

Get Free

UNLOCK THE LIFE YOU WERE MADE FOR

Introduction

I am praying that God will use this experience in a mighty way in your life. I have experienced God's liberating work in my own life through freedom ministry and am deeply pleased that Northwoods can offer this class as a foundational building block for followers of Christ.

Jesus Christ included freedom as one of the main reasons for his coming to this Earth. In Luke 4:18-19, he explained his purpose this way: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

In John 8:31-36, he explained to those who would follow him, "...If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." When some objected to his insinuation that they might not be free, Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin...So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

For years I thought the full extent of the freedom Christ offered was found through knowing that my sins were forgiven. And oh, how I praise God for his forgiveness in my life! Through his forgiveness I have been set free from the guilt, shame, and condemnation of my past. But the question I was often left to ponder was this: "Can Jesus Christ heal me and release me from the power, influence, scars, and regrets that my past sins and shameful experiences still exert on my present-day thoughts and behaviors?" Happily, the answer is yes! His forgiveness is simply a doorway into his freedom.

For too long the Church has stopped short of entering into the fullness of all that Christ offers. We have claimed his forgiveness but haven't pushed on to know true freedom from the power and effects of our sins. Many people struggled with anger before they came to Christ and still do. Many people battled with lust and impurity before they came to Christ and now still battle with the same. Surely, Jesus Christ intended more for us than simply knowing that our past sins are forgiven—while we remain chained and bound by things that severely restrict his purposes in our lives today!

Friend, the great news of the Gospel is that not only can you be forgiven, now, in Christ, but you can also be free, now, in Christ. As you embark on this study, my prayer is that you will indeed experience greater dimensions of freedom in your life as you encounter the living Christ who has come to set you free and to release you into the fullness of his purposes for you now!

Cal Rychener

Founding & Senior Pastor

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KINGDOM PART ONE

The Gospel (Good News) is all about the invasion of our sad, decaying and deeply marred earthly kingdom by a heavenly King who has come to redeem, restore, forgive and free those who will yield to his present reign and enter into the glorious life and goodness of his heavenly Kingdom, now! Once you understand that the Gospel really is all about "the Kingdom," you will see its marvelous message on every page of the Bible and understand that you were uniquely designed for and personally called to participate in the awesome life of the Kingdom.

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

MATTHEW 4:17

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

MARK 1:15

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

JOHN 3:3

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."

LUKE 12:32

DEFINING THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God is the heavenly _____ from which God reigns.

Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."

JOHN 18:36 (NLT)

The Kingdom of God is the "King's _____" over which God rules.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

MATTHEW 6:10

The Kingdom of God is the present rule and _____ of God in the lives of those who follow Jesus Christ.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

MATTHEW 6:33

ENTERING THE KINGDOM

One enters the Kingdom of God by _____ of one's sins.

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

MARK 1:15

One enters the Kingdom of God by _____ the Good News.

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

MARK 1:15

One enters the Kingdom of God by _____ born again.

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.

JOHN 3:3

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit."

JOHN 3:5

The Good News is that the power, beauty and peace of the _____ Kingdom can begin now in the life of any individual who submits to God's _____ reign.

QUESTION: Have you entered the Kingdom of God by being born again? If not, pray this prayer and begin your membership in the Kingdom of God today! *"Lord Jesus Christ, I believe you are the Son of God, the Messiah, sent into the world to save me from my sin. I want to be a part of your future realm, your eternal Kingdom, and I also want to submit my life to your present reign right now! So today, I repent of my sin, I believe the good news that you love me and died not only to forgive me from the penalty of sin, but also to free me from the power of sin that I might serve your Kingdom from this day forward. I now invite you into my life and receive the new birth of the Holy Spirit. I confess that Jesus Christ is my Lord and I thank you now for releasing the life and power of your Kingdom in my life today. In Jesus name, Amen."*

UNDERSTANDING YOUR KINGDOM DNA

“The story of your life is the story of a long and brutal assault on your heart by the enemy who knows what you could be and fears it.” JOHN ELDREDGE

You were designed to have an intimate, growing _____ with the King!

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love, he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

EPHESIANS 1:3-6

You were created to fulfill a unique _____ in the Kingdom of God!

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

EPHESIANS 2:10

You were given a unique _____ for fulfilling your Kingdom assignments.

[S.H.A.P.E = Spiritual gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experiences]

Each one of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:10-12 (SEE ALSO ROMANS 12:6-8; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7-11)

You were designed to operate best in the _____ of 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 14:17

You have been appointed to bear much _____ for the Kingdom.

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last...”

JOHN 15:16

You have inherited an eternal _____ in the Kingdom.

...the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves..."

COLOSSIANS 1:12-13 (SEE ALSO COLOSSIANS 1:11,14)

You are currently in _____ in this present kingdom, for reigning in the Kingdom to come.

Do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

1 CORINTHIANS 6:2-3

MANIFESTING A KINGDOM LIFESTYLE: 4 MARKS

Mark #1: The Development of Kingdom _____ MATTHEW 5:3-10

- _____ MATTHEW 5:3
- _____ MATTHEW 5:4
- _____ MATTHEW 5:5
- _____ MATTHEW 5:6
- _____ MATTHEW 5:7
- _____ MATTHEW 5:8
- _____ MATTHEW 5:9
- _____ MATTHEW 5:10-12

Mark #2: The Release of Kingdom _____ MATTHEW 5:13-16

You are called to be _____ in this present age. MATTHEW 5:13

You are called to be _____ in this present age. MATTHEW 5:14-16

Mark #3: The Demonstration of Kingdom _____ MATTHEW 5:17-48

A kind and loving _____ MATTHEW 5:21-22

A healing _____ MATTHEW 5:22

A spirit of _____ MATTHEW 5:23-26

_____ wholeness MATTHEW 5:27-30

A healthy _____ MATTHEW 5:31-32

Honesty and _____ MATTHEW 5:33-37
 A _____ spirit MATTHEW 5:38-42
 Graciousness towards _____ MATTHEW 5:43-48

Mark #4: The _____ of Kingdom Disciplines MATTHEW 6:1-33; 7:24-27

_____	MATTHEW 6:1
_____	MATTHEW 6:1-3; 19-25
_____	MATTHEW 6:4
_____	MATTHEW 6:5:13
_____	MATTHEW 6:6
_____	MATTHEW 6:7-8; 25-34
_____	MATTHEW 6:12; 14-15
_____	MATTHEW 6:16-18
_____	MATTHEW 7:24-27

PRAYER APPLICATION

ASK THE LORD...

Lord, show me an area where you would like to expand your Kingdom domain in my life.

Lord, show me where the enemy has directed his assault against my heart to make me doubt my Kingdom value and worth.

Lord, what particular aspect of a Kingdom lifestyle do you want me to focus on in this season?

Lord, with whom would you like me to practice this aspect of Kingdom lifestyle?

DISCUSSION

THIS IS A SELECTION OF POSSIBLE DISCUSSION TOPICS.
 USE AS MANY OR AS FEW AS YOUR GROUP DESIRES.

Share your story of how and when you entered the Kingdom of God and became born again

What have been the biggest changes in your life since you came under Jesus' reign?

Describe a time when you became aware that you were wired with Kingdom DNA.

What does it mean to you personally that God has created you to fulfill a unique purpose in his Kingdom?

Which disciplines of the Kingdom have you implemented in your life? Which ones create the most struggle for you?

Which character traits are on display/need to be more on display in your life?