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FIRST THINGS FIRST



How to seek first the Kingdom of God

Whispers of Grace



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INTRODUCTION

A War Ship in the Dock

Sitting near the window, enjoying the heat of the sun beaming unto my face, quietly meditating on God's Word, and thanking him for his goodness and faithfulness, I was being drawn into a beautiful sense of peace.

Each morning, as I would take time to sit and to be still, I began to hear the gentle 'whisper' of my name, at first it was very gentle, yet drawing me deeper into such a beautiful peace, I became more and more aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit. I quickly learned to keep a notebook and pen close, to write what I would hear.

To begin with, I questioned if this was just my imagination, but there was always something that I knew was not of my own thinking, something that had never entered my conscious thoughts before.

For example, when I heard, the message I'm about to share with you and I heard these words "People are trying to use authority but it is no more than ideas and strategies. They are saying the right words but standing in the wrong position – like a war ship in the dock." I had no idea, what that meant. I write everything just as I hear it, and then later the confirmation, knowledge and insight will come.

Later that evening, my husband was watching a history program about a war ship, which had been decommissioned and was now being used as a museum.

It was stationed in the dock, where people could come aboard to see what it was like during the war. It was now nothing more than a tourist attraction!

This gave me a picture of what I had heard earlier that day, and my understanding was flooded with revelation, as I realised what God had been saying to me.

I made up my mind, that I didn't want to be something that is 'decommissioned' but 'commissioned' fully armed and ready for battle.

As I continue to study the Gospel of the Kingdom, I am constantly challenged, as I realise that much of what we are taught in today's 'Christian Teaching' is not quite lining up with the message running throughout the scriptures.

I wanted to discover more, because I desired to experience more of God's power in my own life as well as reaching out to others.

I was willing to be challenged, are you?

I was willing to press through; after all, it was Jesus who had taught us to seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.

I didn't want to seek the things of this world; rather I wanted to seek 'this kingdom' that Jesus talked about. I knew I had no righteousness of my own, and I wanted to both understand and experience his righteousness in my life.

I had heard many preachers say, "If you want to hear God's voice then read his Word".

I began to read the bible faithfully and prayerfully every day. I had never read the bible completely cover to cover before. I started following a plan to read the bible in 90 days, and was truly amazed, finding so many commonly quoted scriptures, which had been taken out of context.

Each time I finish reading through the Bible, I am gripped with a greater sense of The Kingdom Message.

I want to share some thoughts with you and pray that you will also be challenged, to discover more about the Kingdom of God and your place in his Kingdom.

I have no words to describe what a difference it has made in my life, since making the commitment to read the Bible. At first it was not easy, as I wasn't someone who loved to read. Yet, I fell in love with the heart of God, as it was being revealed through the pages of the Bible.

I pray that you also will be inspired to read more of your bible with an open heart and ear to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

NOTE: The Word of God is much more than just the books of the Bible. The bible is full of examples that reveal the perfect heart of Father God, the deceitful heart of mankind and the solution to this great division provided through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. When we refer to the 'Word of God' we are not talking about just quoting scriptures, but we are referring to the revealed Will of God. Throughout the Bible, God's thoughts and his ways are beautifully made known to anyone who will read with a true heart of worship. Remember the Bible is NOT a religious book. If you read it through the lens of 'Religion' you will only be confused.

We must open the book to read – BUT – it is the Holy Spirit who opens the book to us!

Whispers of Grace

Your voice O Lord Comes to me
Like a whisper of a gentle breeze
I stand still and listen
I stand still and listen
For your words are life to me
Yes your words, are life to me

And like the sun breaking through the clouds
You light the way for me
Yes you light the way for me
And like the sun shining on my face
I feel your warm embrace

After writing this little song, I chose the name
'Whispers Of Grace' for our teaching and outreach
ministry. Links to the YouTube Channel can be found
on our website www.whispers-of-grace.uk

‘Whispers of Grace’ (the words I heard during my prayer time)

The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of Light. That light is revelation. It is more than just knowledge, it is revelation knowledge with wisdom and truth. My LIGHT shines above all else, and this revelation knowledge is key; it is what sets my Kingdom apart and distinguishes my people.

My Children are known for the revelation they walk in. Because revelation is – ACTING upon revealed knowledge and inspiration – IT IS SEEN and it causes change.

There is NO AUTHORITY without REVELATION.

People are trying to use authority but it is no more than ideas and strategies. They are saying the right words but standing in the wrong position – like a war ship in the dock.

Revelation is KEY. Know me and know my Kingdom. Know me, know my words, and know my plans. Continue in me, learn of me, and know my heart. Only when you know me will you know who you really are, because I created you and without knowing me you cannot fully know who you are. As you know me and I am revealed to you and in you, so you will be revealed – you will discover who I created you to be.

Many are seeking to know who they are without first knowing me. You will function only as whole as you allow me to be revealed to you and in you. You are incomplete without me.

Like a King, all are called to serve and worship him within his domain, but not all can come into the throne room, many will never taste the wonders of his table or experience the majesty of his presence. But those who are servants will come near and those who are sons will come boldly.

Many of my children are living as strangers, watching from a distance, hiding their faces from me. Not knowing that they have been called to become sons, heirs of the Father and joint heirs with the Son. They don't come and sit down to feast at my table, they don't come to worship and bow at my feet, because they don't know me and because they have not heard or seen any other way than, man's attempt to know me through religious traditions.

I am calling, but few are able to recognise and distinguish my voice. They that wait on me are truly blessed. They that listen to my counsel are highly favoured. They that are willing and obedient will be filled.

You Represent me at all times – be aware of my Name – at all times.

You are subject to me only. Bow to me only. Worship me only.

CHAPTER 1

LIFE'S PRIORITY 'FIRST THINGS FIRST'

For years I lived my life from day to day, not really having any proper structure or routine. Many times I felt that my life was out of control and I was being swept along by all sorts of trials and problems.

I remember saying things like “just stop the world and let me catch up!”

I always felt pressured and pushed into making decisions. Worry and stress never seemed to be far from my thoughts.

In studying the Gospel of the Kingdom, I realised that much of that stress and pressure was because of a lack of understanding.

I suppose the best way I could describe it, is by saying I was living every day in survival mode.

Unfortunately, survival mode for me was to bury my emotions and fight on, eventually coming to breaking point because of exhaustion.

The greatest thing I have discovered about the Gospel of the Kingdom is that it really isn't as complicated as men have made it.

Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God, he gave us examples and stories to help us understand. He even told us what the 'priority' of our lives should be.

That priority is not to stress about what we will eat or what we shall wear instead it is to SEEK FIRST His Kingdom and His Righteousness.

I have to be honest, even though I loved God and served him the best I knew, I did not always, SEEK FIRST his ways. There were many other things that demanded my attention.

I was disciplined enough to read my bible and pray, a little every day. But I didn't have the direction and focus required to make a real change in my life.

It's hard to do something that you don't know how to do or why you should do it.

Over time the years of worry and stress began to show in my physical health, causing pain, sickness and disease.

I had experienced God's peace, like gentle showers, some greater than others from time to time. Yet I desired to know and experience his peace and presence, like a constant flowing river.

I wasn't looking for a life without trials or challenges, I simply wanted to experience more of God's great promises and peace in my life.

I desired to discover his purpose for my life. That purpose that would carry me through every trial, creating strength and direction, rather than just aimlessly trying to survive.

I had to learn to put first things first.

In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus commands us 'Do Not Worry' but SEEK FIRST His Kingdom – in other words, there are many different things fighting for our attention, so we must make seeking the Kingdom of God our priority.

Every Christian could probably quote this verse by heart, but how many are truly living by it?

This is not a command given to unbelievers; it is given to every Child of God.

So what does it really mean to SEEK?

Firstly, SEEK is an action word, think about the old favorite childhood game 'hide and seek'. The seeker doesn't just stand on one spot and look around for those who are hiding, but they actively go and look, searching and seeking behind and under everything they can find.

SEEKING the Kingdom therefore takes action on our part.

We don't just stumble on the secrets and mysteries of this Kingdom, we must pursue them wholeheartedly.

We could also read this scripture as "SEEK and PURSUE first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness and all these things will be added unto you".

PURSUE means

- 1.To follow or chase (someone or something).
- 2.To continue or proceed along (a path or route).

Another word we could use with seek – is STUDY.

It takes a hunger and thirst to gain understanding. It's not enough to simply know what the scriptures say; we also must seek an understanding and comprehension. As we seek out knowledge and wisdom by asking "What does God have to say about this situation?" we will be filled with faith and courage to make the best choices.

