



The Kingdom of God is Within You
Sunday December 22, 2024

Christmas is the birth of the king.

Matthew 2:1-2

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,
2 saying, "**Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?** For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

As He began His earthly ministry the Lord Jesus came announcing that the Kingdom of God was here. God was stepping in to establish His rule and reign in the hearts and lives of people. People now had the choice to step out of the kingdom of darkness and step into the kingdom of light.

Jesus went about preaching the Gospel of the kingdom of God and demonstrating that the kingdom of God is greater than the kingdom of darkness by healing, delivering and working miracles.

After some time, the religious leaders, the Pharisees came to Him and questioned when the kingdom of God would come. Of course, in their minds they were anticipating an earthly kingdom with all its glamour, glory and pageantry. A kingdom that would overthrow the Roman government.

This is how Jesus responded:

Luke 17:20-21

20 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation;
21 nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

God's kingdom does not come in a manner that it can be observed, similar to that of an earthly king or ruler. It is not something you go here or there to see it.

Jesus announced that the kingdom of God is within you, among you and in your midst.

Let's take some time to think about this.

The kingdom of God is the realm of God's rule and dominion.



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The wonderful truth is that once we make the choice to have Jesus be the Lord and savior of our lives we are brought into His kingdom.

Colossians 1:13-14

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.

We are now part of God's kingdom.

It is a greater kingdom. As the Scripture says, His kingdom rules over all.

Psalm 103:19

The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.

So, we are now part of His kingdom.

Jesus emphasized in Luke 17:20-21, that at this time, God's kingdom is in the earth realm in spiritual form. It is a spiritual rule and reign primarily. Yes we know from Revelation 20:1-6, there will come a time when the Lord Jesus will set up a literal rule and reign on the earth.

But today, He reigns primarily in a spiritual sense.

What does this mean?

FIRST, HE DESIRES TO RULE AND REIGN IN OUR LIVES.

His kingdom must be foremost in our lives.

We let the Lord Jesus rule in our lives, over us, spirit, soul and body.

How do we do this.

A, We seek first His Kingdom according to Matthew 6:33.

In everything do what will serve the cause of the kingdom.

B, We pursue righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, according to Romans 14:17.

Romans 14:15-19

15 Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.

16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;



17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.

19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

As we look at this in context, to be part of the Kingdom and to let His kingdom be amongst us means that we choose to walk in righteousness, peace and joy from the Holy Spirit. We pursue this intentionally. We make righteousness, peace and joy a way of life. We do not want to grieve others even in the exercise of our freedom.

SECOND, HE SEEKS TO EXPRESS HIS KINGDOM THROUGH US INTO OUR REALM.

We are sons and daughters of the kingdom.

Matthew 13:36-39

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

Jesus explained the influence of His kingdom using the picture of a mustard seed, and that of leaven (Matthew 13:31-33). The mustard seed is the smallest seed, but it grows into a big plant. Leaven or yeast, is put in a very small amount into the dough, and it exerts its influence through the dough.

We have been vested with kingdom authority. We exert kingdom influence by exercising this authority.

Matthew 16:18-19

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

We have been empowered by the Holy Spirit in advancing God's kingdom on the earth – by being witnesses to Jesus and overthrowing the works of darkness by the power of the Holy Spirit.



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Even His own disciples, after His resurrection asked if He was going to introduce a literal kingdom at that time. Jesus in response pointed them to that work that needed to be done now to extend His spiritual kingdom – go be witnesses!

Acts 1:6-8

6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

And just as Jesus did during His earthly ministry, we too, empowered by the Holy Spirit cast out demonic spirits. This is advancing God's kingdom spiritually.

Matthew 12:28

But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

SUMMARY

God's kingdom is here in us and in our midst. We are part of His kingdom.

Let His kingdom – His rule and reign – increase in us, as we (A)seek first His kingdom and (B)pursue righteousness, peace and joy from the Holy Spirit.

Let His kingdom – His rule and reign – be expressed through us as we (A)live as sons and daughters of the Kingdom (B)be witnesses for Jesus Christ (C)demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 1.5 to 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

Life Group Leader: To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon or review the Sunday Sermon notes. **Please do not make your life group read through the complete sermon notes during the life group.** All you need to do is have individuals read the Scriptures listed below and then open for a time of discussion, sharing and learning using the questions given below. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Luke 17:20-21; Matthew 6:33; Romans 14:15-19; Matthew 13:31-33,36-39*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

#1, He desires to rule and reign in our lives.

Discuss how His kingdom, His rule and reign can increase in us, as we (A)seek first His kingdom and (B)pursue righteousness, peace and joy from the Holy Spirit. Share practical ways we live this out in everyday life.



#2, He seeks to express His kingdom through us into our realm.

Discuss how His kingdom, His rule and reign can be expressed through us as we (A)live as sons and daughters of the Kingdom (B)be witnesses for Jesus Christ (C)demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit. Share practical ways we live this out in everyday life.

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it to their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

In this sermon we remind us about the nature of God's kingdom and how we can practically see His kingdom increase within us and through us. His kingdom – His rule and reign – must increase in us, as (A) we seek first His kingdom and (B) as we pursue righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. His rule and reign must be expressed through us as we (A) live as sons and daughters of the Kingdom (B) be witnesses for Jesus Christ (C) demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit.

KEYWORDS

Kingdom of God, the kingdom within, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

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