

The Kingdom Within 6

Please refer to chapter 11 in the *Extraordinary* book, along with session 6 of the teaching series.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The *Kingdom of God* is the sphere of God's rule (see Psalm 22:28; 145:13). Since, however, this earth is presently in universal rebellion against God, the "kingdom" of God is the sphere in which, at any given time, *His rule is acknowledged*. God calls upon men and women everywhere, without distinction of race or nationality, to submit voluntarily to His rule. Thus the "kingdom" is said to be "in mystery" now (see Mark 4:11). As a result, at the present time and so far as this earth is concerned, **the Kingdom of God is where the King is and where His rule is acknowledged**—first, in the heart of the individual believer and then in the churches of God.¹

“Once the Holy Spirit came to dwell *within* mankind, the Kingdom and all its power would be **within us!** We now possess the power to advance the Kingdom in the hearts and lives of others. This is why God's Word states, 'For God's Kingdom is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of the righteousness, peace, and joy which the Holy Spirit gives' (Romans 14:17 TEV).”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 11

1. Jesus is the head of His church—the growing body of believers He ransomed and rescued from Satan's rule. Although Jesus is no longer physically here on earth, we are, and He deeply desires to continue manifesting the lasting fruit of His Kingdom through us.
 - a. Explain the difference between the Kingdom of God being *near*, or at hand, and it being *here*.

The Kingdom being NEAR (at hand) means...

Check out Matthew 3:1-2; 10:5-8; Mark 1:14-15.

The Kingdom being HERE means...

Check out John 14:16-17; Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 3:16.

- b. How are you praying for *God's Kingdom to come* in your life, your family, your church, your neighborhood, your country, etc.? What fruit of these prayers are you seeing?

Heaven's

APPEAL

...When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. **Your Kingdom come.** *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

—Luke 11:2 NKJV

2. When Jesus sent out the disciples to declare and demonstrate God's Kingdom *on earth as it is in heaven*, the disciples looked for certain conditions in the lives of the people—conditions that were contrary to the conditions of heaven.

- a. In what specific ways did Jesus and His disciples visibly manifest the Kingdom of God in the lives of people on the earth?

Check out Matthew 10:1,7-8; 11:4-5; 15:29-37.

- b. What conditions are in your life and the lives of those around you that are *contrary* to the conditions of heaven? What is the Lord stirring in your heart to do about it?

APPEAL

In solemn truth I tell you, *anyone believing in me* shall do the same miracles I have done, and **even greater ones**, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask him for *anything*, using my name, and I will do it, for this will bring praise to the Father because of what I, the Son, will do for you. Yes, ask *anything*, using my name, and I will do it!

—John 14:12-14 TLB

Voice of the Ages



“The kingdom of the Messiah was to be a **spiritual kingdom**, not temporal. It has a spiritual influence. The Kingdom of God will not change men’s outward condition, but their *hearts* and *lives*. Therefore, look for the Kingdom of God in the revolutions of the heart, not of the civil government.”

—Matthew Henry²

3. The Pharisees had *great expectations*; they believed the Messiah was coming but that He would come a certain way—as a conquering king, not a suffering one. Their inability or unwillingness to be flexible in their faith created an impenetrable prison that barred them from God’s presence.

- a. Have you ever prayed for Jesus to come and help you, and He showed up in an *unexpected* way? Explain the situation and how you had to adjust your expectations.

- b. *Get quiet before the Lord* and ask Him what (if any) “prisons” are barring you from experiencing His presence on a deeper and more intimate level.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

The word *righteousness* is the Greek word *dikaiosune*. It is used in one form or another about 228 times in the New Testament and at least 40 times in the book of Romans. The word *righteous* goes back to a base word, *reg*, which means to “move in a straight line.” Thus, *righteous* (rightwise) means “in the straight (or right) way.” When used to reference morality, *righteous* means “living or acting in the right way.” What’s the “right” way? Scripture gives us the ultimate standard of rightness or *righteousness*—it is **God Himself**. God’s character reveals what is absolutely right. Not only is He the measure of moral right and wrong, He’s also the *source* of right living.³ To be righteous is to be *right in the eyes of God*.

4. One of the most important aspects of the Kingdom of God that Jesus brought to earth is righteousness. The Word is full of scriptures describing the *righteousness* of God and His Son Jesus.

- a. Meditate on the message of these scriptures:

But seek (aim at and strive after) **first of all His Kingdom** and His *righteousness* (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.

—Matthew 6:33 AMP

For the *Kingdom of God* is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness** and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

—Romans 14:17 NKJV

For the *Kingdom of God* is not just fancy talk; it is living by God’s power.

—1 Corinthians 4:20 NLT

- b. Read Galatians 3:6-9, describing how Abraham was counted as righteous in God’s sight. What does this say to you about being counted as righteous in His sight?

