

Bringing Heaven to Earth: Part 7

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What have you been looking for spiritually that you haven't seen taken place within your life yet? The Spirit of the Lord declares that He opens and closes doors that man cannot fathom. His timing is purposeful and because of your obedience, this seed will bring forth the more that He has placed within your Spirit. Because of the promise of more, His word is everlasting! Take this few moments remaining to prepare your heart for the seed. This preparation is your intentional actions that will produce the harvest to ready the multitude for His return. Harvest time is upon us.

A brief recap from our last few Sundays:

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2. A Glimpse of Heaven: Understanding what Heaven is right now.
3. Accepting God's will: Having a change in our thinking that produces a paradigm shift. This change brings our hearts in line with God's heart.
4. Executing Heavenly Mandates: Carrying out our greatest commandment to love the Lord God with all of our minds, soul, heart, and strength. And a second command to love our neighbors as ourself.
5. Expressing Heaven's Virtues: The works of the flesh are opposed to the fruit of the Spirit. We learned no one that practices the works of the flesh will inherit the Kingdom of God (Heaven on Earth) and that fruit is cultivated. Fruit is not a one time event and that fruit must go through seasons of pruning, weathering, and harvest.
6. Empowering through Prayer: Prayer that brings the focus of who we are addressing and not what we are addressing. Prayer must begin with our complete reverence of God's holiness and bring His holiness into our right now reality. Prayer is not about how long you pray but how often you pray. Pray is a two way conversation that involves space and opportunity for God to interact with us.
7. Unity of the Believers: The body of Christ is comprised of many part but not all parts do the same function. But their goal is to edify the entire body. Without every part working its proper assignment then the body is incomplete. This is true among the children of God. It will take all of us walking in our God given positions and callings to bring Heaven to Earth.

In the closing of this series we will unite these six things and speak of the most perfect example.

Matthew 3:13–17 GNB

13 At that time Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 But John tried to make him change his mind. “I ought to be baptized by you,” John said, “and yet you have come to me!” 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires.” So John agreed. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and alighting on him. 17 Then a voice said from heaven, “This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased.”

Let it be means to allow or permit. In the greek it goes deeper than the surface level of our english word. Within this scripture it means Surrender. It is the letting go of one's power. It is the release of obligation to self. As we have covered that portion within this series but to understand the letting go of our control and obligation means we no longer resist. Can we honestly say that we have surrendered our control to that of God? Truthfully, only those that serve can begin to capture this within their heart. To lose sight of self cannot be fathomed with words but it is the position of the heart that is manifested with signs and wonders. This is exactly what was happening here.

For in this way we shall do ALL that God requires. The only way to Bring Heaven to Earth is to let go of our dreams, goals, ambitions, and desires. All of our carnal desires do not lead us to the feet of Jesus. The very something that we hold on to along the way will distract us from giving all. Thats exactly what Jesus taught to the multitude of people.

Luke 14:26–30 NLT

26 “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. 27 And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. 28 “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? 29 Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. 30 They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’

This is the scripture that most “Christians” leave out of their arsenal. These are passages that most ministers are afraid to preach boldly from with love. As we see the context of this scripture we must not think that Jesus is telling us to actually hate our family. The word hate simply means to loveless. We are to love our family less than we love Him. Family represents a priority and Jesus is simply saying that our priorities have to change. It’s not optional and cannot be viewed as optional. But Jesus didn’t stop there...the next step is carrying our own cross and follow him. This means we

have to mimic how He brought Heaven to Earth. But unless you have considered the cost. What will this look like for each of us. The cost is the knowing of what we must lay down to be a disciple. Jesus did not call part time disciples. His call was to follow. This is a call of action and not sitting still nor becoming dormant.

Let us refer back to Part one of this series call, "A glimpse of Heaven".

John 17:1–3 ESV

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

A glimpse of Heaven is knowing God. Not a knowing of by name but a knowing that implies experiencing intimacy with him. Heaven is not the escape of death. It is unbroken fellowship with God. Heaven is not a life that goes on forever. Heaven is the quality of life here and now. This is found only by a personal relationship with God. This is Heaven on earth.

John 14:8–9 NLT

8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." 9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?

What Philip asked for was already among them because the Kingdom of God is within. The presence of God is what was among them and they could not see the forest from the tree. They looked with their physical eyes but not with their spiritual sight. What we see in the flesh oftentimes is a distraction. And these distractions hinder and weaken our faith from seeing Heaven on Earth.

In the book of Romans, Paul declared that our faith increases by keeping our ears inclined to the word of God. So what is or should I say who is the word of God? John gave us the answer in John 1. Jesus is the expression of God. Jesus is the word made flesh and is among us. And this is what Jesus told Philip in verse 9, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father". Seeing refers to spiritual sight. Having discernment and revelation. Look with me in Matthew 16:13-19

Matthew 16:13–19 NLT

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." 15 Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son

of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. 18 Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."

We will not bring Heaven to Earth unless we have revelation about the word from God. How many disciples did Jesus have? And we only see 5 answers given! Not everyone who says that they are disciples have a revelation of Jesus. I'm not saying that the others were not disciples but I'm making an observation based off of this passage.

As we dig deeper let's look at:

John 14:10–12 NLT

10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. 11 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do. 12 "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

Heaven was within Jesus and the evidence is that He brought Heaven to Earth in everything He did. Jesus set the standard of what bringing Heaven to Earth is suppose to look like. He even declared that the we would do the same work and even greater. The question is why are we not seeing Heaven on Earth right now. Why are we not seeing the same works? We will not see the greater until we see the same works first. The truth of why we are not seeing the same and greater is because we are still operating in the flesh. Sin is crouching at the door. We are still entertained by the very things that that Jesus was crucified to free us from. Let's look at the inauguration of Jesus:

Hebrews 1:8–9 NLT

8 But to the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. 9 You love justice and hate evil. Therefore, O God, your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else."

We all love righteousness but we all have not hated sin. Because we tolerate it. We tolerate sin by compromising with it. When we view sin the way that God views sin then we will deal with sin the way God deals with sin. Proverbs 8:13 "13 All who fear the Lord will hate evil."

John 4:31–36 NLT

31 Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, "Rabbi, eat something." 32 But Jesus replied, "I have a kind of food you know nothing about." 33 "Did someone bring him

food while we were gone?” the disciples asked each other. 34 Then Jesus explained: “My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. 35 You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. 36 The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!

Jesus’s strength came from fulfilling what God had purposed, “Bringing Heaven to Earth”. Bringing Heaven to Earth was found in every word and action that Jesus spoke and did. This all started with Jesus accepting God’s plan and not his own. We saw that in Matthew 3:15, “Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires.” And because He embraced the call to bring heaven to earth we will be in Matthew 4:1

Matthew 4:1 NLT

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit...

The Spirit of God will give direction on how to fulfill the call of Bringing Heaven to Earth. But we must let it be so.

Our mind surrendered

Our mouth surrendered

Our eyes surrendered

Our hands and feet surrendered

Our will surrendered

Our hearts surrendered

The relinquishing of ours for His. This is a choice that only you can make. Our age, race, nationality, nor gender factor the outcome. Just our beautiful surrender to accept and fulfill the call to Bring Heaven to Earth!

Let me pray with you today!

