a place where you are no longer concerned about your needs. You will know God is going to take care of them. You will take on the lifestyle of **Jesus** who, although He personally had little, lived to help meet the needs of others. He demonstrated **The Kingdom** by His life. As a follower of **Jesus**, you should seek to assist people through the power of the Holy Spirit. You should try to meet the physical, material, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of people around you so you can share **Jesus** with them. You demonstrate the love you have for God's family, The Church, by helping followers of **Jesus** first. You also demonstrate God's love for everyone by helping the people who do not know **Jesus**. Just like **Jesus**, you should never turn anyone away that asks for help. You should always seek the Holy Spirit's guidance concerning how to minister to the needs presented to you. You can always do something about a need. If nothing else, you can pray with the person. Most people in this world live to receive. By living to give, you can become a living witness to the love and power of God that draws people into **His Eternal Kingdom**.

*A number of years ago, a brother in The Lord and I were in the woods praying. A young man in need found us there and asked us to help him. He was making minimum wage and unable to support his family. We did not have any money to give him, but we prayed that God would meet his need. Shortly after that he got a better job with an opportunity to build an income. In a few years, he was a millionaire. This is an example of how we can meet the needs of any person who comes to us. As we have already said, if we are unable to do anything else, we can always pray knowing God will answer.*

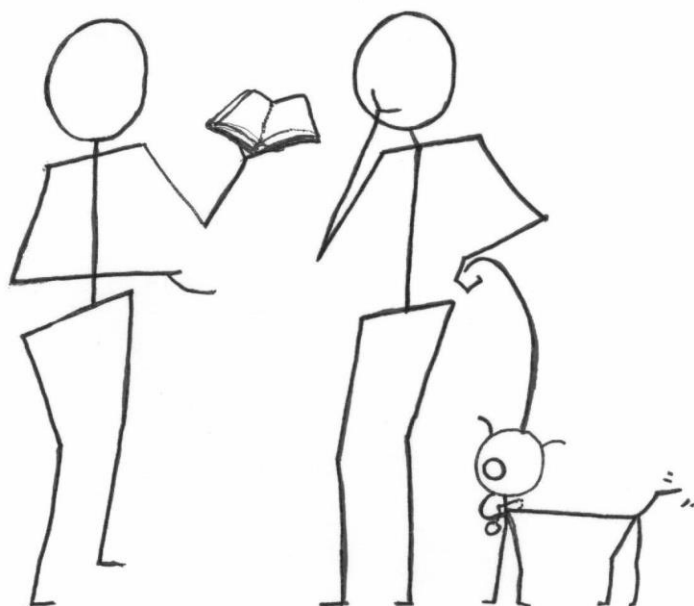
Second, do not hesitate to speak about the things of **The Kingdom** when the opportunity arises. Do it boldly. You are sharing the most important thing in life. Do not ever apologize for sharing in love what a person needs to hear. See daily opportunities as divine appointments to share about **God's Kingdom** with others. Sometimes God may lead you to plan an opportunity to share about **Jesus** with a person He puts on your heart. Whether it is planned or unplanned you should always be ready to speak to others about the greatest need in their lives; a relationship with **The Lord Jesus**.<sup>9</sup>

In a country in Asia I was going door to door with the local pastor. We came to a house he had visited before. They had always been hostile when the pastor shared about **Jesus** and **His Kingdom**. Before we knocked on the door we prayed that God would open their hearts to **The Good News**. Although they had been hostile before, we boldly shared about **Jesus**. This time the whole family prayed, yielding their hearts and lives to God.

Third, if you know **Jesus**, take advantage of opportunities to put the written or recorded Word in someone's hand. It can be as simple as giving a tract to the person who waits on you at a store or restaurant. Try to always carry tracts and give them away every chance you get. Often giving a gift of a Bible or New Testament can put God's Word into the hands of someone who needs it. CD's and DVD's can be given as gifts in a similar manner as Bibles. Special occasions such as birthdays, Christmas, or welcoming newcomers to the area are times when these gifts can be given. If you cannot give a tract or gift to someone in person, often you can mail it to them. You can also email written information you think might help someone. Remember that **Hebrews 4:12** tells us the **Word of God is a powerful weapon. It will tear down strongholds and reveal truth**. It is like a bomb that will explode on God's timetable.

There was a man who felt God told him to stand on a certain street corner and pass out tracts. He did not see a lot of immediate results, so after a while he quit. Years later he was traveling on a ship. He met a young man on his way to another country to be a missionary. After talking with him he realized the young man had become a follower of **Jesus** because of the tracts he passed out on the street corner. The man felt sad because he realized he had missed many opportunities by not continuing to do what God told him to do.

Remember, salvation is a work of the Holy Spirit. You do not have to lead someone in the "sinner's prayer" in order for them to have a relationship with **Jesus**. As Christ ambassadors, we just need to bring them to the knowledge of the truth and let The Holy Spirit do His work. Forcing someone to pray when they are not ready turns the work of The Spirit into a work of the flesh. As we take advantage of the daily opportunities to tell people about **Jesus**, the Holy Spirit will bring **God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven** through our lives.



WE NEED TO WITNESS DAILY  
IN ORDER TO SEE **GOD'S**  
**KINGDOM** COME

### A QUESTION TO CONSIDER

When followers of **Jesus** share **The Kingdom** daily by their words and deeds God will establish **His Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven**. Is sharing **Jesus** with others part of your daily life?

### References:

<sup>1</sup> Acts chapters 1-8; <sup>2</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:20; <sup>3</sup> Romans 3:23 and 6:23; <sup>4</sup> Ezekiel 33:13; <sup>5</sup> Romans 5:8;  
<sup>6</sup> Romans 2:4 and 10:9-10; <sup>7</sup> Romans 6:17-18; <sup>8</sup> Romans 10:12-13; and <sup>9</sup> 1 Peter 3:15

## CHAPTER 5

### STEP 3 ESTABLISH THE KINGDOM BY MAKING DISCIPLES (Help others live for Jesus)

**The early Church met daily from house to house. They did what *Jesus* did with the people He disciplined. They spent time with each other sharing and explaining the things God showed them. Those who had been with *Jesus* welcomed the new believers as part of God's Family. They became big brothers and sisters to them teaching them what they had learned during their walk with *The Lord*. The emphasis was not on training the mind but transforming the heart so people could hear and obey the voice of God. They knew that helping people grow to know God was the only way *The Eternal Kingdom* would be firmly established in people's hearts. <sup>1</sup>**

#### MAKING DISCIPLES

***Jesus'* final words to His followers were to go into all the world and make disciples of every nation.<sup>2</sup> He made it clear that His followers were not to simply help people trust in Him for salvation", but to teach them how to live as part of *The Eternal Kingdom*. The basic Bible principles of personal life, <sup>3</sup> family life,<sup>4</sup> church life,<sup>5</sup> evangelism,<sup>6</sup> and discipleship<sup>7</sup> were to become part of their lives so they would know God's voice and follow His Spirit. God wanted people to walk in daily fellowship with Him, so they could live to fulfill *His purpose for them*. *Jesus* knew making disciples is the step that establishes God's presence and power in the hearts of people. As kings in *God's Kingdom* we must follow his instruction to make disciples so *The Eternal Kingdom will be established on Earth as it is in Heaven*.**

**1 John 2:12-14 tells us:**

**<sup>12</sup> I am writing to you who are God's children  
because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus.**

**<sup>13</sup> I am writing to you who are mature in the faith  
because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning.  
I am writing to you who are young in the faith  
because you have won your battle with the evil one.**

**<sup>14</sup> I have written to you who are God's children**

**because you know the Father.  
I have written to you who are mature in the faith  
because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning.  
I have written to you who are young in the faith  
because you are strong.  
God's word lives in your hearts,  
and you have won your battle with the evil one.” (NLT)**

This scripture shows us that becoming the person **Jesus** wants us to be involves a process of growing to know God. Ideally this spiritual growth will follow the process of physical growth. Those who are raised in a Christian home often find themselves developing this way as they grow up. For those who come to God later in life, He often speeds up this process and does in 2 or 3 years what normally takes 15 or 20 years. This scripture passage indicates there are three stages in this process. The **first part of the process** is yielding a person's heart and life to God through faith in the redeeming work of **Christ**. The **second part** is overcoming sin and satan by growing in our understanding of God's Word and in relationship with God The Father. As we spend time in the Word and prayer and do God's will, we destroy the works of the enemy in us. The **final part in the process** is to **find and fulfill God's eternal purpose for our lives**. God established this purpose before time began.<sup>8</sup> During our time with God, He will give us revelations about what He wants us to do with our life. We need to pursue these thoughts with all our heart.