Also **check out** Romans 4:18-22; James 2:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

FASCINATING FACT: THE DUAL DUTY OF GOD’S SPIRIT

Jesus’ personal ministry on earth was *limited* to the individuals with whom He came into contact with in His physical body. The Holy Spirit, however, is not limited by the restrictions of a physical body. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit

not only to be our Comforter, but also to go into all the world and work through redeemed beings as agents to manifest God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

The Holy Spirit works in all people to guide them into all truth.⁴

For more on the **ministry of the Holy Spirit**, see John 14:15-20,26; 16:5-15.

5. After Jesus was raised from the dead, He walked the earth for 40 days, appearing to hundreds of His followers. Before He returned to heaven, He told them to wait for the promise of the Father—that He Himself would send the *Holy Spirit*.

- a. What were the disciples filled with power to do—and what are *you* filled with power to do? (See page 111 in the book.)

- b. The Holy Spirit was not just given to the disciples, the early church, and certain “full-Gospel, charismatic” believers; He was given to *everyone*. What does the timeless truth in Acts 2:39 speak to your heart?

“Not only was great grace upon the apostles to advance the Kingdom, but also on the ordinary church members. This was God’s will *then*, this is God’s will *now*, and this will *always* be God’s will!”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 11

Heaven’s

APPEAL

...with **great power** the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And **great grace** was upon them all.

—Acts 4:33 NKJV

6. To a great degree in the western Church, the miraculous is missing—the “greater works” that Jesus declared we would do aren’t being done. Read the stories of Peter and John at the temple in Acts 3:1-10 and 4:1-4.

Voice of the Ages

- a. How did the people in the temple respond to Peter and John—the *messengers* of the Gospel? How did they respond to the *message* of the Gospel?

- b. How do you think the people would have responded if Peter and John would have just gone into the temple and preached *without* bringing healing to the crippled man?

- c. **Check out** the mighty miracles done through Peter (Acts 9:32-35), Paul (Acts 16:25-34), and Jesus (John 4:46-53). After reading these accounts of the manifestation of God's Kingdom, write what the Holy Spirit reveals to you about why we desperately need miracles in the church today.

“...There is no greater power in the world than the power of the Holy Spirit. ...[Jesus] promised, ‘And ye shall receive **power**’ (Acts 1:8).

In other words, Jesus was saying, ‘I give you the *same power* that was manifested in My life on earth, the *same power* that was manifested in My ministry. You have seen the miracles. You have seen the demonstration of supernatural power. Now I am going away, but I am not leaving you powerless. As a gift, I am giving to you, My own church, the *same power* that was Mine when I walked this earth.’”

—Kathryn Kuhlman⁵

Heaven's

APPEAL

Jesus said, "Don't believe me unless I do miracles of God. But if I do, believe them even if you don't believe me. Then you will become convinced that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

—John 10:37-38 TLB

MANIFEST

The word *manifest* means "to reveal, to display, or to make appear; to show plainly; to make public; to reveal to the eye or to the understanding." A *manifestation* is "the act of making known what is secret, unseen or obscure; the display of anything by clear evidence."⁶ Therefore, the manifestations of God are the bringing out into the open public the excellent character and conduct of God.

7. Jesus Christ effectively brought heaven to earth, Himself being an exact representation of the Father. He said, "...He who has seen Me has seen the Father..." (John 14:9). In the same way, Jesus sends us into the world to represent Him (see John 20:21).

- a. When was the last time you personally experienced the Kingdom of God manifested before your eyes? Explain what took place and how it changed your life.

- b. Jesus' mission is now YOUR mission! Read His declaration in Luke 4:18-19 and write what it means to you personally.

“Jesus makes it crystal clear: He tells us once that *the Kingdom is within us*. We can advance it, no matter if we are a businessman or woman, stay-at-home mom, doctor, school teacher, mechanic, student, politician, investor, realtor—our occupation does not matter. He commissions **all of us** to advance the Kingdom.”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 11

Heaven's

APPEAL

He said to them, "Go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel to all people. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. **Believers will be given the power to perform miracles:** they will drive out demons in my name; they will speak in strange tongues; if they pick up snakes or drink any poison, they will not be harmed; they will place their hands on sick people, and these will get well."

—Mark 16:15-18 TEV

8. Part of advancing God's Kingdom is proclaiming the Gospel and seeing people saved. In the first five chapters of the book of Acts, it repeatedly says that souls were *added* to the church. But after chapter five, the Word says that the number of disciples *multiplied* greatly.

- a. What took place that caused the growth to change from addition to multiplication?

- b. What does this say to you about reaching the lost of this generation with the saving message of Christ?

Check out Acts 2:41,47; 5:14 for verses on addition; Acts 6:1,7 for verses on multiplication.

