

A disciple walks with a Kingdom mind-set

So far, we have looked at how a disciple must walk in obedience to God's will and commandments, and how a disciple walks in obedience. Just as important is that a disciple needs to adopt a Kingdom mind-set.

The Lord's Prayer emphasises the need to focus first on God and His Kingdom, above our own, for indeed in the last days man will become lovers of the self, according to 2 Timothy 3. Such self-love sparks selfish desires, wants and needs. This is, however, not the way of a disciple of the Lord. We are called to focus first and foremost upon the Lord.

We redeemed by the Blood of Jesus and we are citizens of heaven.

Therefore heaven – the Kingdom of God – is our first priority.

Philippians 3:20-22: Amplified Bible (AMP): ²⁰ But we are citizens of the state (commonwealth, homeland) which is in heaven, and from it also we earnestly and patiently await [the coming of] the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [as] Savior, ²¹ Who will transform and fashion anew the body of our humiliation to conform to and be like the body of His glory and majesty, by exerting that power which enables Him even to subject everything to Himself.

We therefore need to realise that as citizens of heaven, there is a greater government that governs us, and a greater ruler who takes care of His children. The problem is, we still operate and function according to this world, and we allow this world to yoke us and keep us in bondage. We all know the following well known verse: *Matthew 6: 33* But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Also consider *Luke 12: 31* But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things[c] shall be added to you. *32* "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom

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God has called it first and foremost to focus on the Kingdom, for the Kingdom of God is *not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:7)*. This was emphasised in the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 6.

When it comes to marvellous and spectacular developments and constructions, mankind has outdone itself. From the ancient wonders to the modern marvels, from breath-taking engineering feats to glorious high rising developments, mankind loves to pat itself on the back. From the beginning of time to our modern day settings, man has been constantly building, from practical huts to towering 'castles' of steel and glass. Cities, churches and homes have been transformed over time as man's knowledge has advanced and as greater resources are made available. Such is the way of mankind – labouring and working to become better, more wondrous and more astonishing.

But this quest has often blinded mankind to the greatest construction project that we should be attending to, which is the Kingdom of God, build on the foundation of Jesus within ourselves and established through the Gospel throughout the world. *1 Peter 2: 4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame"*

We are called to focus on the Kingdom as His disciples, and to work on establishing His Kingdom in the hearts of all mankind. For the Kingdom of God is everlasting, enduring, alive, magnificent beyond any imagination, spectacular beyond compare and it resides within the heavenlies and within the spirit and soul of the followers of the Living Lord.

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And this Kingdom is not a figment of one's imagination – it is spiritual yet real – more real and tangible than this life and this world. It is world to which we all are called (John 3:16-18) and it is a Kingdom prepared for us for it says in *Matthew 25 (verse 32)*: *Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.*

Glory to God! What greater evidence of God's magnificent Kingdom, spiritual and real, when we read *Revelations 21: 10* *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.*

Indeed, the Lord has called all man to seek above all else the Kingdom of God. In the Old Testament this meant to honour the Temple in which the Lord resided, and to honour Him by following the Law of Moses. Under the Covenant of Grace we are called to seek the Kingdom by following Jesus and walking in the Spirit and Truth and seeking to fulfil the Great Commission of Matthew 28.

To focus on the Kingdom is to seek the heart, will, mind, intention, purpose, plan and design of the King of such a Kingdom. Is this truly the state of the church or are we still focussed on our own desires, plans and agendas? Kingdom-minded means being mindful of the King of such a dominion above all else. 1 John 2: 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

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Let us also read *Colossians 3: 1* Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. *2* Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. We need to seek the Kingdom, we need to tell the world about the Kingdom and above all make it our priority to establish the Kingdom firmly first in ourselves and then the lost.

It says in *Matthew 6: 33* 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.

We need to set our minds of God and then the anointing will flow to provide for all our needs. *Ephesians 3: 20* Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams] - *21* To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen (so be it).

In *1 Corinthians 3* we are reminded of the following: *11* For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. *12* If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, *13* his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. *14* If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.

Truly, for those who seek the Kingdom of God, by seeking God, then surely our work will stand the test of time and our reward will be granted in heaven, just as God will take care of us on earth. We can so easily be blinded by our own wants and needs, wanting to build our own kingdoms that we forget God's Kingdom always takes priority. But this is

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not the way of the disciple. A disciple of the Lord seeks the Kingdom above all else. A disciple will have no other king except Jesus. If we seek His Kingdom, then what we built here on earth shall survive.

Let us read from *Haggai 1* (verses 3-11): Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while his house remains a ruin?" Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have harvest little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured," says the Lord. "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the Lord Almighty, "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the field and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labour of your hands."