Very rarely will we hear something once and have full understanding immediately; instead we gain more understanding by hearing it over and over again.

When we study something, we look at it again and again intently, from every angle and direction, until we gain more knowledge, insight and understanding.

We can now also read this scripture as “SEEK and STUDY first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness and all these things will be added unto you”.

STUDY means

- 1.The devotion of time and attention to gaining knowledge of an academic subject, especially by means of books.
- 2.A detailed investigation and analysis of a subject or situation.

Yet another word we could use is ‘EXPLORE’.

What if you were to think of seeking the Kingdom of God, like going on an adventure, to discover and explore everything about this Kingdom Living? Would that change how you read your Bible?

Discovering things like, the heavenly culture, government, economy, and all of his wonderful benefits.

When you visit another country, do you like to go to the tourist spots, or do you like to discover more about how people really live there?

Again, we could also say “SEEK and EXPLORE first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness and all these things will be added unto you”.

EXPLORE means

- 1.To travel through (an unfamiliar area) in order to learn about it.
- 2.To inquire into or discuss (a subject) in detail.

Another word, we could use to define SEEK – is UNDERSTAND.

Nothing really makes sense until we understand it, and remember understanding doesn't just fall into your lap, it is intentional.

It's a great feeling when you can say “I've got it”.

When my daughter was little, she really struggled at school, and couldn't cope with the classroom environment, so we made the decision to home-school. We found out later, that she had sensory problems and was eventually diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome.

I remember one day, while doing her lessons, she looked up and with a beaming smile said "Mum, I just realized something - I'm not stupid".

It was like the light had been switched on and the darkness had finally lifted.

That's where we SEEK to be in our Christian walk, living in the LIGHT of God's presence, understanding and experiencing his truth.

When we are hungry and thirsty for the knowledge of God though a deep personal and intimate relationship, instead of just knowing about him, we will never be the same again. We will be transformed and changed from glory to glory.

2 Corinthians 3 v 17-18 (NLT)

For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

There are many who hear the message about the Kingdom of God for years and never 'get it'. They keep missing the point!

It is so important to SEEK the UNDERSTANDING, in order to correctly interpret the scriptures.

Remember the devil even tried to use scriptures against Jesus himself, how much more will he try to confuse or tempt us, even by using 'scriptures'.

Over the years I have heard many different opinions and arguments concerning different beliefs and doctrines. I have come to the conclusion that, it is all a waste of time and energy.

We cannot change anyone, as that is the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus, knew what he believed, and he always walked in wisdom and truth.

We are called to be like him, living and acting like him, demonstrating the heart of our heavenly Father with grace and love. If we must 'force' our opinion on someone else, then we must honestly ask ourselves 'are we following the right path'?

If we simply follow the scriptures, with open hearts, SEEKING to intimately know our Heavenly Father, we will find his heart and his ways being revealed to us. Then we will find ourselves being drawn into an awareness of the character of God. Meditating and considering the heart of God in every matter.

Have you ever wondered "There must be more to this Christian Life or Am I missing something"?

For years, I felt like I was missing something, I was not connecting like I somehow knew I should be. When I would feel like I was making ground, something would happen and I would find myself right back to where I started.

There was a dissatisfaction in my life, it wasn't a negative feeling that opened the door to discouragement or disillusionment but instead it created a passion to SEEK – STUDY – PURSUE – EXPLORE – TO UNDERSTAND more and more of the mysteries of this Kingdom of God.

Have you ever been watching a film and had a real craving for something tasty?

No matter how interesting the film is, you will pause it and go hunting the cupboards for something to eat.

How hungry are you for the things of the Kingdom of God?

Have you seen the documentaries about real life 'treasure hunters'?

These people leave their jobs, homes and families in the hunt for treasure, sometimes spending everything they have in the hope of discovering a fortune.

It always amazes me the lengths people will go to, just to find gold or some precious stones.

What if we had this same passion for the 'treasures' of the Kingdom of God?

Passion creates diligence, dedication and unbreakable commitment.

We require this passion to pursue the Kingdom of God, because it will be a lifetime pursuit.

So great is his love, his mercy and his grace that our lifetime will never be able to exhaust the knowledge of his glorious majesty.

His Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom and his dominion endures throughout all generations.

Matthew 13 v 44-46 (NLT)

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.

"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!

In the book of Proverbs, we are told much about wisdom and how it is the principle thing; therefore, we must seek first His Wisdom.

Proverbs 3 v 1-14 (NLT)

*My child, never forget the things I have taught you.
Store my commands in your heart.
If you do this, you will live many years,
and your life will be satisfying.
Never let loyalty and kindness leave you!
Tie them around your neck as a reminder.
Write them deep within your heart.
Then you will find favor with both God and people,
and you will earn a good reputation.
Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.
Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.
Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil.
Then you will have healing for your body
and strength for your bones.
Honor the Lord with your wealth
and with the best part of everything you produce.
Then he will fill your barns with grain,
and your vats will overflow with good wine.
My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline,
and don't be upset when he corrects you.
For the Lord corrects those he loves,
just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.
Joyful is the person who finds wisdom,
the one who gains understanding.
For wisdom is more profitable than silver,
and her wages are better than gold.*

The greatest opposition in your life will be to keep you from discovering or SEEKING the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness.

The enemy of your soul was once part of that Heavenly Kingdom. He knows that if you ever get revelation and insight to this Kingdom of God, he will be in trouble.

Breakthrough comes to those who continue to SEEK – STUDY – PURSUE – EXPLORE – TO UNDERSTAND – BUT first the harassment comes to distract you and keep you from SEEKING.

Remember the devil is a liar. He is a master deceiver, and his occupation is to steal, kill and destroy, but we are to be preoccupied with SEEKING FIRST the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, knowing that Jesus came to lay down his life, so that we would experience his life in abundance.

CHAPTER 2

GROW AND RISE TO HIGHER REALMS

As Jesus was teaching about the Kingdom of God, he said that 'anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand'. It takes more than hearing the words; we must pray that we will understand the message also. (Matthew 13 v 1 – 17)

Jesus was speaking words the people had not heard before; he was planting SEED in the heart of those who were –LISTENING – seed of hope and power.

Remember that every SEED planted always produces what is in that seed.

The Word of God is not only an enduring Seed but it also produces endurance.

There may be many things in our lives that we want to change. Maybe the people around us, how they treat us, situations, our jobs, the list is endless BUT the truth is that nothing changes until we change.

NOTHING JUST HAPPENS

This was a revelation to me; it was one I resisted at first. I didn't see that I had to change; I just wanted God to change everything and everyone else around me.

When we STOP trying to change everything and everyone around us and accept this truth – 'that nothing will change until I change' – then and only then will we be TRANSFORMED by the renewing of OUR minds.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts that causes this TRANSFORMATION.

Transformation is much greater than just change. Change can be temporal and fragile but transformation is permanent and stable.

It is difficult to reach something that is out of your reach.

Like a Child trying to reach the treats hidden in a high cupboard. They will have to find a way of climbing and could easily fall, but the mother can simply open the cupboard and give those treats to the child at the right time.

WHEN GOD SHOWS YOU SOMETHING IN YOUR DESTINY, YOU WILL LOOK AT IT AND SAY IT LOOKS IMPOSSIBLE. AND IT IS FOR THE PERSON YOU ARE NOW BUT NOT FOR THE PERSON YOU ARE BECOMING!

When this happens – DON'T ASK HOW – JUST KEEP GROWING!

Think about a little child, they don't ask how they will grow – THEY JUST KEEP GROWING!

When you grow everything changes.

Did you ever go back to your old school and think it's not as big as I remember it?

Every life is affected by the level of growth and the level of truth or LIGHT that they have obtained to. This is a spiritual principle.

The patterns in your life are both governed by and reflected by the level of your GROWTH or understanding of truth. That is the truth of God's Kingdom and His Righteousness which is superior spiritual understanding.

There are different levels to our prayer lives, our worship, our study, the peace and stillness we experience as we grow in understanding and knowledge.

We can only rise in truth and power by being led by the Holy Spirit and having the Seed of the Word of God rooted and growing in our hearts causing transformation from within us.

Everyone comes to God through the knowledge of his Son Jesus Christ but we enter and walk in His Kingdom by the fellowship with his Holy Spirit.

We enter every promise by His Grace through Faith. And as you received Christ so continue to walk in him.