*I know a young lady that was raised in a Christian home. At the age of 10 God put in her the desire to work with children. She pursued this call with all her heart. Because she did, many children have been reached with the **Good News of Jesus and His Kingdom**.*

We must be disciples of **Jesus** if we claim to believe in Him. **Acts 11:26** tells us that the word “Christian” was a name given to the early disciples. If you have not been discipled, seek out a Christian who is a committed follower of **Jesus** and ask them to mentor you. Before you can help others grow to know God, you need to be discipled. After you have been discipled, make yourself available to help others on their spiritual journey.

In order for a person to be discipled, they must first be committed to fulfilling **God's purpose for their life**. The person being discipled must acknowledge **Jesus** as **Lord of all**. In the Gospels **Jesus** preached to the masses, but He spent much of His time teaching those who were committed to following Him. In Chapter 3 we quoted **Luke 14:26, 27 & 33**. As we mentioned there, this scripture makes it clear what a commitment to follow **Jesus**



involves. Every relationship, goal and ambition, and possession must be surrendered to Him. If you recall, we said that every sin involved either trying to please some person other than God, trying to do something God does not want us to do, or trying to have something God does not want us to have. **Jesus** asked every person who wanted to become part of **His Kingdom** to surrender these areas of their life to Him. He knew if they did not, they would not make it through the discipleship process. Discipleship begins the moment a person makes a commitment to follow **Christ**. The process of growing to know God continues throughout a person's life until **Jesus** comes or they go to be with Him.

If you are trying to help others on their spiritual journey, you should first become a friend to them. You need to become their spiritual big brother or sister. This will help you understand the spiritual development of the person you are discipling. Because a person begins as a **new born child of God**, the person who is sharing **The Good News about The Kingdom** should help them understand what is happening. As soon as possible the big brother or sister needs to share several important thoughts with the person they are mentoring. They should:

1. Explain to them that they have just received the most important thing in the world, **Eternal Life**. The Bible calls this spiritual birth or being born of the Spirit.
2. Help them understand that they are now a **child of God** and have the power to live for Him because His Holy Spirit lives in them. God's Spirit will give them the strength they need to **fulfill God's purpose for their life**.
3. Let them know Jesus has delivered them from the power of sin so they can help **establish God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven**.
4. Explain to them that just as your physical body needs physical food to live and grow, your spirit needs spiritual food daily so you grow and **fulfill God's purpose**. This spiritual food is God's Word, the Bible, which you need to try to read and seek to obey daily.
5. Tell them just as a child may stumble and fall as it is growing and learning, you will have struggles as you grow spiritually. Do not give up. Remember to confess your sin, seek to obey God's Word and you will grow spiritually. God will help you.
6. Let them know because they are human (weak in the flesh), they need to renew their commitment to **Christ** and be filled with His Spirit daily through quiet time with God. This will help them do God's will instead of what they want to do.
7. Explain that they must be willing to tell others about what **Christ** has done for them, and that He is their **Lord** and Savior. This will help them grow in their faith.

8. Let them know they need to be water baptized. This is a public testimony that they have turned from sin and are a new person in **Christ**.

9. Help them understand they need to spend time with other committed followers of **Jesus** regularly to stay spiritually strong.

By sharing these things with the new follower of **Jesus** as soon as possible, the person assisting them will help get them started on the path to becoming the person God wants them to be.

*I have had the privilege of sharing **The Good News of Jesus and His Kingdom** in many parts of the world. I have found that when the new disciple understands these ideas they have a better chance of growing to know God and **fulfilling His purpose for them**. Many people who truly love **Jesus** struggle because no one took the time to explain to them that the Christian life is about living to **fulfill God's purpose so God's Kingdom can come on Earth as it is in Heaven**.*

As we have already said the person assisting the new disciple should be an older brother or sister in **The Lord**, who has been living as part of **God's Kingdom**. Living as part of **The Kingdom** is necessary for a person to be equipped to guide the new disciple through the process of growing to know God. This spiritual journey will involve helping the new follower of **Jesus** break down the strongholds of personal weakness and cultural traditions in their life and replace them with the things of God. As they teach them the basic Bible principles of personal life, family life, church life, evangelism and discipleship this should happen. (You can find booklets that will help you teach these principles at [www.growtoknowGod.com](http://www.growtoknowGod.com).) Using the ministry of the Word and prayer, the older follower of **Jesus** prepares the person being discipled to fulfill **the purpose God has for them**. It is important that a qualified person becomes a big brother or sister to a new follower of **Jesus** soon (within 24 hrs. if possible). In order to help them grow to know God, the big brother or sister needs to fellowship regularly with the new disciple. They should begin by teaching them about the Christian Life and helping them get involved in a local part of **God's Family, The Church**. If possible, they need to meet with the new Christian at least twice a week until they become established in their walk with **The Lord**. If feasible, they should continue to meet until they have taught them all the basic Bible principles. The teacher should assist in transforming the new disciple's heart by letting them study the scriptures and then asking questions to help them apply what they read to their lives. **Jesus** was always asking the early disciples

questions to help them grow spiritually. The person mentoring the new follower of **Jesus** should encourage them to spend daily time with God and receive water baptism. They should also help them learn how to live life in the power of the Holy Spirit. Maintaining relationships with other committed believers and seeking God's will for their life should be encouraged. Remember we are making disciples for **Jesus** not for ourselves. The real test of how well we have taught someone is what happens to them when we have finished the mentoring process. Can they **live to fulfill God's purpose** without us or are they dependent on us. If they cannot stand for **Jesus** without us, then we have not properly taught them. If we have correctly taught them, then they will live as part of **God's Eternal Kingdom** no matter what happens. A person is usually considered established in their relationship with God when they have been water baptized, are seeking to live in the power of The Holy Spirit, regularly spending time with God seeking His will, and consistently fellowshiping with other committed followers of **Jesus**. Even after a person is established in their walk with the Lord the person mentoring them should continue to be a friend to them.

One Sunday afternoon, several years ago, there was a knock at my door. I opened it to see a young man that I had never met. His first words to me were "I need more of Jesus." A few days before someone had witnessed to him on the streets and he had given his heart to **Jesus**. Over the next several months I mentored him teaching the principles I have just talked about. The result was he found God's purpose for his life. This man has been mentoring young people. Here is what he wrote me recently:

**Man, I've been so excited. I've been teaching the things you taught me every Monday for the past 7 weeks to about 15 teenagers. Even on Halloween night I had 14 students that would rather study God's Word than go trick-or-treating. These are all from the "Hood"(the poor part of town)". This is an example of how **God's Kingdom** is established in the hearts of people when they are properly disciplined. It is also an example of how **The Kingdom** spreads as **people live to fulfill God's purpose for them.****

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Only by making disciples will ***God's Kingdom*** be established in the hearts of people. ***Jesus*** understood this. That is why it was part of His final instructions to us. Are you a disciple? Are you ***establishing God's Kingdom*** in the hearts of people by helping others become a disciple of ***Jesus***?

