

A PORTION OF HEAVEN

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley, Point of Life Church, July 25, 2021

The Christian Journey.

Church, this world is not our home. We are on a journey toward a city whose builder and maker is the Lord!

This present world has come under the domain of Satan. He is the god of this age, the prince of the power of the air, working his will through the lives of the unrighteous. The spiritually blind will scoff at such a statement. The smirk on their faces reflects the foolishness in their hearts. The preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God which has borne us into the eternal Kingdom of Heaven!

The Kingdom of Heaven at Hand - (Mt. 3:3).

In the person of Christ, the Kingdom of God invaded the kingdom of this world, and the power of God's Kingdom was manifested: the dead were raised to life; the sick was healed; the captive was set free; and the sins of men were forgiven.

Luke 11:20 (Jesus to the religious leaders) "But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

Luke 10:8-9 (Jesus to the His disciples) "Whatever city you enter, heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

John 3:2 (Nicodemus to Christ) "We know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Mark 1:22 (the people who were taught by Jesus) were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority.

The coming of the Christ initiated the beginning of the "last days" spoken of by the prophets.

God spoke through Jeremiah the prophet saying, "I will put My law within them and on their heart, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people," (Jer. 31:33). And again, through the prophet Joel saying, "I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind," (Joel 2:28-29).

The Kingdom of Heaven at Hand Today.

God's Kingdom is present today in the presence of the Holy Spirit in the church – the body of Christ – comprised of both Jew and Gentile. The promise made to Abraham, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU," has come to fruition in Christ.

Now in Christ Jesus we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. We are fellow citizens with the saints, and we are of God's household. In Christ we are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:12-13, 18-20)

Our Possession of the Kingdom

We have inherited the Kingdom of God, which, at present, we possess by faith. However, God has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit. He is the down payment of our inheritance. (Eph. 1:13-14)

Ephesians 1:13-14 *In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

In the presence of the Holy Spirit, we have a portion (or taste) of Heaven with a guarantee of much more yet to come. Yes, we are rich in Christ through the Holy Spirit. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. He desires for us to experience His presence and to know His love as we patiently endure for the full redemption of all things.

Our Possession of the Power of the Kingdom

The power of God's Kingdom works mightily in us through Christ Jesus by the Holy Spirit!

Ephesians 1:18–19 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might*

- His power in us
- His power among us
- His power through us

Our greatest need is to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God

Colossians 3:1 *Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.*

Luke 11:13 *“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”*