

Abiding in Christ: Releasing the Kingdom on Earth

I. FOUNDATIONAL PREMISE OF THE KINGDOM: VOLUNTARY LOVE (RELATIONSHIP)

- A. God desires to release His heavenly power into the earthly realm to change our life and nation.
¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Mt. 6:10)
- B. In Gen. 1, God manifested His power without using us. After He created Adam and Eve, He determined to only manifest His power through relationship with His people. He longs to share His life with His family, thus He runs His Kingdom and releases His power through them.
- C. In other words, the Father made a significant decision to release the Presence and power of the Spirit in us and through us in ***direct proportion*** to how much we dialog and agree with His heart.
- D. The Holy Spirit continues to draw close to us only as we deliberately draw close to Him by asking for His help and obeying His leadership. He will not violate our free will by forcing us to live in relationship with Him.
⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. (Jas. 4:8)
- E. Our fellowship with the Father and the Son is released in our relationship with the Holy Spirit. This is the **ONLY** way to a vibrant heart filled with joy that is ours without reference to our life circumstances. The life circumstances of all people throughout all history are often both difficult and mundane. Joy is not found in good circumstances such as having abundant money, honor and comfort. Our heart can only be vibrant in joy to the degree that we fellowship with God.
³ Truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ These things we write to you that your joy may be full...⁷ If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus...cleanses us from all sin. (1 Jn. 1:3-7)
- F. Our relationship with the Spirit grows as we progressively walk in more and more light (1 Jn. 1:7). Walking in the light is a reference to walking under the Holy Spirit's leadership in each area of our life. If we neglect His leadership in any area of our life then He stops talking to us and imparting more to us until we agree or embrace His leadership in that area.
- G. We honor the Spirit's leadership in the ***small decisions*** of our daily life choices. We cultivate an awareness of the Spirit's leadership in ***what we say*** (speech), ***what we look at*** (eyes), ***how much time we give to feed our spirit*** (schedule) and ***how we spend our finances*** (money).
- H. It is important to clearly define the way to greater joy. Our joy is increased by the measure that we do two things. First, how much we dialog with the Spirit and second, how much we agree with the Spirit. In other words, how much we walk in the light or abide in Christ.

- I. God withholds blessing that He intends to give us *until* we persistently ask Him. We continually ask Him for help in for our heart as well as our circumstances. Pressure, pain and spiritual barrenness are meant to cause us to arise out of our passivity to more deeply relate to Him by calling out to Him. Asking the Lord for help is invasive.
- ² *You...covet and cannot obtain...Yet you do not have because you do not ask... (Jas. 4:2)*
- J. In Jn. 14-15, Jesus summed up the main principles of how God wants us to relate to Him as He releases His Kingdom through us inwardly and outwardly. In Jn. 14, Jesus promised to manifest His presence to those (v. 21, 23) who dialog with or ask God (v. 13-14) and who agree with the Spirit's leadership or keep God's commandments (v. 15, 21, 23).
- ¹³ *Whatever you ask (persistently) in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything (for our heart and circumstances) in My name, I will do it. 15 If you love Me, keep My commandments...21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him... 23 If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. (Jn. 14:13-23)*
- K. The Father loves everyone in the sense of valuing and caring for them. However, He only loves the lifestyle, choices and fruit of those who pursue Him with the intention of 100-fold obedience.
- L. Praying in the name of Jesus is to pray in a way that He can endorse.
- M. Whatever increases our activate dialog (prayer) and agreement with God's heart (obedience) results in a greater release of God's Presence and power in our lives. This is the essence of wisdom. Whatever decreases this dialog and agreement diminishes our experience of God's Presence and power in our lives. This is the essence of folly. *It is worth any price that we must pay to cultivate greater dialog and agreement with God's heart.*
- N. In Jn. 14, Jesus promised to manifest His presence to those who dialog with God (v. 13-14) and who agree with the Spirit's leadership (v. 15). In Jn. 15, Jesus called this "abiding in Christ."
- O. Abiding in Christ refers to our dialog and agreement with God's heart. It results in a greater release of God's Presence and power in our lives. This is the simple yet prevailing condition for how God's Kingdom is manifest into the earthly realm in this age and in the age-to-come.
- ⁴ *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5...He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing...7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (Jn. 15:4-7)*
- P. Fruit refers both to *godliness* in having a vibrant heart in God (Rom. 6:22; 7:4-5; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9; Heb. 12:11; 13:15; Jas. 3:18) and to being a vessel that God releases His presence through in *ministry* to others (Jn. 4:36; Rom. 1:13; 15:28; Phil. 1:22; Col. 1:5-6).

- Q. Abiding in Christ is a concept that is so simple that anyone can understand and do it but it is so simple that few do. Scripture validates the wisdom of a lifestyle of abiding in Christ.