### References:

<sup>1</sup> Acts chapters 1-8; <sup>2</sup> Matthew 28:18-20; <sup>3</sup> Luke 10:27, and 1 Peter 2:2; <sup>4</sup> Ephesians 5:22-6:4;

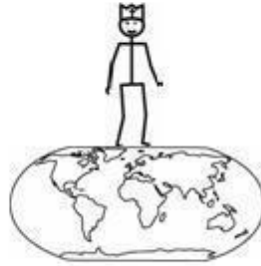
<sup>5</sup> Hebrews 10:24-25; <sup>6</sup> 1 Peter 3:15; <sup>7</sup> 1 John 1:1-4, and 2 Timothy 2:2; and <sup>8</sup> 2 Timothy 1:9

## CHAPTER 6

### STEP 4 LIVING AS PART OF THE KINGDOM (The Kingdom is a family)

God's Church was a family living in one accord, walking in the power of The Spirit, and freely sharing what they had with other family members. The love they had for each other was a clear demonstration to the world of the love of *Jesus*. People knew they were His disciples. The Church was an expression of *God's Kingdom here on earth*.

Then it happened. The enemy got into the hearts of some of the family members. They did not want to share with the other brothers & sisters what God had blessed them with. They lied and died on the spot. Dissension and division arose. The Church members became focused on themselves rather than *The Eternal Kingdom*. The enemy attacked and The Church was scattered.<sup>1</sup> Eventually, instead of being led by a group of servant leaders, people who wanted to have the preeminence took over.<sup>2</sup> They had been taught that there should be no divisions among them.<sup>3</sup> The only reason for any separation was the denial of the redeeming work of *Jesus* or immorality.<sup>4</sup> Even then they were to pray and seek reconciliation with those they were separated from.<sup>5</sup> Violating this admonition, groups separated themselves from other members based on differences of opinion about what God was saying. The Church lost the spiritual power it had to transform society. Certainly, individual members and a few groups who were *living for Jesus* still had the power to reach others for *The Kingdom*, but the spiritual power in what the world sees as The Church was almost non-existent. Political power was substituted for spiritual power. People lost sight of *The Eternal Kingdom* and became consumed simply with their own salvation. Many did not want to make *Jesus Lord*, but just wanted a fire insurance policy to escape the consequences of their sin. Most of the groups that called themselves churches were no longer demonstrations of *God's Kingdom*, but simply kingdoms of men built in the name of *Jesus*.<sup>6</sup>



**A PICTURE OF**

**THE CHURCH**  
**GOD'S TEAM**

(The world's only hope)

**THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**  
(Jesus is the head)



**THE LOCAL CHURCH**

(All the people in a city, village, or community)



**THE ADMINISTRATION TEAM**

(Elders assisted by the deacons & deaconesses)

**LOCAL CHURCH TEAMS**



**PRAYER  
TEAM**



**PRAISE & WORSHIP  
TEAM**



**PREACHING  
TEAM**



**HOUSE  
CHURCHES**



**DISCIPLESHIP  
TEAM**



**EVANGELISM  
TEAM**



**MISSIONS  
TEAM**

Pastor/Leader  
Pastor/Assistant Leader

**House Church Leaders**



**PRAYER**



**PRAISE & WORSHIP**



**DISCIPLESHIP  
TRAINING**



**EVANGELISM  
& MISSIONS**



**PRACTICAL  
MINISTRY DEACON**



**Apostolic Missions Teams**

(Plant Churches & Strengthen existing churches)



**Apostle**



**Prophet**

**PARTICIPANTS**



**New Converts**



**Big Brothers & Sisters**



**Visitors**



**Evangelist**



**Pastor**



**Teacher**

## THE CHURCH

### THE WAY IT IS, AND THE WAY IT OUGHT TO BE

The picture on the previous page shows **The Church** the way it ought to be. It is not an organization, but a living organism guided by His Spirit. **The Church** is God's physical presence in the Earth today. It should be a family of teams working together to **establish God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven**. In order to be a family of teams, **The Local Church** must be made up of believers who have been truly born again by surrendering their will to God and have a heart for **The Eternal Kingdom**. Only then can the Holy Spirit lead them to work together to **establish God's Kingdom where they live**. God's Spirit will help them make disciples by reaching the hearts of people around them and bringing them into a relationship with God. They will see everyone in their area as someone whom God wants as a **part of His Eternal Kingdom**. The members of **The Local Church** will see the lost people where they live as potential members of **The Kingdom**.<sup>7</sup> Out of that **Local Church** God's Spirit will raise up teams to **go to the ends of the Earth to establish His Kingdom in all the nations**.<sup>8</sup>

God's Word tells us that if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we will have **fellowship with each other. This is essential in building The Eternal Kingdom**. If we are unable to fellowship with other people who believe in the redeeming work of **Jesus**, perhaps we are not walking in the light God wants us to have.<sup>9</sup> God says He will have a church without spot or blemish.<sup>10</sup> It will be a **Triumphant Church** walking in unity with Him and each other.<sup>11</sup> Let us compare what we think of as **The Church** with what **The Triumphant Church** will look like.

We hear **The Church** referred to in many different ways. Most people speak of a church referring to a particular group of believers locally or denominationally. To many a church is simply a building whether anyone is there or not. These concepts tend to promote the idea that in God there are many different churches. This is not what the Bible says. These ideas tend to promote disunity causing **The Church** not to be the influence in the world God intended it to be. As we just mentioned, it is not an organization, but a living organism guided by His Spirit. In chapter 1 we said, **The Church** is a people not a place. It is a family made up of all those who follow **Jesus** by faith. Matthew 18 makes it clear that whenever two or more members of **The Family** gather in **Jesus'** name **The Church** is there in power.

**Jesus** says He is present in a special way, and because He is, **The Church** has the power to make things happen so **God's Kingdom can come on Earth as it is in Heaven**. They can stop them or set them in motion. **The Church** is the place where we team up with other believers to fulfill our calling as priests and kings in **God's Kingdom**. As each church member fulfills their purpose **God's Kingdom will come on Earth in the hearts of people**.

**Hebrews 10:24-25** tells us that the closer we come to **Jesus'** return the more we should get together. There are more things to deal with so more needs to be done. Today much of **The Church** has substituted meeting in a building for gathering in power. Often there is no power because they are not seeking for **God's Kingdom to come on Earth as it is in Heaven**. Even though they meet in **Jesus'** name, they really meet in the name of an organization or division. It must make **Christ** really sad when we attend a meeting on Sunday then ignore **His Family** and the needs of those around us in our daily lives. The failure of God's people to show His love for one another makes it hard for the world to see **The Church** as part of **The Eternal Kingdom**. It makes it difficult for **The Church** to be the salt and light God intended it to be.

How do we become the salt and light God intended **His Church** to be? We must realize that whenever two of us are together **Jesus** is there in **His Church** to do the things He wants done on the Earth. When we acknowledge Him and His purpose, He will work through us to establish **His Eternal Kingdom** in the hearts of people. At our request, He will do whatever it takes for this to happen. We need to understand **The Church** was destined to operate as a family of teams based on our spiritual relationship with God and other members of **God's Kingdom**. The life God wants **His Church** to live begins with growing to know Him and His purpose for our lives. This enables us to see **The Church** the way He sees it. We will see **The Family of Believers** and its purpose through God's eyes. That purpose is **to establish God's Kingdom in peoples' hearts**. This should lead us to minister to all people especially those who are part of the family of God. It should cause us to seek opportunities to be salt and light by praying for people, sharing an encouraging word, or ministering to needs when we have opportunity. The size of the task should make us want to team up with others to accomplish it.



When we see the power that comes from **Jesus** through **His Unified Church** then we will want to get together regularly with fellow believers to stir up love and good works in each other. There will be an urgency to reach lost souls. We will do more than attend a “church meeting” on Sunday to fulfill our religious duty. We will spend time each day with fellow believers in our family sharing and praying for one another. We will get together regularly with other believers where we work, in our neighborhood, or where we go to school, to share and pray for each other and the needs around us. If we are a leader, we will get together with other leaders for fellowship and prayer. Living out **The Kingdom** will be part of our daily life. If we do these things, **His Church** will be the salt and light **Jesus** intended it to be. It will **establish His Eternal Kingdom in the hearts of people**.

