



Mark 4:26-34
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

“The Kingdom Of God”

In order to see God’s Kingdom we must be born of God through God’s Holy Spirit. And this occurs when: we believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, repent of our sins and put our whole trust...our entire lives into His hands...making the decision that we will become followers of Jesus.

As we read in the Epistle Lesson in **2 Corinthians**: **“if anyone is in Christ, he [or she] is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” And to be in Christ is to be in the Kingdom of God and to see the Kingdom of God.** Now some of you might be thinking to yourselves right now that the Kingdom of God only refers to what happens to those of us who are saved through faith in Christ **after we die**. We often think of the Kingdom of God only as some geographical area...as heaven or paradise.

But this isn’t what Jesus means when He speaks about the Kingdom of God.....sure Jesus is speaking about eternal life with God...but He’s not just talking about some place where we will go after we die...**He’s also talking about life right here and right now!**

You see, the Kingdom of God really means the reign of God. And so, when we enter the kingdom of God we are entering the realm of new life where God reigns! **We are entering the realm of new life where Jesus is Lord! We are allowing Jesus Christ to be in control of our lives....now! Today!**

We are allowing God to have free reign over our lives, our decisions and every aspect of everything...NOW! That’s what it means to enter the Kingdom of God or to see the Kingdom of God! **It’s what we see and experience once we allow God to be in control!** And what freedom, what burdens are lifted, what new life is granted when we allow God to bring us into God’s reign!!!

Yes, praise God, **“if anyone is in Christ, he [or she] is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come!”**

Again and again throughout the New Testament, Jesus tells us: **“The kingdom of God is like...” “The Kingdom of God is like.”** Jesus doesn’t tell us that the Kingdom of God **“IS”** “a treasure hidden in a field,” or that the Kingdom of God **“IS”** “a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. No, instead, Jesus says that the Kingdom of God is **“like”** these earthly examples.

In and through the lives of those who are allowing God’s reign to control their lives, **that seed of faith...that seed of grace...that seed of salvation** is sprouting and growing.

For those living in the Kingdom of God...**God is in control of our lives, and thus God is in control of our Christian growth toward becoming more and more like Christ.** Because when God is in control of our lives, we are going to rely on God for our every decision. And we are going to **rely on God's grace** to enable us to make it through every decision.

Are you living under the reign of God? If not, it is never too late to allow Jesus to be the Lord of your life.