

The Kingdom of God

Matthew 6:33 (NLT) ³³ **Seek the Kingdom of God above all else,** and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Matthew 13:44 (NLT) *Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl*

⁴⁴ **"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.

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NLT) ²⁰ For the **Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power.**

Matthew 24:14 (NLT) ¹⁴ **And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.**

Colossians 1:1–14 (NLT) *Greetings from Paul*

This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. ² We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace.

Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer

³ We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, ⁵ which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News. ⁶ This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace. ⁷ You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. ⁸ He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you. ⁹ So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. ¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. ¹³ For he has

rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Romans 14:17 (NLT) ¹⁷ For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1. Power To Change

1 Corinthians 4:18–20 (NLT) ¹⁸ Some of you have become arrogant, thinking I will not visit you again. ¹⁹ But I will come—and soon—if the Lord lets me, and then I'll find out whether these arrogant people just give pretentious speeches or whether they really have God's power. ²⁰ For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power.

Living by God's power means living by His Life Changing Power. We can change where we need to do so, in His power. Through His Power, through the Holy Spirit we are changed in ways needed, and we become more beautiful as people. The Holy Spirit works through supernatural power, understanding in our mind, through the Word, through truth, through freedom, through gifts of the spirit working in others, through prayer, and through relationships.

2. Stability & Strength In Heart & Mind

Luke 1:26–33 (NLT) *The Birth of Jesus Foretold* ²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

Psalms 145:13a (NLT) ¹³ For your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations.

Hebrews 12:25–29 (NLT) ²⁵ Be careful that you do not refuse to listen to the One who is speaking. For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, we will certainly not escape if we reject the One who speaks to us from heaven! ²⁶ When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: "Once again I will shake not only the

earth but the heavens also.” ²⁷ This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain.

²⁸ Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshipping him with holy fear

If we live our life with eyes on Jesus and eyes on His Kingdom, we have set our sights on the most stable thing, an eternal Kingdom. If our eyes and thoughts are there more, we are more stable in heart and mind.

3. Change From Wrong Directions

Repentance from Sin and turning to God is necessary to receive this wonderful Kingdom!

We are transferred or rescued from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of Jesus!

Matthew 4:17 (NLT) ¹⁷ From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NLT) ⁹ Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. ¹¹ Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Colossians 1:11-14 ¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Hebrews 12:5–9 (NLT) ⁵ And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, “My child, don’t make light of the Lord’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.” ⁷ As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? ⁸ If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. ⁹ Since we respected our earthly fathers who

disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?

Conclusion

Luke 12:31–32 (NLT) ³¹ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.

³² “So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.

Additional References: Ephesians 1:15–23 and John 14:4–8