In God’s eyes, there is **One Church**. It is a community of local, regional, national, and international fellowships based on relationships first with God then with each other as God knits us together in love.<sup>12</sup> **The Local Church** membership consists of all believers in a particular geographical area.<sup>13</sup> The scriptures indicate that in order to promote spiritual family relationships and team work, **The Local New Testament Church** was not ruled over by one man. It was guided by a team of servant leaders called elders who watched over God’s flock and God’s work.<sup>14</sup> This was a group of three to twelve men of equal spiritual maturity who gave themselves to The Word and prayer so they could hear from God and guide **The Church** to fulfill its purpose. **The Triumphant Church** will be made up of properly related **Local Church Fellowships**. From these properly related fellowships **The Life of The Kingdom will flow to the ends of The Earth in power**.

God is going to restore **The Church** to what it ought to be before He returns. What will this church look like? **Let us look at what is in the picture at the beginning of the chapter.**

## **THE LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY**

As we have already said, **The Local Church** should be a family that works together as a team to establish **God’s Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven**. The elders are the spiritual fathers who provide oversight and guidance to the teamwork of the members. The Bible indicates there are eight areas of ministry where teamwork is needed in order for **The**

**Church** to fulfill its purpose. The life flow of the Holy Spirit should be allowed to guide what is being done.

**The eight areas are:**

**PRAYER:** There are those in **The Local Church** who have a special burden for prayer. They make up **The Prayer Team** that works to establish ***God's Kingdom on Earth*** by facilitating the prayer life of the fellowship. This includes sharing with the fellowship the current prayer needs. They can also help by establishing a church prayer chain to pray for emergencies. This is a list of people who make themselves available to pray immediately when a need arises. **The Prayer Team** should encourage prayer in home fellowship groups and teach church members how to have effective personal and group prayer time. In addition, they should lead in establishing special church prayer times, prayer walking, and seek to develop around the clock (24-7) intercession by church members (at least 2 or 3 people praying together at all times).<sup>15</sup>

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP:** There are gifted musicians who desire to help **The Church** come into God's presence. They make up **The Praise and Worship Team**. These people lead worship in group meetings, introduce new songs, and train people in music, and praise and worship.<sup>16</sup>

**PREACHING:** There are mature people who have the prophetic gift of being able to hear from God. They make up **The Preaching Team**. They share what God is saying and give a scriptural perspective on relevant issues during group meetings.<sup>17</sup>

**DISCIPLESHIP (TRAINING):** People who have an established walk with **The Lord** and the gift of teaching make up **The Discipleship Team**. They assist in ***establishing God's Kingdom in the hearts of people*** by helping them grow to know God. They do this by teaching them about the Christian life. This includes training them to live for **Jesus**, share **Jesus**, and how to help others live for **Jesus**. They also help people to find and fulfill the purpose God has given them. In addition, they help families teach their children about the things of God. They can also organize children's groups where children are encouraged to commit their lives to **Jesus**, learn the books of the Bible, and learn the main stories and themes of the Bible and how they apply them to their lives.<sup>18</sup> Another thing they can do is

establish young people groups where the youth are encouraged to commit their life to **Jesus** and seek His will for their lives. In these groups, young people should be encouraged to do a survey of the Bible, and intensive studies of specific books of the Bible. They should be taught how to apply the Bible to their lives and the issues and problems they face.<sup>19</sup> The discipleship team should also help maintain a network of Big Brothers and Big Sisters who disciple new converts and adopt new arrivals to the church who are already believers.<sup>20</sup>

**EVANGELISM:** There are fellowship members with a burden for lost souls and the gift of evangelism. They make up **The Evangelism Team**. They serve by doing special types of local evangelism such as door to door ministry, street ministry and crusade ministry. They also help organize local outreach teams. In addition, they help home fellowship groups reach people by training church members in witnessing.<sup>21</sup>

**MISSIONS:** **The Missions Team** is made up of people with a heart to see the ***good news of The Kingdom*** shared with the unreached people of The World. They keep the church informed concerning mission needs, help train people for missions, and lead in sending out Apostolic Mission Teams.<sup>22</sup>

### **FELLOWSHIP GROUPS (HOUSE CHURCHES)** <sup>23</sup>

**In the New Testament, many times The Church Family met in homes. This environment helped promote team work and openness in relationships among church members. Fellowship groups were one of the places where members were encouraged to *fulfill God's purpose for them as part of His Eternal Kingdom.***

### **HOUSE CHURCHES GENERALLY CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:**

**A Pastor/Leader** who is the servant leader of the group (5 to 10 families). They are responsible, along with the assistant-leader, for guiding the group and encouraging group members to find and fulfill ***their eternal purpose***. They should be an elder or under the guidance of an elder.

**A Pastor/ Assistant-Leader** who is responsible for working with the pastor/leader in

guiding the group and encouraging group members to find and fulfill ***their purpose***. They should be a person growing in spiritual maturity and are being trained to be a servant leader.

**A Prayer Leader** who is responsible for helping the group fulfill their part in the prayer life of **The Church**. They also guide the group to do their part to fulfill the ministry of **The Church Prayer Team**.

**A Praise and Worship Leader** who is responsible for leading the group into God's presence through praise and worship.

**An Evangelism/Mission Leader** who is responsible for helping the group to do its part to fulfill the ministry of **The Church Evangelism Team** and **The Missions Team**.

**A Practical Ministry Leader** who helps the group carry out the duties of the **Deacons**. They are responsible for leading the group to minister to the physical and material needs of people.

**A Discipleship (Training) Leader** who is responsible for helping the group to do its part in teaching people so they can ***find and fulfill God's purpose for them***.

**Big Brothers/ Big Sisters** who are older, mature believers who have learned how to live for **Jesus**, share **Jesus**, and help others live for **Jesus**. They serve by discipling the new converts in the basic Bible principles of personal life, family life, church life, evangelism, and discipleship. They also serve by adopting new arrivals to the church fellowship who are already believers. They help them become part of the life of **The Church**. As a general rule Men should minister to men, and women should minister to women.

**New Converts** who have just made a commitment to live for **Jesus** and need to be disciplined by a big brother or sister.

**Visitors** who have come to the group but are not members of the local fellowship. They provide opportunities for ministry and/or church growth.

**NOTE: A home fellowship member may function in more than one area of ministry.**

**ADMINISTRATION: The Administration Team** is responsible for taking care of the spiritual and physical needs of **The Church** including the business needs, and the physical care of church property. It consists of people in two servant leadership positions. The two positions are:<sup>24</sup>

**Elders** are the spiritual fathers of **The Church Family**. These are men from **The Local Church** fellowship who have proven themselves faithful to God's call on their life. They are God's appointed servant leaders for **The Local Church**. They are responsible for ministering to the physical, material, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of the members. They ***guide the church to fulfill its purpose of establishing God's Kingdom in their particular geographical area.*** They serve the local congregation by assisting them to ***find and fulfill God's purpose for their lives.*** (NOTE: Elder and Bishop are the same word.)<sup>25</sup>

**Deacons or Deaconesses** who are appointed to assist the elders in meeting the needs of church members, especially the physical and material needs.<sup>26</sup>

**Other church members** assist the elders and deacons.

### ***THE KINGDOM LIFE*** **OF THE LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY**

We have already talked a little bit about it, but let us look deeper at how this family of teams lives in order to ***establish God's Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven?*** **In the Bible, Acts 2:42-47** tells us:

**<sup>42</sup> All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.**

**<sup>43</sup> A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>44</sup> And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup> They sold their property and possessions and**

shared the money with those in need. <sup>46</sup> They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity <sup>47</sup> all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. (NLT)

These scriptures indicate that **The Church** was united in their desire to ***see God's Kingdom come on Earth as it is in Heaven.*** The life of **The Church** involved fellowshiping as a family daily in large and small groups. These times of fellowship involved praying for the needs around them and for the things that needed to be bound and loosed so ***The Kingdom could come on Earth as it is in Heaven.*** These gatherings also involved learning how to live as part of ***The Kingdom***, extravagant giving so that every one's needs could be met and ministering to the needs of **The Church** and local community. This is the normal life God desires for **His Church** to have. The fruit of this type of church life is souls birthed into ***The Kingdom.***

When **The Church** fellowshiped, the life of God's Spirit flowed in the meetings. The early church went out from these times together and changed the world around them. What did these family fellowship times look like? **1 Corinthians 14:26-33** tells us:

<sup>26</sup> Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you.