In context to the chapter in Haggai, what then are we supposed to be building? The house of the Lord! The fullness of Christ means fullness in blessings, provision, healing, anointing, the Holy Spirit, Lord's presence, Lord's glory, and Lord's treasures. We, however, can't experience the fullness of such awesome wonders if we keep building our own houses (when placing ourselves above Lord), therefore leaving God's House (His Kingdom) in ruins (by our lack of attention, focus and commitment). We can only discover such wonders when we build Lord's house of glory. This means that we have to become Lord's house of glory in Spirit and Truth,

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which will empower and enable us to honour and exalt Lord through all that we do, say and think!

As long as we fail to submit completely to Lord, meaning that we desire to satisfy our own needs then we are building our own houses. We, however, build the house of Lord when we live according the principles of His Word and Spirit. We must make sure that Lord's house does not lie in ruins within us. Without the fullness of Christ we can never experience the full harvest of our work, neither shall we experience the full blessing of abundance when it comes to God's provision and protection (food, clothes, money). We must stop following our ways (building our own houses), but start building God's house of glory.

When we become God's house of glory, the Lord shall be pleased. The Lord does mighty wonders through those He favours. We must therefore as a holy priesthood built to Lord's honour. We are called to be spiritual sacrifices, since Romans 12:1 says that we must offer our bodies as offerings, holy and pleasing to Lord. This is then our spiritual act of worship.

When we commit our lives fully to the Lord, then we will bear fruit and experience Lord's abundant blessing. *Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. (John 15:4).* We need Jesus in our lives so that we can be changed and guided. The Lord, however, needs a pure spiritual dwelling, which must become the house (temple) build in our spirit, soul and body.

Just as important is that we must not forget the foundation of the temple that was laid. What is the foundation? Jesus Christ of course! We must therefore remember Jesus' sacrifice, as well as the day that we as living offerings committed our lives to Christ. We are reminded that Jesus will always be the rock that we need to build on. The stone the

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builders rejected has become the capstone (Psalm 118:22); ... build on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. (Ephesians 2:20-22)

Christ must and should always remain the most important stone and foundation of our lives. We need to make sure we as the living temples of the Lord are constructed on the foundation of Jesus lest we collapse in the wake of the devils' onslaughts. The stones of fear, faith and love strengthen such a foundation. A disciple's entire spiritual walk is grounded on the Rock of Jesus.

In 2 Timothy 2:20-21 we read: In a large house there are articles not of only gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. We are the clay and God is the potter. However, as we grow spiritually, we must get rid of our clay and wood-like qualities, becoming pure and holy (gold and silver), so that we can become noble for God. Clay speaks of a time when we are still being formed and moulded, meaning we are seeking to find our place in the potter's hands. When we build our own house, we remain like clay, not noble, but when we build God's house, we become like gold and silver.

When you refine clay and wood with fire, it gets burned and becomes of little use. Gold and silver becomes more pure when refined by fire. God's fire refines us, for He desires that we must be refined so that we can become like pure gold and silver. Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purpose and some for common good? (Romans 9:21)

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We must build Lord's spiritual house with gold, which means that we as His holy living sacrifices can't live in a lukewarm spiritual state. For then we shall retain our clay and wood-like qualities. We need to grow in the fullness of Christ so that we can become like gold and silver spiritually, worthy to build the King's house. Satan thrives on destroying, yet for those who walk in the fear and faith and love of the Lord shall overcome.

If we want to enjoy the fullness of the Lord, we must avoid walking in hate [unforgiveness], in unholy fear and without hope. We need to build our lives upon the foundation Jesus, who is the way, truth and life. The Truth is we need to fear Him, love Him and have faith in Him, for this is the Way to the Father which provides us with life. The Word says that is we love the Lord, and then we will obey Him because His commandments are not burdensome. If we love, we must act as living testimonies of the Gospel. To walk in faith, love and holy fear is vital, for they are all intertwined, interwoven, and each one is dependent upon the other. We need to build with these stones if we wish to build a solid life on Christ. We can't enjoy the fullness of the Lord and all His blessings if we only pay attention to one or two of these blocks.

Shall we therefore not in this day set our sights on the marvels of the greatest Kingdom that has ever existed – on the Kingdom of God that will endure all time and all eternity? For those who believe are citizens of this Kingdom (Ephesians 2:19), now and everlasting. Let us make every effort to seek His Kingdom above all other gold and silver, and to labour to His Glory so that we may be full of joy and hope.

Jesus says in Matthew 11: ²⁸ *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.]* ²⁹ *Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls.* ³⁰ *For My yoke is wholesome (useful, good—not*

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harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is light and easy to be borne.

If we therefore function according to the Kingdom, then there is liberty of the Spirit, yet, if we allow ourselves to be governed by this world, then there is slavery. It is that simple. Let us seek His Kingdom as His disciples, not yoked to the world but finding our strength and hope in a Covenant where grace abounds the more sin abounds.