Colossians 2 v 6-10 (NLT)

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

We are reminded many times throughout the Bible, that God is very gracious, full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in mercy and love. He is very patient, just like a loving Father.

A New Christian is like a baby being nurtured and trained in the way of the Lord, but God our heavenly Father requires his children to mature and become sons, who will represent him in all they do.

John 1 v 12 (KJV)

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Many try to stay in that baby Christian stage but it doesn't work that way.

As a little boy my son, loved playschool, and years later even when he was in high school, he would say "Mummy, I wish I was still in playschool – I loved playschool".

But how foolish would it be for a grown boy to be sitting with the little children in playschool?

Others are walking under the GRACE or Anointing of others – BUT – if they leave and go their own way, they will find themselves back at the level of their own GROWTH.

Like a little child deciding to leave home, it packs a bag with their favorite bear or toy, walks for about 10 minutes and then thinks – I'm hungry, so turns back to their mother for a biscuit and a drink.

Remember Abraham and Lot? Lot was blessed because of his association with Abraham. The Blessing was on Abraham but Lot forgot where the blessing came from, he lost everything when he parted from Abraham and did his own thing.

Even after Abraham had come to his rescue, and recovered all his possessions, Lot lost everything again.

Think about a teenager who believes they are capable of looking after themselves and doing their own thing, not aware that they have not yet reached the level of growth for independence!

When you go outside your level of GROWTH – it will seem like God is no longer answering your prayers.

For this reason, we must have MEEKNESS, which is much the same as a TEACHABLE spirit.

Growth in wisdom and understanding is NOT trial and error – it is intentional.

Pride always hinders growth

Even if we get some breakthroughs in our lives, we will not be able to understand what really happened. That is why; blessings and answers to prayers seem to be random. And men have created explanations like “You never know what God will do” or “Sometimes God answers and sometimes he doesn’t”. BUT Men’s explanations NEVER add up when compared to the Word of God and his revealed will!

When we are GROWING, being led and being taught by the Holy Spirit, we will be able to teach others. We will also be leaving an inheritance to our descendants.

When a Father is living according to the wisdom of God’s Word, with understanding, he will be creating a pathway for his children to follow. His children will walk in the blessing of those victories that God has given him through revelation knowledge.

But if he just stumbles along, without understanding and wisdom, the same old inherited problems will continue to follow his descendants until someone finally decides to gain understanding and break free completely.

Spiritual growth affects everything around us, like new software or an updated hard drive.

Remember your very first computer or mobile phone, how slow it was, there was no internet, no storage etc.?

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GROW SPIRITUALLY AND GO BACKWARDS OR REMAIN THE SAME

Remember growth means, somethings will leave you and new things will come to you. In other words – GROWTH means CHANGE.

There are levels of LIGHT that cannot be hidden!

Just like when Jesus said 'Don't tell anyone about this miracle', yet fame of his name still spread because of the Level of LIGHT and TRUTH, even though he tried, THIS LIGHT could not be hidden.

Mark 1 v 27-28 (KJV)

And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee.

WE MUST HEAR THE WORD TO GROW

The lack of true revelation causes much frustration and discouragement.

Spiritual Growth is NOT measured from a natural point of view or by material things.

For example, God may lead you to have the same car or home for many years, while you are growing and investing in other things (things that cannot be seen) yet we look at someone with a new car or home and say "You must be doing well".

We cannot judge from the outward appearance knowing that God looks at the heart.

If we try to prove that we are growing spiritually, we will be deeply frustrated and depressed.

LET GOD LIFT YOU because IT IS HIS REPUTATION NOT YOURS that is at stake.

He does NOT have to protect YOUR NAME BUT he will protect HIS NAME.

SUCCESS IS NOT SOMETHING YOU PURSUE – if you try to – you will push it away. Rather success is something you grow into.

WE MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENTER INTO GOD'S REST and HIS PEACE, which makes room for true GROWTH

Remember, Jesus told us 'Do not worry, but SEEK FIRST his Kingdom and His Righteousness and ALL THESE THINGS shall be ADDED unto you.'

We do not seek things, but we SEEK his Kingdom and His Ways.

Every time you feel that STRUGGLE to get something – STOP – immediately.

The struggle is proof that you have not yet obtained the necessary level of GROWTH for that thing.

Like a farmer who understands that there is a time to plough the ground and a time to sow. He knows if he understands these things, then he will reap a harvest in due season.

INSTEAD of struggling, draw unto God and unto His Word and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into deeper TRUTH and REVELATION.

He KNOWS exactly what you need.

It takes effort to renew the mind, just like ploughing the ground. Yet it is necessary preparation for the seed to be sown and to grow.

CHAPTER 3

THE GARDEN OF YOUR HEART

Where we live at present, our garden is very mature, and each year, my husband does his best to cut back the hedges and trees, to keep the place as tidy as possible. The trees are very well established, and need trimming back a couple of times a year. But the real problem is where there should be flower beds, the soil has become so difficult to work, there are nothing but roots from the trees and bushes. To be honest we would really need to dig everything out and start again.

This is like our minds, we can have so many roots of bitterness, wrong thinking, past experiences, seeds of doubt and false teaching planted in our hearts, and preconceived ideas, that there is no room for anything new or fresh.

Just like the owner or occupier of a house is responsible for keeping that house and garden clean and tidy, so we are each responsible for the state of our earthly temple (our body) and our mind.

Have you **MADE UP YOUR MIND** that there is **NOTHING** worth losing your peace over?

We ONLY rise to the level of our HUMILITY.

True HUMILITY is acknowledging God for every achievement and blessing, wholeheartedly with our words and body language.

That means there is no room for rebellion or stubbornness, neither grumbling nor complaining. In order to hear and grow, we must learn to be quick to listen and slow to speak.

NEWS FLASH

Heaven does not need – NEWS REPORTS – we are not news reporters for the Kingdom of God, rather we are called to be His AMBASSADORS.

We are supposed to bring the WORD and WILL OF GOD which is the solution to the EARTH where the problem is!

We SPEAK and release TRUTH and LIGHT into the darkness of this world. Therefore, WE MUST SEEK TO UNDERSTAND WHAT PRAYER REALLY IS.

When we do not understand the Kingdom of God, the Word of God cannot be established in our hearts, therefore we will find nothing but distraction and confusion.

Jesus told us a great parable in Matthew 13, to help us understand.

Firstly, the disciples asked Jesus why he always spoke to the people in parables, and Jesus began to explain how it wasn't given to EVERYONE to know the secrets and mysteries of this Kingdom.

It is not everyone who is WILLING to hear and understand the message of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3, that unless a man is born again he cannot SEE the Kingdom of God and later in that same conversation, he said unless a man be born again he cannot ENTER the Kingdom of God. Therefore, as we are born again, by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, only THEN can we see and then enter HIS KINGDOM!

If you have been born again, you will spend eternity with God BUT don't just settle there – SEEK to know his Kingdom here and now.

When we are Born Again we are brought through the gate to the Kingdom of God, but we don't have to camp there. There is much to discover about our King and His Kingdom.

In Matthew 13, Jesus is explaining, how it is possible to have ears and not hear and eyes yet not see.

Matthew 13 v 10-12 (NLT)

His disciples came and asked him, "Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?"

He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not.

To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.

Do you agree that this is a very interesting statement that Jesus made in verse 12?

God will not force the secrets of his Kingdom on anyone, he will freely give us what we desire and seek for. With every little taste, we will develop an appetite for more.

When you listen and pursue truth it will open up to you line upon line and precept upon precept.

BUT if you don't want to know, he won't force it on you.

If you think you already know, he will let you continue in your own stubbornness.

If you talk against the benefits of his Kingdom and his righteousness (his ways) the mysteries of his Kingdom and truth will REMAIN hidden from you.

Remember the game 'hide and seek'?

If we do not SEEK – we will not find.

God is pure and holy; therefore, he has only pure and holy motives for everything he does.

He is perfectly balanced in all his ways. He does everything on purpose and with purpose.

His perfect will and desire is that each person will discover the fullness and majesty of his Kingdom's mysteries but will not reveal to you what you think you already know.

Jesus said, what revelation we have, will produce more light and truth.

On the other hand, if we have only human wisdom and understanding, it will be taken away – or in other words it will not be productive.

In today's language we could simply say that Wisdom produces more Wisdom – but Ignorance (the lack of knowledge) produces even more Ignorance.

This is where we require true humility which is being teachable, and willing to submit to the greatest teacher of all, The Spirit of Truth.