<sup>27</sup> No more than two or three should speak in tongues. They must speak one at a time, and someone must interpret what they say. <sup>28</sup> But if no one is present who can interpret, they must be silent in your church meeting and speak in tongues to God privately.

<sup>29</sup> Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said. <sup>30</sup> But if someone is prophesying and another person receives a revelation from the Lord, the one who is speaking must stop. <sup>31</sup> In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged. <sup>32</sup> Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can take turns. <sup>33</sup> For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God's holy people. (NLT)

**The Church** in Acts came together for one purpose. They were not there to be entertained or to hear some neat idea, but to worship God and hear from Him about how to **establish His Kingdom on Earth**. They had a hunger that could not be satisfied with anything less. They understood that God did not speak through just one man, but through two or three witnesses.<sup>27</sup> The things that were done were for the purpose of strengthening the believers present to **fulfill their life's purpose** where God had placed them in **His Family**.<sup>28</sup> They left their meetings with a fire in their hearts that dispelled the darkness in the world around them. This is what the **Kingdom life of The Church** should do.

*I have traveled the world and have not found one local church that fits the design of what **The Church** should be. Some have tried, but all have come up short. I still believe that in the end God is going to have a church like we have described in this chapter. The question is how is this going to happen?*

#### HOW DO WE GET THERE FROM HERE?

First, we need to understand that God is building **His Church**. Church unity is a work of The Holy Spirit in the hearts of those who are truly surrendered to Jesus.<sup>29</sup> All the enemy's plans to keep **The Church** from being what God wants it to be, and to keep it from fulfilling His mission of **establishing The Eternal Kingdom on Earth**, will fail. That being said, each one of us needs to be sure that we are personally living with a **Kingdom mind set**. We should examine ourselves and see if the things we do as a believer are truly **building God's Kingdom** or just people's kingdoms in the name of **Jesus**.

There are some practical things we can do to help restore the unity God wants **The Church** to have:

**Pray** for **The Body of Christ** to be in one accord.

**Decide** that you are part of **The Church** not just some man-made division that operates in the name of **Jesus**.

**Seek** God about what He would have you do to build **His Kingdom** where you live.

**Get to know** the believers around you in your neighborhood, work place, where you do business, or in your school. As much as possible, **get together with** the believers around you to share, pray and encourage one another.

**As God leads, team up with others** that are seeking to build **God's Kingdom**, and not just their denomination or organization. Be careful that this team does not separate itself from the rest of **The Body of Christ** but reaches out in love to do their part to restore unity in **The Church**. The team must realize that unity in **The Local Church** only comes through Biblical discipleship. They must gently share with those who do not understand the truths of **God's Kingdom**.

**Ask God** to help you see how **His purpose for your life** fits in with His vision for **His Church**.

**Live** to fulfill that purpose.

#### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

As we have traveled we have seen that there is great diversity in **The Church** and **The Kingdom**. Our diversity should never be an excuse for division. **The Lord** will have a church that is one with Him and each other. It will fulfill His purpose and establish **His Eternal Kingdom**. Ask yourself. Am I part of **The Church** or just part of some man-made division? Am I building **God's Kingdom** or some person's kingdom?

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> Acts chapters 1-8; <sup>2</sup> 3 John 1:9; <sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:10 and 3:3; <sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 and 2 John 1:9-10;

<sup>5</sup> Galatians 6:1; <sup>6</sup> Study church history; <sup>7</sup> John 3:16; <sup>8</sup> 2 Timothy 2:2 and Acts 13:1-4; <sup>9</sup> 1 John 1:1-7;

<sup>10</sup> Ephesians 5:25-27; <sup>11</sup> 2 Corinthians 2:14 and Romans 12:3-5; <sup>12</sup> 1 Corinthians 16:19, 2 Corinthians 1:1, 1 Thessalonians 2:14 and 1 Peter 1:1; <sup>13</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:2 and 1 & 2 Thessalonians 1:1; <sup>14</sup> Acts 14:21-23 and Titus 1:5; <sup>15</sup> 1 Timothy 2:1-4; <sup>16</sup> Psalm 100 and Ephesians 5:18-20; <sup>17</sup> 2 Timothy 4:2; <sup>18</sup> Matthew 19:14;

<sup>19</sup> 1 Timothy 4:12; <sup>20</sup> Matthew 28:18-20 and Titus 3:14; <sup>21</sup> Acts 1:8; <sup>22</sup> Matthew 24:14; <sup>23</sup> 1 Corinthians 16:19, Colossians 4:15 and Philemon 1:2; <sup>24</sup> Acts 6:17 and Philippians 1:1; <sup>25</sup> 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9;

<sup>26</sup> 1 Timothy 3:8-13; <sup>27</sup> 2 Corinthians 13:1; <sup>28</sup> Romans 12:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:18; and <sup>29</sup> Ephesians 4:3-4



## CHAPTER 7

### STEP 5 SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM “GO”

(Team up with others to establish God’s Kingdom in all nations)

As they met from house to house they worked together as a team to make sure everyone in their community heard *the good news about Jesus*. When they sought God, He spoke to them to send out teams of men to spread *His Kingdom*. These teams went forth traveling from place to place, often by foot. They shared about *Jesus* and *His Eternal Kingdom*. Sometimes they were well received. More often they were beaten, stoned, or imprisoned. New believers were taught about their personal walk with *The Lord*. The basic Bible principles of how they were to live as a Christian, as a family and as part of God’s Family, The Church, were explained to them. They were encouraged to share *Jesus* with others and help new believers understand the things they had learned about the Christian Life. When they had equipped the new converts to live for *The Eternal Kingdom* the team would leave. After a period of time they would return and appoint elders from among the faithful men that they found living out the principles they had shared. They prayed committing the new local fellowship to *The Lord* and then moved on to plant *The Eternal Kingdom* in other places. These Apostolic Mission Teams were the main means by which the early New Testament church grew. No one thought of it as their own “ministry.” They saw themselves as part of a larger team, The Church. It was never their work, but God’s ministry through them. All the glory and credit went to Him. They could not take personal credit for anything that happened. It was always His work, and He would maintain it after they were gone.<sup>1</sup>

#### THE APOSTOLIC TEAM

Several years ago, I stood on a high bluff overlooking the Arabian Sea. As I watched, a whole village worked together to pull in a net of fish. Some were in boats. Some were in the surf. Some were on the shore. All were working together as a team to bring in this huge net of fish. From the scriptures, we know this is the type of fishing **Jesus** was talking about when he said he would make us “fishers of men.” God wants us to **team up with others as we**

**seek to establish *His Eternal Kingdom* in the hearts of people. This helps make reaching people with *The Good News* a work of God and not of men.**

As we have just said, catching large amounts of fish takes teamwork. **The Church, The Body of Christ**, is the team God commissioned to catch the harvest of souls He wants for **His Kingdom**. **Jesus** is the team captain. As we shared in chapter 6, it is not an organization, but a living organism guided by God's Spirit. He has gifted some people as equippers who are to train the team how to work together to bring in the harvest. Their purpose is to encourage, instruct, and correct the team members so they will learn to keep their eyes on **Jesus** and fulfill His purpose for them as part of the team. These equippers are to be a living example of what it means to wholeheartedly follow **Christ**. They are not to control; but to serve **The Church** so it will follow the directions of the captain, **Jesus**. These equippers are the ones who make up **The Apostolic Mission Teams**. He leads people with the same heart and vision to come together to form an **Apostolic Team** and work for **The Eternal Kingdom**. Some New Testament examples are Paul and Silas and Peter and John.

An **Apostolic Mission Team** is a group of three to twelve trained and equipped people who team up to bring the Gospel to a particular place or people group. It is guided by two men of equal spiritual maturity. The Apostolic Team is usually sent out from a local church to plant **The Church** in unreached areas, or to strengthen existing fellowships. Throughout the New Testament most people doing ministry outside **The Local Church** were part of a team.

