

## SCRIPTURE

**29** “And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. **30** For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. **31** But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. **32** “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:29-32 NKJV)

**First**, Jesus instructs us to pray, “Let your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10).

**Second**, Jesus helps us set our priorities for everyday living when He says, “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

So this is God’s will for us—to desire and pray that His Kingdom would break into our lives daily, and remind us that we should align our priorities with the values of His Kingdom.

Here’s a good place to start: Every born-again believer, every person who committed his or her life to Jesus, is a part of God’s Kingdom.

In a famous gospel passage, Jesus explains to Nicodemus,

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” **3** Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” **4** Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” **5** Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ **8** The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”  
(John 3:1-8 NKJV)

**16** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:16 NKJV)

**37** On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. **38** He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” **39** But this He spoke concerning

the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39 NKJV)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4 NKJV)

**38** Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:38-29 NKJV)

This passage has many things to teach us, but let’s make sure we get this straight right away: No one attains, earns, or works for their place in God’s Kingdom—we are born into it.

And if we are born into God’s Kingdom that means we are His children. That makes sense, right? The apostle John assures us this is so when he writes to God’s people,

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (1 John 3:1 NKJV)

This also underscores that God’s Kingdom is no earthly kingdom.

His Kingdom is not of this world, which means that when we are born into God’s Kingdom by grace, we must learn a new way to live—God’s Kingdom doesn’t operate in the ways that worldly kingdoms do.

Worldly kingdoms are based on things like political power, military might, wealth, beauty, intelligence, and all the things we see valued by the world around us. But the values of God’s Kingdom are radically different. These values include: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Does that list sound familiar? It should. These are the “fruit of the Spirit” listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Jesus taught His disciples that things like “greatness” and “leadership” in His Kingdom flowed from humility and service—which are definitely not part of the value systems in worldly structures.

Think about where we live, work, and go to school. What values do worldly systems reward?

- Our political systems reward power and persuasion;
- Our business systems reward competition and wealth;
- Our society rewards celebrities and beauty.

I believe we have become preoccupied with heaven when we should be looking for how God is bringing His Kingdom to earth.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught us to pray, “Let your Kingdom come, let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

Jesus said plainly that God’s Kingdom should be our highest priority: “Seek first the Kingdom of God.” (Matthew 6:33) Do we really think He meant that we should place going to heaven after we die as our highest earthly priority?

Jesus expects us to demonstrate and explain God’s Kingdom today. To be about the kingdom is to be about the Father’s business.

When we are focused on God’s Kingdom, we find ourselves immersed in His priorities.

Jesus is the King of an entirely different kingdom, a realm with another language, another way of life, a different culture.

God wasn’t kidding when He said that His ways are not our ways. Listen to the beautiful words from Isaiah 55:8-9.

8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.  
9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways,  
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

We are born into a realm that operates differently, and just as newborn babes, we must learn the ways of God’s Kingdom.

This is one reason so many Christians have difficulty finding traction in their spiritual lives. We have been born into another kingdom, but we are trying to live our lives by the value of the world’s kingdom.

The apostle Paul took this new birth very seriously. Here’s part of his prayer for the newborn Christians in the city of Colossae:

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed

us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **14** in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:12-14 NKJV)

Notice two things in this prayer: As children of the kingdom, we have an inheritance from God.

This includes eternal life, and it also includes so much more!

Second, notice the difference between the “dominion of darkness” and the “kingdom of light.”

It’s a vivid image but it’s more than an image.

**Which kind of movement describes your life in Christ?** Wouldn’t it be awful to have a grand inheritance of children of the light, but still live life as though we were in darkness?