Jesus also reminds us that the Prophets and Righteous men of the Old Covenant, desired to see and to hear (understand) the secrets of God's Kingdom.

This NEW and LIVING WAY, the secrets of this New Covenant, is given to us to SEEK, PURSUE, STUDY, EXPLORE and UNDERSTAND.

The greatest opposition in your life will be to keep you from SEEKING and HEARING the Kingdom Message.

As in Jesus' day, religious tradition is still the greatest opposition to the Gospel of the Kingdom.

The more you explore and seek the mysteries and secrets given to us of this 'true' and living Gospel, the more religious tradition will try to attack and oppose you.

Religious tradition teaches us to be HUMBLE – in a way that keeps us from hearing God and in a constant state of feeling 'unworthy' – BUT – yet true HUMILITY – requires us to hear him and to OBEY.

God has called us in to his Kingdom, that we might bring glory to His Name. He picks us up out of the dirty pit of sin and makes us clean vessels fit for his Holy Spirit to dwell in.

We are not worthless in God's Kingdom; rather we are MADE vessels of honour for his Glory, stamped with his name. The value is not in our name but in his.

My husband and I run a vintage and antique shop, and I am blown away sometimes at the value of a piece of pottery just because of the name stamped on the bottom.

To me, one piece of clay is the same as another, but each piece is valued according to the Maker's Name. So in the eyes of the world your life might be deemed worthless, but if you belong to Jesus, you bare the mark of his name. Your value is in His Name.

We cannot EVER make ourselves holy or valuable, but when we understand his Majesty, we will be totally broken in the knowledge that in our own ability we cannot achieve anything worthwhile.

Surrender to Jesus as KING and to God the Father as our only SOURCE of Life, is the first revelation we receive in seeking first His Kingdom and His Righteousness.

This revelation does not beat us down to nothing but rather releases us from the burden and limitations of 'human nature' and guilt of our past.

Many are satisfied to know that their sins are forgiven, and with the comfort of knowing that when they die they will go to heaven.

BUT for those who will SEEK, PURSUE, STUDY, EXPLORE and UNDERSTAND the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness will willingly surrender everything, dying to our own limitations and the deceitful lusts of this world NOW and entering into and experiencing his ABILITY given to us through His Holy Spirit.

Discovering the freedom to be who we were designed to be.

Oh, what a mystery, Oh what a wonder. No natural mind can conceive the Glorious Majesty of His Kingdom without the revelation that comes by the Holy Spirit.

I love Psalm 145 which tells us that His saints will speak of His Glory and talk of His Power – TO MAKE KNOWN – to the sons of men, His mighty deeds and the Glorious Majesty of His Kingdom.

Have you ever heard the saying 'Talk is Cheap'?

Meaning, that empty words hold no value and are of no use to anyone, the bible says it this way – 'Clouds without Rain'.

No-one is an expert on 'everything'. Yet, there are people who talk about everything like they are a leading expert.

I love to talk about the Kingdom of God, but I am still learning, still studying, still seeking, still exploring, and I am praying Lord, I want to speak of your Glory and power but most of all grant me your ability and anointing to MAKE KNOWN your power and glory to my generation.

God's Words are SEEDS full of life and power.

Remember how Paul said he was buffeted because of the revelation he had received?

He prayed for God to remove the opposition but God's reply was "My Grace is Sufficient for you."

What a mighty revelation!

In my pursuit of the Kingdom of God, I have discovered much opposition. I can imagine that Paul thought something like "Lord, everything I preach about cause's opposition, can I preach something that will be accepted by the Jews, just for once?"

BUT the Grace of God creates a desire for truth. The Grace of God demands righteousness.

If this Gospel is hidden it is hidden from those who need it.

Once, revelation comes it cannot be denied. Like light in the darkness, it cannot be hidden.

Whether a room has been dark for years, months or just moments, it makes no difference to the light. Once the light is switched on, the darkness cannot remain. Jesus also said that many will not come to the light, because they love the darkness and love their sin, and don't want to be exposed.

There is no opposition that can stop a Child of God who has revelation and light.

Remember what Jesus said, if we have ears to hear and eyes to see, we will receive revelation and even more will be given.

Only where seeds of doubt or fear are permitted to take root, can the truth be taken from us.

We are each responsible to keep the garden of our minds and hearts clear. It is our responsibility to pull out the seeds of doubt and fear, and plant the seed of the Word of God, creating room for growth and patience in producing fruit.

Remember what I heard the Holy Spirit say?

The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of Light. That light is revelation. It is more than just knowledge it is revelation knowledge with wisdom and truth. My LIGHT shines above all else, this revelation knowledge is key; it is what sets my Kingdom apart and distinguishes my people.

My Children are known for the revelation they walk in. Because revelation is – ACTING – upon revealed knowledge and inspiration – IT IS SEEN – and it causes change.

Trees of Righteousness

The Lord has called his people
Trees of Righteousness
Planted by the Lord
And rooted in Christ
And we grow and bear fruit
For the glory of our King
We're strong in every season
Our praises we bring

And we sing hallelujah we lift our hands to him
We will stand strong for Jesus our praises we bring to
our King

We are planted by the river
Our leaves will not wither
No drought no storm can move us
We're grounded in Christ
And we grow and bear fruit
For the glory of our King
We're strong in every season
Our praises we bring to the King

CHAPTER 4

EVERY SEED PRODUCES AFTER ITS OWN KIND

When I was young both my grannies had gooseberry bushes. I remember clearly the happy memories of picking and eating the juicy fruit. One time I decided I wanted a gooseberry bush, so I went in search for one and bought it, then quickly discovered it wasn't just a case of buying one and enjoying the fruit, there were many instructions, where to plant it, how to plant it, how much sun light, how much water and more.

At first I put it into a big pot and was very disappointed to find out that it would take the 2nd or 3rd year before it would produce any fruit.

The bushes that my grannies had were well established for many years and produced baskets of beautiful fruit every year. It would take time for my little plant to be established, never mind produce fruit.

When we moved house, we transplanted it into the ground, and eventually it began to produce some fruit, only for the birds to eat them.

This makes me think of what it is like in our lives, no matter how hard we work, we never seem to get ahead, and are left wondering 'what is life all about?'

The SEED planted in our HEARTS that will cause real growth and produce good fruit, will be the Word of God, it must be allowed to become established first in order to produce.

This process is called 'renewing the mind'.

Everything we hear or see will be interpreted through the lens of our core beliefs.

We filter everything through the process of our mind, so if we have a history of abuse or mistrust for example then we will be suspicious and hesitant or unable to trust others.

From the moment we were conceived in our mother's womb we were being programed to think and act in a certain way.

Our core beliefs play a very important role in the decisions and choices we make every day.

These core beliefs are called precepts, and these precepts produce our concepts.

If our precepts are not correct, then our concepts will not be correct. This is where we create 'misconceptions'.

Two people can be having a conversation together and because of their different precepts, they can leave with two completely different perceptions of that same conversation.

Many Christians, have been taught about eternal life, with the focus being on going to heaven rather than hell. But we have a soul, which is our will, mind and emotions. God created us with a free will and if we think or believe that this is a negative thing, we will be in direct opposition to God.

We can either remain victim to human nature, or we can learn to discipline this great mind that God has given us, with his help.

He has given us a mind to think, dream and create, in partnership with him through Jesus and His Holy Spirit.

We were created in his image and were made in his likeness.

If we are going to think like God, we must first have a mind that can see, conceive and process his thoughts. So now we understand why we must have a disciplined mind.

Just like any student, if they have a good enough reason to finish the course, they will push through and force themselves to focus and to learn. They know there is an exam coming and if they are serious about passing, they will have to make every effort to be diligent.

Could it be that people think seeking God's Kingdom and Righteousness sounds like too much effort with very little reward?

But this is simply because they don't understand WHY, they should or understand HOW!

We don't lose ourselves in seeking God's Kingdom, rather we find our true selves.

CHAPTER 5

DIFFERENT TYPES OF GROUND

When I was a teenager, my parents renovated an old house, and after the house was finished it was time to start the gardens. I can remember spending hours with my younger brother, hand picking the stones and rocks out of the soil. My dad would turn over the soil and we would follow with buckets, picking up the rocks and stones. Some looked small but when we tried to lift them we realized that they were buried deep into the soil and sometimes needed to be dug out. Every stone, no matter how big or small had to be lifted.

There were so many and it seemed that it would take forever. Eventually the soil was ready to sow the grass seed. Once again, it took time for the seed to grow but eventually it was a beautiful green lawn.