An **Apostolic Team** is usually made up of people who have at least one of the five equipping ministry gifts. The **Apostle** gives oversight and leadership to **The Apostolic Mission team** so they will properly lay the spiritual foundation of a **Local Church Fellowship** which is focused on **The Kingdom**. The **Prophet** assists in laying the foundation of a **Local Fellowship** by confirming the words God is speaking and warning of dangers and problems. The **Evangelist** leads people to a commitment to live for **Jesus** and trains other followers of **Jesus** to do the same. The **Pastor** is concerned with seeing that all the needs of the people are met and teaches other members of **The Local Fellowship** to do the same. The **Teacher** guides and nourishes people in The Word and basic Bible

**Apostolic Missions Teams**  
(Plant Churches & Strengthen existing churches)



Apostle



Prophet



Evangelist



Pastor



Teacher

principles and teaches fellowship members how to disciple people. **An apostolic team member may function in more than one equipping gift.**<sup>2</sup>

*I have a friend who had a radical conversion experience. From the time he gave his heart to Jesus he studied The Bible and ministered to the people around him. In a few years, he and his family were sent out by a local fellowship to fulfill his life's purpose.*

*His calling was to break the spirit of religion over Central America and Mexico and **establish The Eternal Kingdom in the hearts of the people there.** God sovereignly gave him fluent Spanish. He trusted God to supply his needs and teamed up with native believers. He preached all the way from Costa Rica to Northern Guatemala, establishing **The Kingdom** wherever he went. He did this by sharing **The Good News of The Kingdom** in almost every village and crossroad. After much prayer God sent him to Mexico. Not knowing where to go he spun the map of Mexico around, threw it in the air, closed his eyes and placed his finger on it. Three times he did this, and three times it landed on Chekubul. If you were going to pick a place to begin reaching the state of Campeche, Mexico for **Christ**, it probably would not be Chekubul. It was a small, remote village in the middle of nowhere. But, he went and did what he always did, preached **The Kingdom** and ministered to the people.*

*The works God started through him were indigenous. They were not dependent on American missionaries or American money. His heart for **The Kingdom** lit a fire in people's hearts, and they reproduced what they saw him doing. Forty years have passed since he started God's work in Chekubul. The stronghold of religion has been broken over much of Central America and Mexico. Hundreds of church fellowships can trace their roots to his ministry. In the state of Campeche over 50% of the population have received **eternal life** and have a personal relationship with **Jesus**. My friend has gone to be with **The Lord**, but his life continues to be a living testimony to what God can do through those who team up to go with **The Good News of The Kingdom.***

## BECOMING PART OF AN APOSTOLIC TEAM

God is looking for those who are willing to lay down their lives for the sake of The Gospel. People who go out as part of a mission team should already be involved in outreach in their local area. Is there a team reaching out to the unreached in your community? Pray about becoming part of that team. If there is not a team, pray about starting a team. If God confirms it to your heart, approach the leaders of your fellowship about starting a team. When God verifies it begin to organize the team. Pray that God will give you at least two other people who will team up with you to share ***The Good News of The Kingdom***. Get together with those who have committed to the team and pray and fast about the outreaches you need to do. Make sure that all the members of the team have been adequately equipped in the basic Bible principles of personal life, family life, church life, evangelism, and discipleship. Begin by prayer walking the place God puts on your heart to reach. Reach out to the area as the Holy Spirit leads you. Be sure to disciple any new converts ***The Lord*** gives you. Remember to pray for your team and its goals before going to sleep at night. It will keep them fresh in your heart and mind. Get together with the other team members weekly to pray and seek God's plan for the work you are doing. After you have had experience doing outreach on a local level, pray with your local fellowship about the possibility of reaching out to an unreached area or people group in another part of the world. If God releases you, go as part of a team. Do not go alone. Many people fail as missionaries because they do not minister as part of a team.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

There was never a more critical time for **The Church** to move in power and spread **God's Kingdom** around the world than now. He is going to do it through teams of men and women who are willing to lay down their lives to see **His Eternal Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven**. **Jesus** said, "**The Good news of The Kingdom** will be preached to all nations." Many have still not heard. Is God calling you to be part of a team to reach the unreached of the world? Are you doing what you need to do so you will be prepared to go when He calls?

### References:

<sup>1</sup> The Book of Acts; and <sup>2</sup> Ephesians 4:11-16

## CHAPTER 8

### STEP 6

#### MINISTER THE KINGDOM

(Meet the needs of those around you in Jesus' name)

**The early Church followed the example of *Jesus*, the one who died for them. They reached out to the whole person: body, soul, & spirit. They ministered life to those around them by what they said and what they did. They didn't desire to have more than someone else but wanted everyone's needs to be met. That is why they sold their excess and gave it to the leaders of The Church so they could give it to those in need in The Church and in the community. When they didn't have anything to give, they gave the most important thing, *Jesus*. People were healed as they walked by, or as they spoke a word to someone in need. People saw *The Eternal Kingdom*. They knew God loved them, had a purpose for their life, and would meet their every need. They joined The Church thousands at a time.<sup>1</sup>**

#### MEETING NEEDS

**Ministering to needs is the step in God's plan for *The Eternal Kingdom* that touches society the most. *Jesus* said, "freely you have received freely give." Those who truly know God understand that there is no lack in *The Kingdom*. God is the ultimate owner of everything, and He has promised to "meet all our needs according to His riches in glory in *Christ Jesus*."<sup>2</sup> We can never outgive God. He is a good God, giving us what we do not deserve, and He does not desire that we receive the bad things we have earned by our sinful life style.**

Every person who came to ***Jesus*** received from Him. Whether it was the words of eternal life, healing, deliverance from demonic oppression, deliverance from death, or a meal in the wilderness, they all received what they needed.<sup>3</sup>

Today many people look not to God, but to government for their needs to be met. This is because **The Church** has failed to minister to the needs of people around us as God intended for us to do. We shared in chapter 4 about how our personal life style as a believer should be

one of living to give rather than living to get. Ministering to the needs of those God sends our way each day should be an automatic part of our daily routine.<sup>4</sup> Beyond that, there needs to be a cooperative effort on the part of **The Local Church** to minister to the needs of the community where they are located. Whether it's crime, drugs, drunkenness, broken homes, teen pregnancy, joblessness, poverty, homelessness or any other problem in society, **The Church** should be the one with God's plan meeting the need in the name of **Jesus**.

It begins with the members of **The Local Church** committing their time, talents, and resources to **establish God's Kingdom on earth**. Next, **The Church** needs to receive God's plan for meeting the needs around them during their time with God. The plan needs to be continuously soaked in prayer and implemented according to the leading of the Holy Spirit. The underlying motive for all that is done must be to **establish God's Kingdom in the hearts of people**. Our hearts desire should not be that we have more than someone else, but that everyone's needs be met.<sup>5</sup>

Remember, **Jesus said in Matthew 10:7-8**

**<sup>7</sup>Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. <sup>8</sup>Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received! (NLT)**

**In John 14:12 He said:**

**Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. (NKJV)**

You may be saying to yourself, "I cannot do these things." Well, you are right. You cannot, but God will do them through you. As you spend quiet time with God and live as part of **The Eternal Kingdom** you will grow to know God. He will increase your faith daily as you are obedient to His Spirit. **Jesus promised in John 15:7**

**But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! (NLT)**

**In Matthew 17:20 Jesus said:**

**“I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.” (NLT)**

How do we get that kind of faith? **In Romans 10:17 the scriptures tell us:**

**So, faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. (NLT)**

If we truly believe what God is saying, the words we hear will become actions. Daily we will take advantage of the opportunities God brings to us to meet the needs of people in ***Jesus’*** name.<sup>3</sup> As we are obedient and see God meet needs, our faith will increase. **In James 2:14-17 the scriptures say:**

**<sup>14</sup> What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?<sup>15</sup> Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing,<sup>16</sup> and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?**

**<sup>17</sup> So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. (NLT)**

As we shared in Chapter 1, people want to find real answers to their problems. When you ***become part of God’s Kingdom and fulfill your purpose as God’s priest and king***, you will overcome every problem and challenge you face. As you overcome, your faith will increase. You will be able to meet the needs of the people God brings to you. As this happens, other people will see ***The Eternal Kingdom***. Many will want to become part of it.