- c. Is there anything holding you back from using God's grace to manifest His Kingdom on earth? Are you afraid of something? *Get quiet before the Lord* and ask Him to show you your heart; write what He reveals and surrender any fears or hindrances to Him in prayer.

Heaven's

APPEAL

I sought the Lord, and he answered me; *he delivered me from all my fears.*

—Psalm 34:4 NIV

Voice of the Ages

9. Stephen was *not* an apostle, prophet, teacher or pastor. He was a “restaurant” worker who helped with the distribution of food for widows. And yet, the Word says he was full of God’s *grace* and *power*, performing amazing miracles among the people.

- a. How does the life of Stephen, an ordinary believer living an extraordinary life, challenge you?

- b. Do you ever become fearful about what you’ll say as a witness for Christ when you stand before others? Write, in your own words, God’s encouraging promise in Luke 12:11-12.

10. Like Jesus, Stephen had the grace to forgive his murderers. Is there someone who has really hurt you who has been hard to forgive? God’s grace is available to empower you to freely forgive him/her. Humble yourself before God in prayer and ask Him for help. Write out anything He reveals to you about the situation.

the bottom line

Grace is God’s empowerment; it is the expression of His Kingdom that now dwells *within* you as a believer. Grace gives you the ability to go beyond your own ability in every area of life—to live like Jesus and do what is needed to advance His Kingdom. This extraordinary living pleases Him greatly!

“Whether we preach, pray, write, do business, travel, take care of children, or administer the government—whatever we do—our whole life and influence should be *filled* with the power of the *Holy Spirit*.”
—Charles Finney⁷

UNVEIL YOUR HERO

A former prisoner—completely transformed—returns to his old neighborhood to do youth ministry and use his story to reach those he used to “run” with.

Myron is shaping
a generation...

Journal Your Journey

“**The Kingdom within** speaks of the divine nature, which empowers us to live holy and fruitful in this present world. Jesus showed how mankind was created to live, not bound to the burning desires of fallen flesh, but motivated by righteousness, propelled by the power of the Holy Spirit in love, joy, and peace—abounding in forgiveness, healing, restoration, and lifting others to the higher life. *This is the Kingdom*; it’s not only to live holy, but also to bring heaven’s lifestyle to our lost and dying world.”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 11

EYE-OPENERS

What new, eye-opening understanding(s) about the Kingdom of God is the Holy Spirit bringing to life in your heart?

REVOLUTIONARY YOU

How is your faith being stretched? How is the Lord challenging you to change your thinking? What *new goals* is He asking you to set?

PRAYER

Father, thank You for a greater understanding of Your Kingdom within me. I pray that Your Kingdom would come and Your will would be done through me on earth as it is in heaven. Please stir up in me an appetite for the extraordinary. Give me a hunger and thirst for righteousness so that I may be filled with all that You are (Matthew 5:6)...in Jesus' name, Amen.

EVERYTHING!

For in Christ there is all of God in a human body;
 so **you have everything** when you have Christ,
 and *you are filled with God* through your union with Christ.
 He is the highest Ruler, with authority over every other power.
 —Colossians 2:9-10 TLB

A cataclysmic event took place 50 days after Jesus was raised from the dead—an event without equal in history before or since. It was the day of Pentecost—the day that unleashed a brand new paradigm of God's power in the earth. On that day, **everything** that Jesus paid for was made available and *deposited within* believers—*everything*.

For the first time, the Spirit of the Living God was poured out not just *on* people, but *in* people. And unlike the Old Testament times when God's Spirit came on certain people for a certain task, this time His Spirit was *permanently* poured into people from all walks of life (see 1 John 2:27). Imagine! The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead, created the heavens and the earth, and formed the complex anatomy of every living creature we see could now make His home *inside* of believers of every language in every land!

FASCINATING FACT: EXPLOSIVE & SUSTAINING POWER

Power can be *unleashed*, or it can be *harnessed*. The energy in 10 gallons of gasoline, for instance, can be released explosively by dropping a lighted match into the can. Or it can be channeled through the engine of a car in a controlled burn and used to transport a person 350 miles.

Explosions are spectacular, but controlled burns have *lasting effect*, staying power. The Holy Spirit works **both** ways. At Pentecost, He exploded

on the scene; His presence was like “tongues of fire” (Acts 2:3). Thousands were affected by one burst of God’s power. But He also works through the church—the body of Christ—where God released the Holy Spirit’s power for the long haul.⁸

It is very important to understand that the infilling of God’s Spirit that took place on the day of Pentecost is *different* from the initial indwelling of God’s Spirit that we receive when we get saved. The same day Jesus was raised from the dead, He appeared to His disciples and “...He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’” (John 20:22). Then 40 days later, the day He ascended into heaven, He “...commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ...for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now” (Acts 1:4-5).