Let's take a look at what Jesus said in the Parable of the Sower.

Matthew 13 v 1 – 9 (KJV)

*The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by
the sea side.*

*And great multitudes were gathered together unto him,
so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole
multitude stood on the shore.*

*And he spake many things unto them in parables,
saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;
And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side,
and the fowls came and devoured them up:
Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much
earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had
no deepness of earth:*

*And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and
because they had no root, they withered away.
And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up,
and choked them:*

*But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit,
some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.
Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

Then in verses 18 and 19 Jesus began to explain the parable.

Matthew 13 verse 18 –19 Jesus said “Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side”.

Firstly, we note that the seed is the message or The Word of the Kingdom. The Sower therefore must be the preacher or teacher.

Secondly, we can take careful note, that when someone hears the message of the Kingdom, but does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and carries away the seed, just as easily and quickly as a bird sweeping down and lifting seed that is lying on the ground.

There was nothing wrong with the seed or the sower; it was because of the lack of understanding about the Kingdom in the heart of the hearer.

Hosea 4 v 6 (KJV)

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject
you from being a priest for Me; Because you have
forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your
children.*

This is why it is important to seek to understand the Kingdom of God.

It takes a desire to understand and determination to listen to gain understanding. One of the things that the enemy will attempt to do, is to hinder someone from hearing the message, by making them feel distracted or even sleepy. Many times, I hear people say that when they try to read their bible or listen to a teaching they find it difficult to concentrate and even find they are fighting not to fall asleep.

This will often happen, especially when someone tries to pray or read their bible. Every thought possible will come to mind. The phone will ring, maybe you will just think you heard a noise and will not be able to settle until you go and check it out.

The root and purpose of distraction is simple – it simply seeks to distract.

I recently heard that the average concentration span used to be around 20 minutes but now in 2023 it has declined to just 3 minutes. The cause is thought to be due to the increase of social media and the high use of 3-minute video reels and stories.

Remember it takes discipline of mind and a desire to learn, to be able to listen, hear and gain understanding.

This discipline does not come from our own strength, but through the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit working in our hearts.

The main point in verse 19 is that they did not understand the Message of the Kingdom. The message was good seed, but the people who heard, did not understand the relevance of the message to their lives. This is where I believe preachers and teachers must rely on the Holy Spirit to gain the attention of those they are speaking to. It takes more than just words to hold someone's attention. It takes the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

It takes the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to make the message clear and relevant to this generation.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2 (KJV)

*And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with
excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you
the testimony of God.*

*For I determined not to know any thing among you,
save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

*And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in
much trembling.*

*And my speech and my preaching was not with
enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration
of the Spirit and of power:*

*That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men,
but in the power of God.*

I am sure you have heard the expression "They hear just what they want to hear"

This is a very true saying; you only hear what you want to hear. But when it comes to the message of the Kingdom of God, there is another deeper dimension at work. The agents of the kingdom of darkness do not want anyone to hear and especially understand the message of the Kingdom of Light – because the Light destroys the darkness!

That is why much of traditional religion is acceptable, but the message as Jesus taught it, still attracts the greatest opposition. It is almost as if the devil and his demons don't mind if you go to church, pray or read your bible, as long as you don't understand the message about the Kingdom of God and your place in that Kingdom.

It could even be, that they don't really care if you receive salvation or not, as long as you don't understand your rights as a child of God or citizen of heaven.

As long as you don't understand the Kingdom of Light that you have been brought into, you will not be a real threat to the kingdom of darkness.

Jesus said "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."
Matthew 28 v 18-20 (KJV)

The people were drawn to Jesus as he taught, because he didn't teach like the religious leaders, rather he taught as one with authority. His words had power, and his words carried and brought light. He had authority, because he was the Son of God.

This generation is no different; people are still drawn to true light and authority.

But as it was with Jesus, not everyone had ears to hear or eyes to see. In other words, not everyone was willing to listen, and to receive understanding.

This generation is desperate for the true light, but because religion has been a poor substitute for so long, most have been deceived into thinking that the Gospel is not worth listening to and it is no longer relevant. In fact, to my surprise I find that it is people who call themselves 'Christians' that reject the message of the Kingdom the most.

I am often surprised, that while unbelievers are searching for reality and fulfillment in supernatural things, many 'Christian' people are denying the power of God, the Almighty One.

When I share my testimony about God's healing power it is the unbelievers who listen, while many 'Christians' object or dismiss me. This was a great mystery to me, until I read Matthew chapter 13. (Which we will look at later in this chapter)

Now I can clearly see that the problem is not always unbelief, but a lack of understanding. This lack of understanding is caused by a lack of knowledge about the Kingdom of God.

Sadly, many Christians are prepared to die and go to heaven, but few are experiencing the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

Jesus taught us to pray, 'Let your kingdom come, let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'.

I often meditate on these words 'AS IT IS IN HEAVEN'. A few years back when I fell very ill, and doctors said I would be on medication for the rest of my life and that I would just have to learn to live with it. I meditated about these words AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. I thought, there is no disease in heaven, so this disease cannot stay in my body, it is trespassing. I refused to accept that I would have to learn to live with it. Instead, I began to seek God for the knowledge and revelation of his healing power promised to his children.

If I was going to learn to live with something for the rest of my life, I wanted it to be according to God's ways, not according to a sickness or disease.

I can testify that I didn't take the medication then and 3 years later, I still do not take any medication. I am totally healed and free, all praise and glory to my King Jesus.

There were many stones, I had to pick up and throw away, from the soil of my heart, stones of doubt and fear, worry and stress. The seed of the Word of God, was planted and established deep in my heart, and nothing could take it away from me.

*Jesus continued to explain this parable in MATTHEW 13
v 20 -21 (KJV)*

*But he that received the seed into stony places, the
same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy
receiveth it;*

*Yet hath he not root in himself, but endureth for a
while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth
because of the word, by and by he is offended.*

Here we see, that some will receive the message of the Kingdom of God with joy, rejoicing when they first hear it. But soon, when opposition comes, they are offended for the sake of the Gospel. This is why we must be determined, fully persuaded and totally submitted to God our King.

When a seed is sown, it must first take root before it can be established. There will be no growth without roots.

*James explains it like this in
JAMES 1 v 2 – 8 (NLT)*

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

When trials come, how can we consider it an opportunity for great joy?

Understanding that when our faith is tested, endurance will have a chance to grow; and as we allow the Word of God, like seed sown and taking root in our hearts, we will be made strong, continually seeking God's wisdom all along the way.

Having faith in God alone and being fully persuaded we will not waver or be double minded, then we will be able to receive his promise.

Have you decided that you will SEEK to UNDERSTAND the Kingdom of God and His righteousness?

Are you willing to remove the stones from the soil of your heart and make room for the seed of the Word of God to be sown and to take deep root in you?

CHAPTER 6

THORNY GROUND

I remember years ago, doing a delivery to one of my customers and commenting on her beautiful garden. She told me how everyone comments about how beautiful the garden always looks, but what people don't see is that very early every morning before her husband goes to work, he spends time in the garden, removing any weeds and tending to the plants.

There is no beautiful garden by accident. If the ground is left unattended it will soon be overgrown with thorns and weeds.

*As Jesus continues in MATTHEW 13 v 22 (KJV)
He also that received seed among the thorns is he
that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and
the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he
becometh unfruitful.*

Also in James 1 v 9-15 (NLT)

Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements. God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

In other words, when the cares of this life, worry, and sin, just like weeds are allowed to grow they will crowd out the seed of the Word of God, making our lives unproductive.

If we want to be fruitful, we must SEEK his Kingdom and His Righteousness every day with all diligence.

I'm so glad that Jesus finished this parable by letting us know about the good ground.

While many will focus on how we are not perfect, Jesus gives us hope that we can be fruitful, when we have understanding and allow the seed of His Word and Will to grow.

MATTHEW 13 v 23 (KJV)

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

And James also says in James 1 v 19 -24 (NLT)
Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.

Could it be that the greater your understanding the more productive you will be?

Could the level of your understanding determine whether you will produce thirty, sixty or even a hundred times a harvest?

When we get rid of all the weeds in our hearts and wholeheartedly accept the Word God has planted in us, by becoming a doer of God's Word, by obedience, then we will find the power of salvation at work in every area of our lives.

This is good news, that we can walk in and experience this freedom of being made right with God, living and walking each day with the blessing and favour of God. We can never make ourselves righteous, or work to earn his grace. But as we allow the seed of his Word to be sown, take root and to be established in understanding, we will know that it is his ability working in us.