*The friend I mentioned in chapter 7 was preaching in a fellowship in Texas. In the middle of the service a man collapsed to the floor. There was a doctor there who checked the man and pronounced him dead. Most people would have called for an ambulance. Instead my friend spoke to the man and he rose from the dead. How did this happen? My friend had been faithful to God on his journey through Central America and Mexico. As he was faithful, his faith increased. He knew God would answer when he spoke.*

The Katrina disaster on the Mississippi Gulf Coast is a good example of the power and influence **The Church** can have when it ministers to needs. The majority of the relief effort was led by **The Church**. Followers of **Jesus** from all over the world worked together regardless of affiliation. People's lives were touched, and souls saved as **The Church** ministered to physical and spiritual needs.

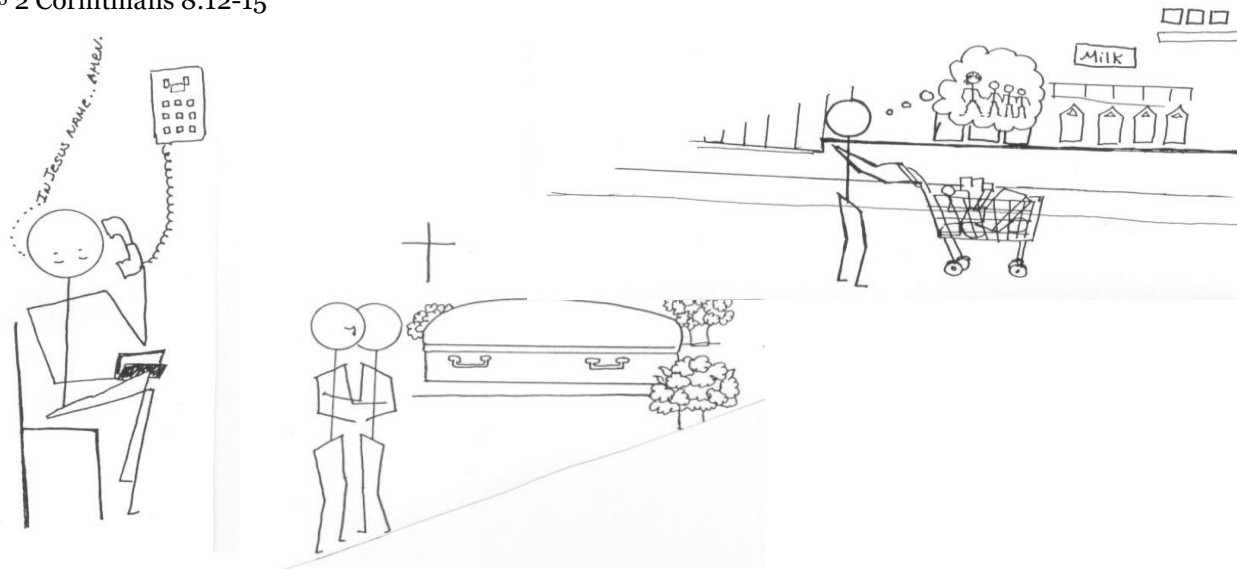
These are examples of what can happen when **The Church** seeks to minister to the needs of people individually and cooperatively.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

If **The Church** will minister to the needs of this world under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, then we will see doors open for **His Eternal Kingdom** to be established in the hearts of people in record numbers. Have you committed your time, talents, and resources to establish **God's Kingdom on earth**? Are you taking advantage of the opportunities you have daily to minister to people's needs in **Jesus**' name? Has your local fellowship received God's plan for meeting the needs around them during their times with Him? Are you continuously soaking that plan in prayer and implementing it according to the leading of the Holy Spirit?

### References:

- <sup>1</sup> Acts chapters 1-4; <sup>2</sup>Philippians 4:19; <sup>3</sup>The Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; <sup>4</sup> Galatians 6:10; and  
<sup>5</sup> 2 Corinthians 8:12-15





**WE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE THE KINGDOM BY MINISTERING TO THE SPIRITUAL,  
MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL, & MATERIAL NEEDS OF PEOPLE.**

## **CONCLUSION**

### **THE END OF ALL THINGS (as we know it)**

**The task is complete. The Church has won the victory. All that can be redeemed of this creation has been redeemed. The kingdoms of this world have become *The Kingdom of The Lord Jesus Christ*.<sup>1</sup> Suddenly there is a great noise. The whole universe explodes in flame as God moves all that is eternal from time to eternity leaving a big black hole.<sup>2</sup> The Church, The Bride of Christ descends from the *Eternal* Heaven to The *Eternal* Earth. She is The New Jerusalem made up of living gold, silver and precious stones. Those who are part of *The Eternal Kingdom* inherit everything.<sup>3</sup> They are eternally in God's blessed presence.<sup>4</sup>**

**What is *The Eternal Kingdom*? It is *God's eternal life* manifested in the hearts of His people. They are The Body of Christ, God's instrument to bring *God's will on Earth as it is in Heaven*.**

***The Eternal Kingdom* will last forever. Everything else of this world is temporary. The question we need to ask ourselves is, are we part of *The Eternal Kingdom*? Have we made *Jesus* our *Lord and Savior*? Is what we are doing with our life *fulfilling God's purpose for us* and building *His Kingdom*, or are we just living to please ourselves?**

**In His Word God has made the steps in bringing *The Eternal Kingdom to Earth as it is in Heaven* plain. It begins with spending time with God and hearing and obeying what He wants us to do each day. An outgrowth of our time with *Jesus* will be telling others each day about what He's doing in our life. When people receive *Jesus* as a result of our witness we will want to help them grow in their relationship with Him. As we fellowship with Him we will want to fellowship with those around us who know and love Him. This will**

strengthen them and us. As a result of this strengthening there will be a desire to reach out to those who have not heard ***The Good News of The Kingdom***. The immensity of the task will lead us to team up with others to see it happen. As we go, God will provide opportunities to show His love and power by ministering to the needs of people we meet. As we minister to these needs some people will respond and surrender their hearts to ***Jesus***. Thus, ***The Eternal Kingdom*** grows each day until ***Jesus*** comes.

## GETTING IT ALL

Becoming part of ***The Eternal Kingdom*** involves a journey that begins at The Cross and ends up with a crown.<sup>5</sup> **In John 12:25 Jesus said: “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”** (NKJV) **IN AN AGE WHEN MEN STRIVE FOR SO MANY THINGS it is good to remember THERE IS ONLY ONE THING OF REAL VALUE, *THE ETERNAL KINGDOM*.** ***Those who live for The Eternal Kingdom end up with it all. "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son;"*** Revelation **21:7** (NKJV). It is our prayer that you have given your heart and soul to ***Jesus, The Eternal King***, and are living for ***His Eternal Kingdom***.

### References:

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 11:15; <sup>2</sup> 2 Peter 3:7 and 10-13; <sup>3</sup> Revelation 21:7; <sup>4</sup> 1Thessalonians 4:17; and <sup>5</sup> 2 Timothy 4:7-8

The Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14 (NLT)

**You have only one life. It will soon be past.**

**Only what is done for *Christ* will last.**

We have a series of books on our website [basicministries.com](http://basicministries.com). They are available at no charge and will help you grow to know God and live as part of ***The Eternal Kingdom***.