Consider the following: *Matthew 17: The Temple Tax:* ²⁴ After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came to Peter and asked, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the temple tax?” ²⁵ “Yes, he does,” he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. “What do you think, Simon?” he asked. “From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own children or from others?” ²⁶ “From others,” Peter answered. “Then the children are exempt,” Jesus said to him. ²⁷ “But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”

Jesus firstly makes a point that He does not see Himself as a citizen of earth but of heaven. And because He does not depend on the provision of the world – which is earthly – He orders Peter to go and catch a fish. You see, when we have a mind-set that is of God, our provision comes from heaven, not earth. And God is a God is the supernatural and the practical. He will provide for our means, be it spiritually or practically.

Peter was ordered to do a practical exercise [fishing], but the result was supernatural. God will always move supernaturally but also spiritually to provide for the children of heaven! We must just believe and have our mind set upon the Kingdom. It is also interesting that Peter was given a task of fishing to find the coin. Understand, Peter was a fisherman, so he

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could do this task. The Lord did not say to him to go into the woods and chop down a tree. The Lord has given us the practical and spiritual abilities and skills and talents to complete our task on earth. As long as we remain true to these skills, to our calling, to our mandate, then the Lord will provide the provision. The provision of heaven therefore functions when we move in the will of God, for when we move in His will, we will move according to our purpose, mandate and our talents.

Now, let us read the following: *John 21: Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish: 21* Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵ He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. ⁶ He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."

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In John 21 we find the disciples struggled with still being earthy minded. They were toiling all day to catch fish. Their provision was locked up in earth, and so they had to toil to get their provision for they were operating by the natural laws. These were the same disciples who had walked a journey with Jesus, but their minds have not been totally renewed. One can say they were still focussed too much on their own needs and not the Kingdom of God which is one of supernatural power and provision.

Jesus, however, showed them a better way. He showed them how to rather trust and rely in the Kingdom of Heaven for their provision. They needed faith, and trust in the mighty Lord. Just so, as soon as our mind-set changes from earthly to divine, our provision changes for we are not bound to the earth but we are bound to the Kingdom! The beauty of the Kingdom of Heaven is that there is a spiritual realm where provision never runs dry, where the living waters never run dry, where the value of the Blood of Jesus does not fluctuate, where the storehouse are always full and the blessings never cease.

Jesus teaches the following important lesson: John 4: ⁷ Presently, when a woman of Samaria came along to draw water, Jesus said to her, Give Me a drink - ⁸ For His disciples had gone off into the town to buy food - ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to Him, How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan [and a] woman, for a drink?—For the Jews have nothing to do with the Samaritans - ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, If you had only known and had recognized God's gift and Who this is that is saying to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him [instead] and He would have given you living water. ¹¹ She said to Him, Sir, You have nothing to draw with [no drawing bucket] and the well is deep; how then can You provide living water? [Where do You get Your living water?]

¹² Are You greater than and superior to our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well and who used to drink from it himself, and his sons and his

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cattle also?¹³ Jesus answered her, All who drink of this water will be thirsty again.¹⁴ But whoever takes a drink of the water that I will give him shall never, no never, be thirsty any more. But the water that I will give him shall become a spring of water welling up (flowing, bubbling) [continually] within him unto (into, for) eternal life.

Praise the Lord! Those who cling to and rely on the Kingdom for all needs, will walk in the abundance of God, and this abundance never runs dry, and the provision never runs dry, for God is the Lord of the impossible. Jesus made this same point in John 7:³⁷ Now on the final and most important day of the Feast, Jesus stood, and He cried in a loud voice, If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink!³⁸ He who believes in Me [who cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me] as the Scripture has said, From his innermost being shall flow [continuously] springs and rivers of living water.³⁹ But He was speaking here of the Spirit, Whom those who believed (trusted, had faith) in Him were afterward to receive. For the [Holy] Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (raised to honor).

With God, there is always more than enough for us to prosper, firstly in spirit, then soul then body, but we need to set our minds first on His Kingdom and on His Glory. Indeed, there is a constant flow of God's blessing, but we need to remain in the will of the Lord so that we may be used as channels of blessing. There is a constant flow of His Power, anointing and strength to fulfil our mandate as disciples – yet our minds must be Kingdom-based. This means laying down our crowns before the King of kings and Lord of lords so that His way, will and purpose may be exalted above our own. This is the way of the disciple.

Let us become Kingdom-minded so that we live for the Kingdom, and those who live for the Kingdom shall be provided and protected by the Kingdom.

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Let us also be reminded on Luke 12 when Jesus was speaking to His disciples: *32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*

When our minds are on the Lord, we shall not fear, for the Kingdom has been given to the adopted sons and daughters who serve the Lord in relationship and in Spirit and Truth! May we as disciples walk in His Glory with our hearts and minds focussed on Him alone.