Here are some more scriptures to meditate on.

Psalm 3 v 3 (KJV)

*But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the
lifter up of mine head.*

Psalm 37 v 23-24 (KJV)

*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and
he delighteth in his way.*

*Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for
the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.*

Romans 8 v 1-6 (KJV)

*There is therefore now no condemnation to them
which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh,
but after the Spirit.*

*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath
made me free from the law of sin and death.*

*For what the law could not do, in that it was weak
through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the
likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in
the flesh:*

*That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in
us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

*For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of
the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of
the Spirit.*

*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be
spiritually minded is life and peace.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:
old things are passed away; behold, all things are
become new.*

Galatians 2 v 20 (KJV)

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I,
but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in
the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who
loved me, and gave himself for me.*

Whispers of Grace
(what I heard on the 17 December 22)

You will walk in my anointing as you stay in my presence. One affects the other.

In my presence is where your eyes will be opened. I will show you great and mighty things. They will take root like a seed and will produce as you remain in me. It must take root first before it can grow and it must grow and be established before it can bear fruit. The branch has to grow strong to hold the fruit. People are trying to bear fruit before the branch has grown strong. The seed contains the fruit but it is the branch that produces the fruit.

There are no short cuts to growth ONLY speed. The speed of growth or being established depends on the right conditions for that seed.

Wait upon me and strength will come. Remain in my presence and growth will happen. When a seed is planted and the conditions and environment is right, then growth is natural. The seed must be planted (die) in order to produce life. Death in the spirit is the seed for life. But in the natural what is born is destined to die. But everything in the spirit that dies springs forth into life.

When you die to the flesh you will spring forth in the spirit. When your fleshly desires die then the desires of my life in you will spring forth. I provide the seed; you prepare the environment (ground) you are responsible for the conditions (atmosphere). You chose where you will dwell (remain and abide).

When a seed is planted it must remain – continue – it cannot be moved around. So you must dwell, remain and continue in me. That is where growth and maturity come.

Grounded and rooted in Christ, unmovable, unshakable and productive. Anything else will not last or be sustainable. When pride dies humility and servanthood lives.

CHAPTER 7

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Our local supermarket was recently taken over by new management. We didn't know anything about the change, but had started to notice, many changes inside the shop. It just didn't seem to have the same atmosphere, and we thought something was different, but didn't know what it was. When we finally found out about the new management, all the sudden changes made sense.

NOT ONLY is the seed of the Word of God planted in our hearts, we are also like a seed planted in God's creation.

When we are Born Again, we were delivered out of the dominion of darkness and TRANSLATED into the Kingdom of God's dear Son.

Colossians 1 v 13 (KJV)

*Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,
and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear
Son.*

We are NOW under NEW MANAGEMENT, and our lives become like a seed that must be buried (die), in order to live to a new life, which the Bible calls a new creation, a BRAND NEW MAN in Christ.

That is why Jesus came, to deliver us and set us free from the slavery of sin, shame and guilt.

His forgiveness is so much more than saving us from going to hell; he wants us to enter into his peace, his plan and to discover his purpose for our lives.

Before we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord, our King and our Saviour, we were just like seeds, still in the packet, never planted and therefore never able to produce real fruit.

Have you ever found old packets of seeds, which were never opened? The seeds are sealed inside dried up and useless.

Before we accepted Jesus Christ we were 'DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SIN' and in the DARK'.

Ephesians 2 v 1 – 5 (KJV)

*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in
trespasses and sins;*

*Wherein in time past ye walked according to the
course of this world, according to the prince of the
power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the
children of disobedience:*

*Among whom also we all had our conversation in times
past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the
flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children
of wrath, even as others.*

*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love
wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in
sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace
ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and
made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ
Jesus:*

*That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding
riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through
Christ Jesus.*

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not
of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest
any man should boast.*

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
unto good works, which God hath before ordained that
we should walk in them.*

When we hear the good news of the Gospel and faith rises in our hearts, we come to the understanding that we are dead in our sin, helpless to save ourselves. We realise that we can never earn this great love but because of Jesus we can accept it.

REMEMBER anything that can be accepted can also be rejected.

You are just like a seed SENT to this earth with a purpose. A GOD GIVEN PURPOSE.

DO YOU KNOW JESUS as LORD OF ALL?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS KINGDOM OF GOD MESSAGE?

The bible reveals GOD's HEART of LOVE toward his creation. It also reveals to us the wickedness of the heart of MAN. No one had to teach us to lie or to steal BUT instead we had to be taught NOT to lie and not to steal. We had to be taught how to share with others, these things did not come naturally.

The bible reveals GOD's plan to rescue us, he provided a way of escape by sending his Son JESUS CHRIST as the perfect Lamb of God, who was the perfect sacrifice for all men and for all time.

There is NO salvation in any other name because Jesus Christ is the ONLY one who could make that way of escape for you and for me.

The greatest and most valuable decision we will ever make is to accept that Jesus is the Son of God and to believe in our hearts that God loved us so much that he SENT His Son, Jesus on purpose and with purpose.

That purpose was to come down to our level, to become a man just like us and to live on this earth, with the destiny to die on that cruel cross. Jesus became a curse for us in order to pay the full penalty for our sin. He suffered and died and God raised him from the dead, then he ascended into Heaven.

This is something we cannot understand in our own natural thinking.

Grace is a gift offered to us because of God's great love for his creation.

This gift of salvation is the first dimension of Grace.

G – GRACE
R – REWARDS
A – AT
C – CHRIST'S
E – EXPENSE

If you went to the petrol station today and filled your car up with petrol, and someone else paid the bill, what would you do?

Would you try to pay for it again yourself or would you say thank you and receive it as a gift?

The price for all your sin, shame and guilt has already been paid in full when Jesus died in your place, but will you accept it and say thank you and surrender to his grace?

I pray that this book has challenged your thinking about the Kingdom of God.

I pray that you have been stirred in your heart to find out more about God's Kingdom and your place in his Kingdom.

Remember, that before receiving this amazing gift of salvation, our spirits were dead, hence why Jesus said, ye must be 'born again'. Our spirit does not need to be healed, but born again and made alive.

We are brought into God's kingdom, by Grace through faith, but we must realise that there are many different dimensions to his Grace.

This first encounter with amazing grace is a FREE gift of Salvation, paid completely by Jesus Christ.

There is an ancient story, one of two kingdoms. Before the creation of this natural realm as we know it, there was a rebellion in the heavenly realms, the one who was called the 'bearer of light' Lucifer, wanted to be equal with the Most High God. He desired to be worshiped, just like God was worshiped. But the Most High God has no equal nor rival, so Lucifer and the other angels who followed him, were cast out of God's presence. There is no grace or repentance for those fallen angels.

The kingdom of darkness, Satan and his angels, continue to have this same agenda, they desire the worship of men, and to be equal with God.

The systems of this world have been inspired and created by the kingdom of darkness, to control the 'minds' of men. The agenda is to keep men blinded and victims of time and chance and from worshiping the only true and living God.

God's original plan for mankind was that they would have dominion on the earth, being his sons, while fulfilling his plans and purposes.

In these days, it is essential to understand the mysteries of God's Kingdom and to discover our place in his Kingdom. This is how we bring glory to our creator God.

The Greatest Commandment

Mark 12 v 28 –34 (KJV)

And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

CHAPTER 8

YOUR PLACE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Did you know that God has a Kingdom purpose for your life?

Have you discovered that purpose?

Every child of God has been given a specific assignment within God's Kingdom. An assignment that is not made to fit you but rather, you were created on purpose with that purpose. You were sent to this earth with that God given assignment.

It is hidden deep within you, and no-one else can discover it for you. I think it is amazing that as we seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, we begin to discover our true identity and purpose.

As we begin to look closely at the Righteousness of God, an amazing truth we will discover is that all of the human race is 'unrighteous' with no way of becoming righteous only through Jesus Christ God's Righteous Son.

Righteousness simply means 'Right standing with God' or 'made right with God'.

What does that mean to you?

Galatians 1 v 4 (NLT)

Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned. In order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.

Proverbs 13 v 15 (ASV)

Good understanding giveth favour; but the way of the transgressor is hard.

We require good understanding of the principles of God's Kingdom in order to walk in his ways.

Spiritual Laws are NOT the same as religious traditions or denominational rules which have been made by man and inspired by demons.

When we put these rules before God's Laws, we will be in violation of God's ways.

The difference is that in one we will be breaking the rules, and offending men but in the other we will be rebelling against God.

