

FOUNDATION SIX

KINGDOM LIVING

NEW NATURE CHURCH

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THE KINGDOM IS NOW

Many Christians believe that the kingdom of God is in heaven or going to take place when Jesus returns. Jesus clearly shows us that the kingdom is already here on earth. The kingdom is what happens every time we live from a heavenly perspective. A transition from the gospel of salvation, to the gospel of the kingdom moves us from an escapist theology of “get me to heaven” to one where we live for the opportunity to bring heaven to earth with influence over every area of society.

“One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will the Kingdom of God come?” Jesus replied, “The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you.” Luke 17:20-21

Read & Discuss

- Matthew 6:9-10
- Matthew 10:7-8
- 1 Corinthians 4:20

HEAVEN

TO EARTH

HOW DO WE BECOME CARRIERS OF THE KINGDOM?

In John 3:1-21, Nicodemus a teacher of the religious law decides to search out Jesus and ask him a few sincere questions.

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” (John 3:3) And, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.” (John 3:5)

We cannot bring the Kingdom of Heaven here to earth by our own efforts. We must be a new creation in Christ, having seen our old man put to death through the waters of baptism, and living as a new, Spirit filled creation. In baptism we identify and partake in the Lord’s death and resurrection and in doing so we have union with Christ - becoming one with him. The Kingdom is a present reality for followers of Jesus.

“We therefore were buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4

“If you can change a man’s perspective you can change his whole life.” – Dan Mohler

PERSPECTIVE

The point of view or position from which you see something changes the way you think and act. If our point of view is that we live and then we die, we will live selfish lives for our own pleasure and gain. If we view what Jesus did on the cross as only forgiving us of our sins, we will live lives trying our best to be good people waiting for heaven when we will finally enter the kingdom. However, if our view point is that Jesus’ death on the cross not only freed us from sin, but also enabled us to be totally transformed, adopted into God’s family and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, then we will bring His Kingdom here on earth every day, just as Jesus did while he was here on earth!

When you become a follower of Jesus you no longer have a worldview but a “KINGDOM VIEW”. What if we saw everything from a kingdom view - an eternal perspective?

“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

John 17:3

Eternal life is not living for ever, it is a relationship. Our perspective becomes an eternal one when we come into relationship with Christ.

There is a saying that “All roads lead to Rome”. This originates from the time when Rome was the largest known empire in the world. Not all roads actually lead to Rome. What happened was that Caesar would conquer a new town and then order it to be made to look just like Rome. The idea was that you could go to any town in the Roman Empire and see and experience the same things as you would if you were in Rome itself.

We have been given a similar task here on earth. We are to go about our daily lives making earth look like the Kingdom of Heaven. We heal the sick, we give hope to the hopeless, we rescue the lost and connect them to the Father.

“Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: Be reconciled to God.”

2 Corinthians 5:20

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WHAT DOES THE KINGDOM LOOK LIKE?

105 times Jesus speaks about the Kingdom in the gospels. The word “kingdom” derives from the words king’s domain – when the king would set foot onto new conquered territory it became the king’s domain (his kingdom).

The kingdom of God looks like us living from a place of righteousness, peace and joy, no matter what life circumstances we face. For example, Jesus was able to find joy as he went to the cross (Hebrews 12:2). The apostles rejoiced that they had been considered worthy of suffering for the name of Jesus (Acts 5:41). Jesus slept through the storm, completely at peace (Matthew 8:23-27). All of these situations if we take a worldly perspective should be met with stress and anxiety, but if we have a kingdom perspective we can have peace and joy in all circumstances.

Read Romans 14:17

When we put the kingdom of God first instead of trying to meet all of our own earthly needs, we find all of our other needs are supplied.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Matthew 6:33

We have been given the keys and have authority here on earth as Sons of God. This means that part of our kingdom purpose is to make earth look like heaven. We can release the kingdom of heaven everywhere we go, and similarly when we come across something that is not part of the Kingdom of God, we have authority to tie it up spiritually so it is ineffective.

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:19

The Kingdom of God is good news to the lost. Every area of their lives that has been hopeless, is now filled with hope. Even sickness has to bow to those carrying the kingdom within them! Part of kingdom living if we follow the example of Jesus, is telling people the good news about the kingdom and healing the sick.

