

Week 3: Heaven to Earth (“May your kingdom come...”)

An Epic Story - The Greatest Ever Told:

“In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. He was [continually existing] in the beginning [co-eternally] with God. All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him not even one thing was made that has come into being. In Him was life [and the power to bestow life], and the life was the Light of men. Jn. 1:1-4

He taught us to pray. To worship His Father, to call Him holy. And he taught us to pray, “May your kingdom come, may your will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven.”

He never intended the work he had begun to stop there. He wanted us to continue his work ... to do the same things he did. He sent his Holy Spirit to give us power, *dunamis* to do the same things he did, in the same way he did. He said we would do “even greater things” than He. (John 14:12)

He has anointed his people, smeared them with His Holy Spirit. He has commissioned us, the way he commissioned the disciples he sent out ... heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out demons, and make this proclamation, “The kingdom of God is among you.”

God’s Ultimate plan - His Kingdom Come:

God’s goal, his dream is to restore His kingdom—His dominion—over the earth. Adonai accomplishes anything He sets His mind to.

He never relinquished His Title Deed. One day He will banish Satan and heaven and earth will be joined together in the same dimension.

There will be a New Earth, restored beyond its original glory and He will bring the New Jerusalem down and permanently establishes heaven on earth.

Jesus doesn’t want us to wait until we get to heaven to experience the kingdom of heaven. Now that we’ve learned more about heaven, we can better understand what he is calling us to here on earth.

We live in a paradox ... “already but not yet” ... promises partially fulfilled. Some will not be completely fulfilled until we reach heaven.

Hebrews 11 gives us what we call the Hall of Faith. At the end of the chapter it says, “All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received ALL that God promised. For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us.”

Still, Yeshua reminds us to pray, “*May your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*” He wants us to experience more of heaven on earth.

We are the king’s children. Wherever we go we bring the kingdom with us (British royals’ analogy).

God loves to partner with us, his royal children, to accomplish his will. If we want to join with him to bring heaven to earth it is first necessary for us to “*set our hearts on things above.*” Col. 3:14. That is why I taught you first about heaven.

Jesus brought heaven to earth:

Jesus came to accomplish Isaiah’s prophecy in chapter 61 ... *to proclaim good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim freedom for the captives, release from darkness for prisoners.*

Because he is full of grace, He came to redeem us back to himself. Grace is of heavenly origins. Grace not only forgives, grace also enables what it commands.

Jesus said, “*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel.*” Mark 1:15. This was his primary message. When we repent it is not simply an about face—a change of direction—it is changing how we think, aligning our mind with His. Taking on the mind of Christ.

Yeshua challenged our thinking through the Sermon on the Mount ... Happy are the poor in spirit. Happy are you if you mourn. If you’re meek, you will inherit the earth. Blessed are you when you are persecuted.

Our Kingdom Helper:

When Jesus sent His Holy Spirit to take His place, he gave us the same power which empowered Him in his humanity. He wanted us to become His hands and feet, His partners in disseminating the power of the kingdom ... in bringing heaven to earth.

Remember what Jesus said? “*The Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.*” John 5:19 NIV.

Because of the humanity the Son of Man took on, He too had to rely on the Holy Spirit and the direction of the Father. He chose to live with the same limitations that man would face once he was redeemed.

Heaven is now in us through the Holy Spirit. He desires for us to experience that in the here and now.

Back to my earlier point, if we are to see heaven on earth, we must also enter heaven ourselves.

Hebrews 12:22 says, “*But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.*” 12:28 goes on to say, “*We are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken.*”

The more time we spend in His heavenly presence, the more we will be able to bring that presence to earth. The more we press into him and hunger to see his power released ... “*on earth as it is in heaven,*” The more we will experience it. How are we spending your time?

1 Peter 3:13 (ESV), “*According to his promise we are waiting for a New Heavens and a New Earth in which righteousness dwells.*” He wants us to earnestly desire righteousness now.

Our original assignment was to have dominion over the earth. We gave that dominion over to Satan when we disobeyed. Ever since, Satan has been trying to destroy all that was good about what God created, what God said was “very good.”

God could have destroyed the devil and his minions with a word, but he chose instead to defeat darkness through His delegated authority. It’s our assignment to reclaim it!

Darkness always gives way to light! “*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.*” (John 1:5). Light is so superior to darkness that it is forced to leave!

Every time we walk into a room you bring heaven's light, especially if we follow his command to "walk in the light, even as He is in the light." (1 John 1:7).