A spiritual Law just like a physical law cannot actually be broken, only violated.

Think about the Law of Gravity; you can never break it no matter what you do it remains unchanged. But you can violate it and pay the consequence.

You can run as fast as you can and jump off a cliff and flap your arms like a bird but you cannot break the law of Gravity, you either respect it or violate it.

There are natural laws that govern the physical realm, like the Law of Gravity, it is wisdom and common sense to know and respect these laws.

Likewise, there are Spiritual Laws that we must know and understand. I will repeat myself – these Spiritual Laws come from God the Maker of all things. These laws are NOT man made.

In James chapter 1, he tells us to ask for wisdom and in proverbs we are told that Wisdom is the principle thing.

Wisdom is more precious than silver and gold.

In our pursuit of the Kingdom of God, we will be obtaining wisdom from the Spirit of God, revealing the truth of God's Word and his will to us.

The First Kingdom Principle or Law is 'We have only One Message' it is the same everywhere and for everyone.

No matter what background, nation or belief – Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the only way to the Father.

The pathway is Grace through Faith. The Grace is from God and the Faith comes when we hear the message, therefore, the faith also comes from God.

Our only part is whether we will resist or accept it. We are made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ NOT by obeying the rules of the Old Covenant or Religious rules.

Galatians 2 v 20 (NLT)

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

It is required that we pursue the understanding that we have been redeemed from the curse of the Law of Sin and Death.

We are born by the Spirit of God, like a child is conceived, by no work of its own, so we are born of God, not by our own works.

I know that every Born Again, child of God would agree that it is only by grace that we are saved, but how many are walking in the revelation that every promise and blessing from God is received the very same way?

As you received Christ – only by Grace through faith – so continue IN HIM.

As I am growing in this revelation, it is changing how I look at everything.

We sing an old hymn 'Standing on the Promises of God' and I have often heard people say 'I'm standing on the promises'.

But now I see that we are standing not on the promises but we are actually standing in Christ – in whom all the promises have been made available. We are not standing on words alone, BUT we can stand secure in the knowledge of the one who has promised.

I was like most Christians, when I had a problem, I would pray every promise I could think of. I would quote scriptures and say I'm standing on his promises. Sometimes my prayers were answered and sometimes they weren't.

This is the reason why most Christians are frustrated and disillusioned with prayer and many have even given up.

My father would often say "God said it, I believe it, and that settles it".

Even though I had heard him say these words many times over the years, it was only recently, that I had my 'I've got it' moment. The light had come, and I could see it clearly, that it was only settled when I believed what God had said.

I discovered this truth that TRUE FAITH is acting in obedience to what God has said to you.

If you just pick up his promises and hope one of them will work, you will be very busy but not always productive.

I have learned to stop and ask "Father, what do you say about this situation?"

This is something I am doing and developing in my heart. At first, I didn't fully understand. I would ask for God's wisdom, but his answer didn't always make much sense to me in my own thinking.

I soon learned that his way is always the best way.

The reason, his answer didn't seem to make sense to me, was because I was looking at the problem through the lens of my own limited understanding. It took me some time, to understand that God sees and knows everything, and that he sees from a higher perspective.

Every time I have simply followed his leading and wisdom, without fail, each situation turned around for good.

We are born of God into his family, and we have been made legal citizens of His Kingdom, by his Son Jesus Christ.

We have been delivered out of the dominion and control of the kingdom of darkness and translated and planted into the Kingdom of His Son.

Grace is the Message of the love and complete work of Jesus Christ, and faith is our response to that gospel message. BUT NOTE the faith is not our own work, but the work of the Holy Spirit, who enables us to hear the message.

Romans 10v17 (KJV)

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

So this is our first encounter of co-operation with God. This is how we walk in the Kingdom of God. It is always, God's ability working in us. We can never work independently from His Word and His Spirit.

I'm big enough

The further down this road of life
That I've travelled on
I've seen so many heartaches
I've cried so many tears
I've wandered of and fallen down
Oh so many times
But every time I call out your name
You're there to pick me up again

And I'm big enough to know now
I can't make it on my own
I'm big enough to see
I'll only get it wrong
So Father take me by the hand
Lead me like the child I am
Cause I'm big enough to say
Lord I need you everyday

CHAPTER 9

ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU.

We have looked at why and how to Seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, now we will look at the promise given to those who obey –

“and all these things (that you have need of) will be added unto you”.

This is the Reward for Seeking His Kingdom and His ways. God’s righteousness is His ways according to his wisdom and truth.

Our Salvation is the gift of eternal life offered to every man and within that Salvation there are many promises also provided through Jesus Christ.

Just like, many seek to live in countries like the UK, because of the many benefits that are available. So we must as children of God, understand the benefits available to us as citizens of His Kingdom.

The wise understand that everything has a consequence, just like every seed planted yields a harvest.

God rewards diligent pursuit.

Hebrews 11 v 6 (KJV)

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

This is a well-known scripture which we can quickly skip over, but it is an amazing scripture to meditate on.

Many times, people are tricked into thinking that things like seeking God or investing time in worship, prayer and fasting, the study of the Word and keeping good company is pointless and unnecessary, saying things like “if Jesus has done it all – it doesn’t really matter what I do – as long as I have received his gift of salvation”.

We must understand that God loves everybody but our individual lives and destinies are not the same.

When we give ourselves willingly and wholeheartedly to seek God’s Kingdom and his ways, we will find strength and wisdom to become the mature sons of God.

Remember God’s throne is built on righteousness and justice.

Should a man who consistently, prays, studies the Word, walking in true holiness and righteousness expect to receive the same reward or outcome as someone who is careless, unprincipled, undisciplined, or with an attitude of “It doesn’t matter what I do or don’t do – it’s my life after all”?

Think about two students, one who pays attention in class, studies to gain knowledge and understanding and the other who doesn’t attend class and who refuses to listen to the teachers. Would you expect them both to get the same results?

What about an Olympic Champion, are they just lucky to be rewarded a Gold medal? Or did their dedication and commitment have something to do with it?

You might ask, “What has that got to do with my ‘Christian’ life?” But remember, we have each been given a place and a role in God’s Kingdom.

What we do consistently everyday has a very important part to play in whether we will finish the race that God has planned for us or not!

It may seem like nothing is happening at first, it's easy to feel that it's not worth the effort to discipline our minds and hearts. As human beings we are tempted to follow the path of least resistance. We love quick results and don't like to wait. But never let anyone tell you that God does not reward!

At first when you begin to seek first his Kingdom and His ways, it can feel like we are being stripped of everything we think we are and love, it is definitely not comfortable as we find our hearts are being poured out and naked before the Lord. There is no alibi or excuse when we stand before his throne, for he knows our hearts better than we know ourselves.

It requires total submission and surrender, two words that most people don't like to hear in this generation.

I resisted this total submission for a long time, I comforted myself, by making excuses and convincing myself I was doing enough and that God understood my other commitments, like family and work. I told myself that God knew I didn't have much time, and that I was doing my best.

The thing I needed most was the thing I was resisting. I needed to pour out my heart and life in total brokenness and commit to doing things God's way, once and for all.

I am still amazed to this day, what a difference it makes, when we finally let go of our own way and embrace his way. I look back in wonder and amazement how all things began working together for good instead of for the worst.

The first thing God rewards is the sincerity of your pursuit. Commitment and discipline will not last without a sincere desire to complete the given task or purpose.

Men may say, this Jesus thing or this church thing doesn't really matter, but know that in this Kingdom, when men give God everything, and set their hearts to seek him – **IT REALLY DOES MATTER.**

It is so important to know that God rewards our pursuit of him.

He rewards us even in the presence of those who know us. Those who knew what we were like before, they knew how weak we used to be. The very same people who said, things like "you'll never achieve anything worthwhile".

They will say things like "I used to know you; I know where you came from – what has happened to you?"

The pursuit of our lives will set us apart.

We will not be doing what everyone else is doing. Very few will understand us and we may feel like we just don't fit in. But remember this, those who are willing to be set apart and committed to a bigger purpose, will be greatly rewarded.

With a sincere and pure heart, we will be fully aware, that it is not really about us and what we are doing, but God's reward and blessing is the fruit of peace and strength that is growing and developing within us and through us to complete His plans and purposes.

You might be in your season of growth with God right now. Maybe, you have been pressing into the things of God, while others are sleeping, you are awake praying, while others are roaming around thinking that they are having the time of their lives, living it up, doing whatever they please, you are on your knees, pouring out your heart to God, giving him everything.