For more information

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## **APPENDIX**

AN OLD SAINT WHO HAD LIVED FOR ***THE ETERNAL KINGDOM*** GAVE ME THIS LIST. IT WAS GIVEN BY ***THE LORD JESUS***, AS HE SPOKE TO THE SAINTS IN SHANTUNG CHINA, DURING THE 1930'S. AFTER OBEYING WHAT GOD GAVE; PEOPLE SAW ***THE KINGDOM MANIFEST***; AS PEOPLE WERE SAVED, HEALED, DELIVERED, AND RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

### **HEART SEARCHING PRAYER**

#### **TO PREPARE YOU TO LIVE AS PART OF *THE ETERNAL KINGDOM*.**

Psalms 139:23-24: "Search me, O God and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

CONFESSION OF SIN IS NECESSARY FOR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND TO ***MANIFEST THE KINGDOM AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE***. Prayerfully consider the following questions. Go through the questions one by one. Answer each question truthfully. Every "Yes" answer means sin in your life.

IN READING THESE QUESTIONS, AS YOU ARE CONVICTED OF SIN, CONFESS IT AT ONCE TO GOD, BE WILLING TO MAKE IT RIGHT...THEN YOU CAN CLAIM CLEANSING AND FORGIVENESS. 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

BE SURE TO NAME YOUR SIN TO GOD, AS..."LORD, I HAVE NOT PUT YOU FIRST IN MY PLANS," OR "I HAVE NEGLECTED YOUR WORK AND PRAYER." DO NOT MAKE THE LEAST EXCUSE FOR SIN OF ANY KIND IN YOUR LIFE. Proverbs 28:13: "He that covers his sins shall not prosper but who confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy."

No matter what others do, or do not do, Christian, leave nothing undone on your part. God wants to work through you to bring about a great spiritual awakening. He can begin by you fulfilling every requirement shown by the Lord through the Holy Spirit and His Word. A

transformation from the presence of the Lord begins today, IF YOU DESIRE IT. Read the scriptures first, Ask the question, and give a truthful answer; "YES" or NO".

1. Matthew 6:12-15: Is there anyone against whom you hold a grudge? Anyone you haven't forgiven? Anyone you hate? Anyone you do not love? Are there any mis-understandings that you are unwilling to forget? Is there any person against whom you are harboring bitterness, resentment, or jealousy? Anyone you dislike to hear praised or well spoken of? Do you allow anything to justify a wrong attitude toward another?
2. Matthew 6:33: Is there anything in which you have failed to put God first? Have your decisions been made after your own wisdom and desires rather than by seeking and following God's will? Do any of the following in any way interfere with your surrender and service to God: ambition, pleasures, loved ones, friendships, desire for recognition, money, your own plans?
3. Mark 1:17: Have you failed to seek the lost for Christ? Have you failed to witness consistently with your mouth for the Lord Jesus Christ? Has your life not shown the Lord Jesus to the lost?
4. John 13:35: Are you secretly pleased over the misfortunes of another? Are you secretly annoyed over the accomplishments or advancements of another? Are you guilty of any contention or strife? Do you quarrel, argue or engage in heated discussions? Are you a partner in any divisions, or party spirit? Are there people whom you deliberately slight?
5. Malachi 3:10: Have you robbed God by withholding His due of time, talents and money? Have you given less than a tenth of your income for God's work? Have you failed to support mission work either in prayer or in offerings?
6. 1 Corinthians 4:2: Are you undependable so that you cannot be trusted with responsibilities in the Lord's work? Are you allowing your emotions to be stirred for things of the Lord but doing nothing about it?
7. 1 Corinthians 6:12-20: Are you in any way careless with your body? Do you fail to care for it as the temple of the Holy Spirit? Are you guilty of intemperance in eating or drinking? Do

you have any habits that are defiling to the body?

8. 1 Corinthians 10:31: Do you take the slightest credit for anything good about you rather than give all the glory to God? Do you talk of what you have done rather than of what Christ has done? Are your statements mostly about "I"? Are your feelings easily hurt? Have you made a pretense of being something that you are not?

9. Ephesians 3:20: Are you self-conscious rather than Christ conscious? Do you allow feelings of inferiority to keep you from attempting things you should in serving the Lord?

10. Ephesians 4:28: Do you underpay? Do you do very little in your work? Have you been careless in the payment of your debts? Have you sought to evade payment of debts? Do you waste time of others?

11. Ephesians 4:31: Do you complain? Do you find fault? Do you have a critical attitude toward any person or thing? Are you irritable or cranky? Do you ever carry hidden anger? Do you get angry? Do you become impatient with others? Are you ever harsh or unkind?

12. Ephesians 5:20: Have you neglected to thank Him for all things, the seemingly bad as well as the good? Have you virtually called God a liar by doubting His Word? Do you worry? Is your spiritual temperature based on your feelings instead of on the facts of God's Word?

13. Ephesians 5:16: Do you listen to unedifying radio or TV programs? Do you read unworthy magazines? Do you partake in worldly amusements? Do you find it necessary to seek satisfaction from any questionable source? Are you doing certain things that show that you are not satisfied in the Lord Jesus Christ?

14. Philippians 1:21: Are you taken up with the cares of this life? Is your conversation for heart joy over "things" rather than the Lord and His Word? Does anything mean more to you than living for and pleasing Christ?

15. Philippians 2:14: Do you ever, by word or deed, seek to hurt someone? Do you ever gossip? Do you speak unkindly concerning people when they are not present? Do you carry prejudice against true Christians because they are of some different group than you are, or

because they do not see everything exactly like you do?

16. Philippians 4:4: Have you neglected to seek to be pleasing to Him in all things? Do you carry any bitterness toward God? Have you complained against Him in any way? Have you been dissatisfied with His provision for you? Is there in your heart any unwilling-ness to obey God fully? Do you have any reservations as to what you would or would not do concerning anything that might be His will? Have you disobeyed some direct leading from Him?

17. Colossians 3:5-9: Do you engage in empty and unprofitable conversation? Do you ever lie? Do you ever exaggerate? Cheat? Steal? Carefully consider...Do you overcharge?

18. 2 Timothy 2:22: Do you have any personal habits that are not pure? Do you ever allow impure thoughts about the opposite sex to stay in your mind? Do you read that which is impure or suggests unholy things? Do you indulge in any unclean entertainment? Are you guilty of the lustful look?

19. Hebrews 10:25: Do you stay away from meetings of the preaching of the gospel? Do you whisper, or think about other things while God's word is being read or preached? Are you irregular in attendance at services? Do you neglect to attend or participate in meetings of prayer? Have you neglected or slighted daily or private prayer? Have you neglected God's word? Do you find the Bible and prayer uninteresting? Have you neglected thanksgiving at meals? Have you neglected daily family devotions?

20. Hebrews 13:17: Do you hesitate to submit to leaders in the church or elsewhere? Are you lazy? Do you rebel at requests given you to help in the work of the Gospel? Do you in anyway have a stubborn or unteachable spirit?

21. James 1:27: Have you allowed yourself to become "spotted" by the world? Is your manner of dress pleasing to God? Do you spend beyond what is pleasing to God on anything? Do you neglect to pray about things that you buy?

22. James 4:6: Do you feel that you are doing quite well as a Christian? That you are not so bad? That you are good enough? Are you stubborn? Do you insist on having your own way? Do you insist on your "rights"?

23. James 4:11: Have you dishonored Him, and hindered His work by criticizing His servants? Have you failed to pray regularly for your pastor or other spiritual leaders? Do you find it hard to be corrected? Is there rebellion toward one who wants to restore you? Are you more concerned about what people will think than what will be pleasing to God?

IF YOU HAVE BEEN HONEST AND TRUE IN THE MATTER OF ADMITTING YOUR SINS, THEN YOU ARE READY FOR GOD'S CLEANSING. Sins that are admitted are sins that are confessed.

Remember these three things:

1. If the sin is against God, confess it to God and make things right with God.
2. If the sin is against another person, confess it to God then make things right with that person.
3. If the sin is against a group, confess it to God then make things right with the group.

IF THERE IS FULL CONFESSION, THERE WILL BE FULL CLEANSING: THE JOY OF THE LORD WILL COME, THEN THERE CAN BE TESTIMONY AND PRAYER IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TRANSFORMATION WILL FOLLOW.

Psalms 19:12; "Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults."

IN AN AGE WHEN MEN STRIVE FOR SO MANY THINGS  
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING OF REAL VALUE,  
***THE ETERNAL KINGDOM***

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