Satan is only empowered when we come into agreement with him (as Adam and Eve did).

Remember this, "The God of Peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." (Romans 16:20).

We walk in the light of heaven whenever:

- We reach out and receive the blessings God has for us ... love, joy, shalom, the kind that passes understanding, and allow those blessings to flow forth from us like living water.
- We walk in hope and faith instead of fear (1 John 4:1).
- When we allow the Holy Spirit to renew our mind (Eph. 4:17) so we think the way Jesus thinks.
- When we work together as a body to accomplish His will. (Tour de France story).

Experiencing Heaven on Earth:

The more we live as citizens of heaven, the more heaven's activities infect our lifestyle.

God wants us to experience His supernatural power! He wants every one of us to be *smear*ed with his Holy Spirit. Anointing means, to be smeared with the oil of the Holy Spirit.

God can accomplish miracles and the supernatural all by himself from his throne. He can. He does.

But it's His joy to see his children thriving in faith. When He wanted to restore shattered hope to Rhonda and I, He used a man to bring a prophetic word of knowledge. He didn't even know what it meant but he obeyed. Then God did a miraculous work to back it up. He bound up our broken hearts and restored faith and hope in a miraculous way.

Miracles should be part of the normal Christian life! By them we can experience what the first century church experienced.

I still have far to go. I've been asking God for more faith (my conversation). He started by giving me Words of Knowledge. Then he did something really miraculous (Pam story). Now I am hungry for more.

As we continue this journey of pursuing His presence, He renews our mind. As we become more like him, our belief grows. We see clearly that he wants to break the hold the enemy has on our lives and reverse the damage he has done (often with our own agreement).

Let's get real, we will have difficulties in this world. Jesus told us as much. But he also said, "Be of good cheer, for I **have overcome** the world." Notice the present tense.

The importance of faith:

"By faith, we understand." Heb. 11:3. Our faith is anchored in the unseen. Heaven is moved by faith.

We have been conditioned to believe only what we see. The Bible instructs us to turn our attention toward the invisible. Col. 3:2, 2 Cor. 4:18. The invisible realm is superior to the natural.

When we fail to believe, we are putting our trust in the inferior realm, that which we can see.

But a little bit of faith (mustard seed) goes a long way!

Fear of man closely related to unbelief. **Biblical command most often repeated is: "Do not fear."**

Why? Fear attacks the foundation of our relationship with God ... our faith. Fear is faith in the devil; it is also called unbelief. Fear and faith cannot coexist.

But fear of God and faith are closely related.

I'm talking about the kind of fear that overwhelms us, that causes us to react as Jesus' friend, John did, saying, *"I fell at his feet as if I were dead."* Rev. 1:17.

There are dozens of promises in the Bible given to those who fear Yahweh.

God's kingdom comes into impossible situations when we receive power (anointing) from heaven and learn to release it into the circumstances of life.

It is our nature to think of those things that require courage and faith are only promises for a future time ... "that promise must only apply to heaven." If it is too good to be true, it can't be for now. Embracing a belief system that requires no faith is dangerous.

Faith is not the absence of doubt; it's the presence of belief. I may not always feel that I have great faith. But I can always choose to obey. I can lay my hands on someone and pray.

I was convicted by a story told by Randy Clark ... his first experiences of healing occurred in the marketplace where he encountered "believing unbelievers," before he experienced it in the church because of "unbelieving believers."

It's a mistake for us to ever examine our faith. We seldom find it. It's better for us to obey quickly. After it's over we can look back and see that our obedience came from faith.

Faith is contagious. The more miracles we see around us, the more it grows. If I see you have faith it encourages me. It's like a cluster bomb effect.

The opposite is also true.

It is NOT wrong to seek for signs and the increase of miracles to grow in faith.

Words of knowledge:

A word of knowledge is knowing something you could only know with it being revealed by God's Spirit.

It may be specific to a person, or just to a situation (God has shown me that someone here is ...)

Right and wrong ways to present it.

Prayer:

We do not command God, nor do we command angels. We call upon them to help.

But Jesus and His followers never prayed "God, if it is your will." They assumed it was.

They often laid hands on. James told us to anoint with oil. They took authority over sickness and demonic forces in Jesus name. They said things like, "Be healed. Stretch out your hand." Peter told the lame man, In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

Keep praying until you feel faith arising.

Do not be discouraged if healing does not occur. The more we pray, the more we will begin to experience the miraculous.

Keep asking, keep seeking, keep doing all you can do to receive anointing.