I tell you the truth, your reward is sure!

Don't be discouraged, it may take longer than you had thought, but only a foolish farmer plants his corn today and by tomorrow or next week, will be complaining that there's no harvest yet!

We must give time, and be motivated and encouraged by the fact that God has promised and he is eternally faithful.

Matthew 7 v 7-8

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

This is another well-known scripture, I urge you to read and meditate on this complete chapter.

It begins with a serious warning in verse 1, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Be careful what you ask and seek for!

Seek for trouble and you will find it!

Seek for peace and you will find it!

Seek for a mediocre life and you will find it!

Seek, pursue and invest in a life of dignity and honour and you will find it!

The literal translation of verse 7, says, Ask and keep on asking, seek and keep on seeking, knock and keep on knocking.

To give up too soon, is to miss out on your reward.

The condition is revealed in verse 7, but verse 8 reveals the Spiritual Law and Principle – “Everyone who asks will receive, those that seek will find and to him that knocks it will be open”

What are you pursuing in your life?

When the rewarder comes, to a church or to a family, he is not coming to reward members, but he comes to reward those who are seeking and pursuing him.

Don't be tempted to say, I've been here for a long time and nothing seems to be happening – never give up – don't be weary in doing what is right.

“Lord, my life belongs to you, everything belongs to you” is more than a prayer, it is an attitude and a lifestyle.

The Lord must be the object of our devotion and heart's desire. He alone is the lover of our souls.

God rewards faithfulness.

Anyone who is waiting to enjoy the ministry of the rewarder must be one who is faithful.

Matthew 25 v 14 – 30 (KJV)

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Again this is a very well-known scripture, one that merits serious meditation.

The one, who received the 5 talents, had to be wise and resist the temptation of complacency.

When we are gifted and have natural abilities, it is easy to coast along in life, thinking that we are doing ok, comparing ourselves to others and maybe not working as hard as we ought to. But this man, was both wise and faithful, with what was entrusted to him.

Are you making the most of what God has given you?

The one, who received the 2 talents, could've looked at the one who was given 5, and allow envy and jealousy to take root. But this man was also wise and faithful.

We can never afford to compare our lives with anyone else.

The one, who was given the one talent, gave into fear, laziness and foolishness.

We all want to hear those words "well done thou good and faithful servant".

You prepare for where you are going by being faithful where you are!

Some may say, I know God will give me an anointing to preach or do many mighty miracles someday – but are you willing to speak to the two people in your life right now? Are you praying for people with a sincere and faithful heart now where you are?

Are you doing your work with diligence and excellence, to the best of your ability, regardless of who sees or doesn't see you?

There is one who calls himself the Rewarder, who sees all things.

Unfaithfulness aborts your potential to experience greater things and greater rewards.

When you look at someone who is successful in ministry, business or life, it is easy to think that they were just lucky.

If only you could see their story, what they did for years that no one saw, recognized or acknowledged, behind closed doors, behind the scenes, and they may never tell you but you can be sure there was time invested in faithful pursuit of God's Kingdom and His righteousness.

Nobody Rises out of no-where!

Luck is a superstitious belief that doesn't really exist.

Like one famous golfer who was once asked "Are you just lucky?"

His brilliant answer was "I have noticed the harder I work, the luckier I get!"

When David stood in front of Goliath, everyone else saw a boy – but it was not his first fight. He had been faithful in keeping his father's sheep. In doing so he had killed lions and bears. All the time, alone in the field looking after a few sheep, God was with him and he had remained faithful in his pursuit of knowing his God.

When you have been faithful, change and breakthrough can come overnight, but it will not come out of nowhere. There will always be a participation and investment of faithfulness to the things that others don't value.

Faithfulness to time in prayer and bible study and service to others, even when it's not convenient BUT God has been watching, heaven sees and a record has been made.

Psalm 75:6-8 (KJV)

*For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from
the west, nor from the south.*

*But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth
up another.*

There are many things you can lose through unfaithfulness!

The truth is, you can be free from sin, but if you are not faithful, there are many things you will still lose.

There are many people today who should have qualified for promotion in their workplace but cannot be promoted because the bosses know that even though they have been there for a long time, they do not bring any value to the workplace, so it would be unprofitable to promote them.

1 Corinthians 10 v 31 (KJV)

*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye
do, do all to the glory of God.*

Faithfulness in service is a very deep mystery in God's Kingdom, which opens doors to higher realms in the spirit.

While others are wondering if they can trust God, those who are faithful will be asking can God trust me?

Galatians 6 v 9 (KJV)

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

That means there will be times that 'doing the right thing' will not look rewarding for the short term, it can look like, other people are demeaning you and down playing you!

When you are tired or weary, the temptation will be to compromise but don't give up on being faithful, knowing that the day of reward does not come every day but when it comes, it comes with arrears accumulated together.

CONCLUSION

GOD REWARDS THE WORKS OF MEN

Rev. 22 v 12 (KJV)

*And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me,
to give every man according as his work shall be.*

1 Corinthians 3:13–15 (KJV)

*Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day
shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire;
and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.
If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon,
he shall receive a reward.*

*If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss:
but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

The word 'BEHOLD' means to take note and to understand. We will be rewarded on these two dimensions: –

1. God rewards the purity of the motivation and intention behind everything you do.
2. God rewards according to the level of obedience to the plan and purpose given to you.

God is interested in what you do, and will reward only the purest motives and intentions. You cannot compare your work with anyone else, because what you do, will be measured only against the perfect will of God for your life.

Many people will miss the rewards when their works are tried. God may say "I called you to be a witness of my grace and mercy, but because of the persecution you backed down or choose to do things your own way".

We will not receive a reward for what we have built – but rather – for what we have built on!

It doesn't matter how good the work seems to be on the outward appearance, if it is built on jealousy and pride or a desire to be seen or known or the desire to outshine others; it will not survive the fire.

God knows the motives and intentions of the heart.

1 Kings 8 v 39 (NLT)

*then hear from heaven where you live, and forgive.
Give your people what their actions deserve, for you
alone know each human heart.*

1 Samuel 16 v 7 (NLT)

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Psalm 19 v 14 (NLT)

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

Psalm 26 v 2 (KJV)

Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

Psalm 38 v 9 (KJV)

Lord, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee.

Proverbs 4 v 23 (NLT)

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Philippians 4 v 8 (KJV)

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

1 Peter 2 v 9

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

I pray that this book has inspired you to seek, pursue and discover this amazing Kingdom of God.

I can only tell you that it will change your life.

Remember that seeking the Lord is not simply praying longer and louder or being more active BUT it is about being STILL and learning to hear the voice of God and following his ways.

Always remember, that God alone is your judge. He is always looking at our hearts, and he wants you and I to BE the person HE has planned for us to be.

I find it helpful to remember, that God is more interested in whom I am becoming, rather than what I am doing.

Here are some steps to remember.

- 1. Call upon God and pray to him consistently.
Make it part of your day evening and morning.***

Jeremiah 29 v 12 -14 (KJV)

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

And I will be found of you, saith the Lord: and I will turn away your captivity.

- 2. Decide to serve God with wholehearted devotion.***

1 Chronicles 28 v 9 (KJV)

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

3. *Cast your cares upon the Lord. It is better and safer to pour your heart out to God rather than to men.*

Psalm 55 v 22 (KJV)

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

4. *Keep your tongue from evil, turn from evil, do good, seek peace and pursue it.*

Psalm 34 v 11-16 (KJV)

Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?

Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

5. Forsake evil ways and thoughts, and allow the ways and thoughts of God to fill your heart and soul.

Isaiah 55 v 6-11 (KJV)

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Most of the scriptures used in this book are quoted from the King James Version, but I highly recommend that as you study the scriptures, compare other translations, to gain a deeper understanding. If you do not have a good basic understanding of the bible stories, you can use the internet for some research. Before reading the book of Daniel for example, do a search asking these simple questions.

1. Who wrote it and who was it written to.
2. When it was written and why.
3. What is the theme or main message of this book.

If you don't have a good Sunday school background, you might also find it helpful to watch videos of the bible stories.

The most important thing is to ask the Holy Spirit to help you discover the principles of God's Kingdom and how to put them into practice in your own heart and life.

John 14 v 26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

I leave you with these words:-

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in mercy. He is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works. All thy works shall praise you O Lord and your loving ones shall bless you. They shall speak of your glory and talk of your power, to make known to the sons of men your mighty deeds and the glorious majesty of your kingdom. Your Kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Audrey Morrow

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