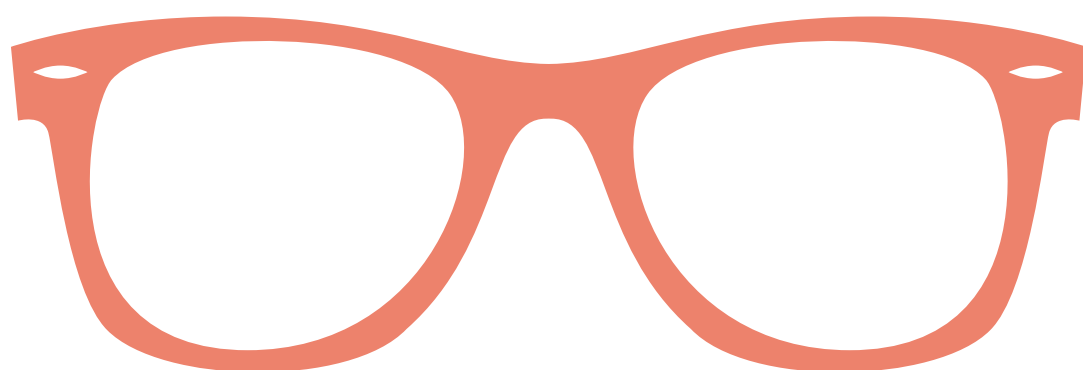
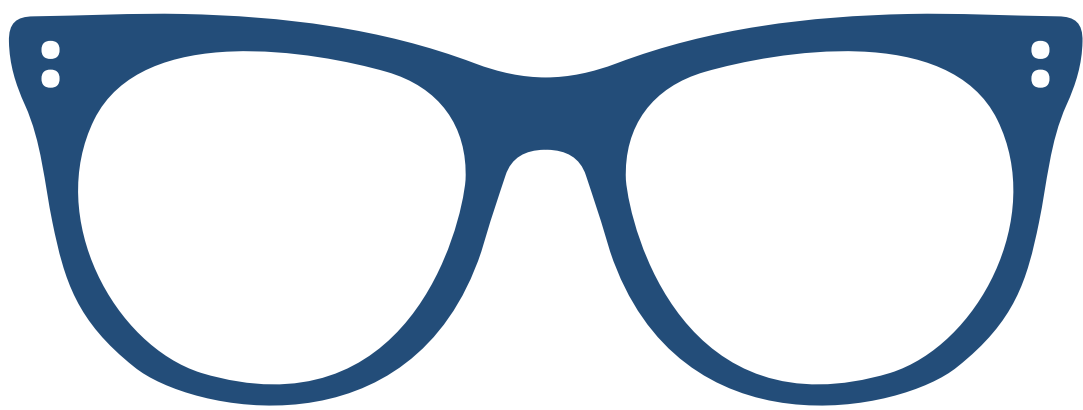
“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.”

Matthew 4:23

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As citizens of the kingdom, when we try and go back to having a world view (seeing as the world sees) it becomes a distorted reality, as if we are putting on and seeing through someone else's glasses.

In 2 Kings 6:8-18 a prophet called Elisha and his servant were surrounded by an enemy army. The servant looked at the situation with his earthly eyes and said "oh no what shall we do?" Elisha saw the situation differently through spiritual eyes and prayed for his servant's eyes to be opened to see what was really happening. God opens his spiritual eyes and then he sees an army of angels. Elisha sees from a kingdom view, the servant from a world view. One is a defeated perspective, the other victorious.



**THE KINGDOM IS QUITE A
DIFFERENT VIEW THAN THE
WORLD:**

**LOSE LIFE AND YOU WILL
FIND IT (MATTHEW 16:25)**

**IT'S BETTER TO GIVE THAN
TO RECEIVE (ACTS 20:35)**

**BLESS THOSE WHO
PERSECUTE YOU
(ROMANS 12:14)**

**LOVE YOUR ENEMIES
(MATTHEW 5:44)**

**LEND TO PEOPLE EXPECTING
NOTHING IN RETURN
(LUKE 6:34)**

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WE CARRY KINGDOM AUTHORITY

Jesus said in his name we will do greater things than he did while he was on the earth. Part of living in the kingdom is that we bring kingdom authority and power to every situation we face.

Read John 14:12-14 and Luke 9:1

Jesus said these signs will identify those who believe in me.

“And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

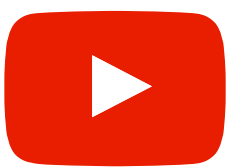
Mark 16:17-18

Our perspective is now from heaven and our authority is from the throne room where we are seated!

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 2:6

So that's it! Know where you are positioned, the reality you live from, and start bringing heaven to earth today.



Watch an discuss Eric Ludy -The Gospel by clicking [here](#)

QUESTIONS

- 1) How can you begin living from the kingdom perspective and mindset today?
- 2) What part of your current thinking must change to enable this?
- 3) What can you expect in and through your life as you live from this perspective?