Why would Jesus breathe on His disciples to receive the Holy Spirit one day, and then 40 days later command them to wait in Jerusalem for the baptism of the Holy Spirit if these two experiences were not different? It is the baptism of the Holy Spirit that empowers us with His abounding grace to be His witnesses. This immersion in God’s power will give you **everything** you need to live holy and advance His Kingdom on every level.

“*Abounding, empowering grace* gives us complete and total sufficiency to meet **every** need we may encounter, no matter what it is! There is nothing that cannot be accomplished in regard to bringing heaven’s provision—*God’s Kingdom*—to earth; for grace has fully provided it all!”

JOHN BEVERE

adapted from chapter 11

Heaven’s

APPEAL

And God is able to make **all grace** (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you *in abundance*, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation].

—2 Corinthians 9:8 AMP

Read Acts 1:8 and explain why you too need God’s promised gift of the Holy Spirit.

How did the baptism of the Holy Spirit affect the disciples? Look at a *before* and *after* snapshot.

BEFORE the day of Pentecost, the disciples were...

Check out Matthew 26:56; Mark 14:50; John 20:19.

AFTER the day of Pentecost, the disciples were...

Check out Acts 4:5-13; 23-33.

Check out Jude 20, Romans 8:26-27 and 1 Corinthians 14:2,4 to understand some of the priceless blessings of praying in the Spirit. Write what the Spirit reveals to you.

If you have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, are you speaking in tongues regularly? If not, why?

If you have received Jesus as your Lord and Savior but have not received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, you can do so now. All you have to do is ask! Jesus said, "If you then, though you are evil (*have a fallen nature*), know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13 NIV; italic words added for clarity). Just believe in your heart that what you ask for is given to you the moment you ask (see James 1:6-7; Mark 11:24).

Once you *ask* for the Holy Spirit, you will *receive* the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:4 says, "And they were all filled with the

Heaven's

APPEAL

May blessing...be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) Who has blessed us in Christ with **every** spiritual (given by the Holy Spirit) blessing in the heavenly realm!

—Ephesians 1:3 AMP

Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” The word *utterance* means “syllables, sounds or words.” After you pray, you will probably sense a syllable, sound or word bubbling up inside of your spirit or swirling around in your head. Although the impression may be faint and you may feel silly, SPEAK IT OUT! That’s the Holy Spirit. He is giving you the utterance, but you must YIELD your lips, tongue and vocal chords to speak what He is impressing on you.

Are you ready to receive? Do you believe you will have what you ask for? Are you willing to yield yourself to the Holy Spirit? Let’s pray...

Prayer for the Promised Gift of the Holy Spirit

Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus. First, I ask You to forgive me of any sin, including the sin of unforgiveness, that would hinder me from receiving from You. By Your grace and as an act of my will, I release anyone who has offended me and bless them with Your best; wash me clean from the inside out with the blood of Jesus.

Now as Your child, I ask You for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. You said if I ask You for the Holy Spirit, You would give Him to me, so by faith I ask You now to baptize me with Your Holy Spirit. I receive everything You have for me, including the ability to speak in a new heavenly language. Now in faith, I will speak in new tongues...in Jesus’ name, Amen!

Has the Lord touched your life? Take a few moments to express your experience.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Isaiah 61:10
Romans 10:4
1 Corinthians 1:30
Philippians 3:9

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT


Joel 2:28-29
Matthew 3:11
John 7:38-39
Acts 1:4-5,8; 2:1-21,38-39

MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 6:63; 14:15-26; 16:7-15
Romans 8:11
2 Corinthians 3:6
1 John 2:27

NOTES

1. Adapted from *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, W. E. Vine (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc. 1996) p. 344. 2. *The KJV Matthew Henry Study Bible*, Kenneth Abraham, General Editor (Word Bible Publishers, Inc.: 1994) p. 2020. 3. From *The Word in Life™* Study Bible, copyright © 1993, 1996 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission, adapted from p. 2025. 4. Ralph M. Riggs, *The Life of Christ* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1968) adapted from p. 186. 5. Kathryn Kuhlman, *The Greatest Power in the World* (North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos Publishers, 1997) pp. 65-66. 6. Adapted from *Noah Webster's First Edition of an American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828), Republished in facsimile edition by Foundation for American Christian Education (San Francisco, CA 1995). 7. *Fast Break, Five-Minute Devotions to Start Your Day* (St. San Luis Obispo, CA: Parable, 2007) p. 117. 8. Illustrations on *Pentecost* (www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/p/pentecost.htm, retrieved 4/23/09).



Therefore, since we have
been justified through faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus
Christ, through whom *we*
have gained access by faith
into this grace in which we
now stand. And we rejoice in
the hope of the glory of God.

—Romans 5:1-2 NIV

xtraordinary