

# **Your Kingdom Focused Life**

**Maturing as a Citizen of the Kingdom of God**

## **Enter into the Kingdom of God**

### CHAPTER 1

*Jesus replied, "I assure you,  
no one can enter the Kingdom of God  
without being born of water and the Spirit."  
John 3:5 NLT*

#### **IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE CHAPTER!**

Even if you read nothing else in this book, please read this all the way through,  
Read this even if you do not buy this book. This can truly save your life!

**The very *good* news or the very *bad* news for you is - Your soul and spirit will live *forever*!**

This is wonderful news if you are saved by your belief, faith, trust and obedience to your Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This is extremely *bad* news if you chose not to accept God's great gift of love, grace, mercy and forgiveness of your sin, which was paid *for* you by the sacrificial blood of His Son, Jesus Christ on the cross. You are then *already* condemned to spend your everlasting life separated from the love of God in excruciating torment in hell, the lake of fire.

#### **Your entry into the spiritual life**

The truth is that you are a *spiritual* being having a relatively short human experience before you continue into your *everlasting* life following this one. Whether you believe this or not, it is *true*!

#### **Your most important decision**

The most important decision that you will *ever* make in this life will fundamentally affect the way that you live your life here, now and forever. The questions are;

- **'Will you accept the greatest gift of all, the free gift of God's forgiveness, love and mercy through His Son Jesus Christ?**
- **Will you receive Him as your Savior and Lord, as payment for your sin of rebellion, and salvation from as everlasting life in hell?**
- **Will you choose to receive the life, love and fellowship of God and live forever as a citizen of the Kingdom of God?**

God has provided each of us with the opportunity to make an everlasting choice to either accept Him and trust Him with our lives or to reject Him.

*We must each make this decision for ourselves.*

Think seriously and very carefully. What is your choice? What is your decision?

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### To be born of the Spirit

We were born into a world that is in rebellion to the perfect ways, will and law of God. Mankind has fallen away from a true close personal relationship with God, our creator, because of our sin against Him. Our spirits are dead to God until our spirit is *reborn* by the Holy Spirit of God.

*“Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are **born again**, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”* <sup>1</sup>

We can not see or enter the kingdom of God unless we are *born again*. This means to be saved or born of the Spirit. This is the fundamental truth of **faith** in God, having a personal relationship with Him, and following His Son Jesus. Jesus *chose* to come from His throne in heaven to earth to give mankind a way to be reconciled back to God.

### Separation from God

The first man, Adam and all his descendants, including us, were separated from God by the sin of disobedience and rebellion from God’s will. We were born into a world in rebellion to the law, the commandments of God and we have all sinned.

To sin means that we have broken God’s laws or ‘missed the mark’ of His holy perfection. *“For **everyone has sinned**; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”* <sup>2</sup> Because we have broken God’s laws we have sinned against Him. *“**Everyone who sins is breaking God’s law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God.**”* <sup>3</sup> Because we have sinned against God we were already condemned to death and to spending our everlasting life in hell separated from the love of God. *“For the wages of sin is death,”* <sup>4</sup>

### Hell is real

You need to know that hell or the lake of fire is a real place created to hold Satan and all the angels who rebelled from God with him. The Bible describes it as a place of everlasting torment, burning, fear, loneliness, darkness, separation from the love of God and where worms eat flesh forever. You would never want to go there. You would never want anyone to be lost and spend their everlasting life there!

### Your way back to God

God in His love and mercy has given you a way back to Him and out of this horrible future everlasting life in the lake of fire. **God loves you so much** that He sent His Son Jesus to earth to pay the great price for our sin, our rebellion, that we could never pay. *“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”* <sup>5</sup>

### Jesus is the only way

Jesus is the **only way** that you can come to God the Father. *“Jesus told him, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.**”* <sup>6</sup>

God offers you this greatest free gift of His love, salvation from your sin and everlasting life through faith in His Son, Christ Jesus. *“but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”* <sup>7</sup> This gift is offered to you by God to demonstrate His great eternal love and grace, or unmerited favor to you. *“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.”* <sup>8</sup>

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### **Your rebellion was paid for on the cross by Jesus**

Jesus' crucifixion on the cross was the very high price that He paid for the great weight of our sin and rebellion. The movie 'The Passion of the Christ' was given an R rating because it showed the incredible cruelty and violence toward Jesus. The movie's producer Mel Gibson was asked, 'Why did you made the scenes so bloody and cruel?' He said, "I actually toned it down. Read the book." 9

This movie showed us what the Bible tells us about Jesus' passion or suffering for us. It shows how brutal, bloody, painful, heart wrenching Christ's crucifixion on the cross truly was. Many wept when they saw this movie. This was meant to show us the great pain that God allowed His Son to suffer on behalf of all our sin and great rebellion. We are to see the horrible suffering and the very high price paid for us so that we will always remembers His incredible sacrificial love, and never forget it.

**Christ paid a debt that He did not owe for our sins, which we could never pay ourselves.**

*Christ's sacrificial death on the cross is meant to change our lives forever.*

So then how do you receive this great free gift of God's love, salvation, forgiveness of sin, heaven, grace, everlasting life from God and citizenship in His kingdom?

*"If you **confess** with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved.**" 10*

Confess that you have sinned against God. Agree that you have lived in rebellion to His perfect laws. And that you now receive God's gift of salvation through faith in the sacrificial death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ.

**You are invited to enter into an everlasting love relationship with God and into His kingdom, and to exchange your limited life of death for the everlasting *supernatural* life of Jesus Christ.**

**Start your new life as a follower of Christ now.**

Pray this prayer from your heart out loud:

**Dear Lord God I admit that I have sinned against You and that I do not deserve Your forgiveness and favor. I believe by faith that You love me and gave Your Son Jesus to die for the payment of all my past sins. At this moment I do receive Him by faith to be my personal Savior. I want to turn from my sin and follow Christ as my Lord and King and become a citizen of the Kingdom of God. I freely give to you my life, my will, and my future. Be the Lord of my life and live your life through me. I thank you God for sending Your son to die for me and for forgiving me and giving me your gift of everlasting life in Your kingdom. Thank You. In Jesus' name I pray. AMEN**

If you honestly and sincerely prayed this prayer for the first time, and agree with God to turn away from your sinful, selfish, worldly ways and follow Christ as your Lord, then welcome to the family of God and into your citizenship in the Kingdom of God!

You have made an everlasting contract with God by faith. *"But to all who **believed Him** and accepted Him, He gave the right to become **children of God.**"*11 You will now have your eyes and heart

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progressively opened to the things of the Spirit, because only those who are born of the Spirit can know the things of the Spirit of God.

Just like your natural birth your spiritual birth is not an end, but only a **beginning**. You will now spend the rest of your everlasting life growing into a mature follower and imitator of Christ. *“Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment.”* 12 To receive all that the Lord has for you, and to grow in maturity in Christ:

- Pray to God regularly
- Read the Word of God in the Bible
- Learn God’s will and His ways for your life
- Fellowship with other believers in His church
- Learn the ways and value system of your new King and His Kingdom
- Repent, turn away from the sinful rebellious ways of this world

As I often remember receiving this great gift of love and mercy from God, my favorite and most frequent prayer of gratitude is **“Thank You Jesus!”** I recommend that you also pray this prayer.

This is because of the great price Jesus paid for my salvation and His continuing gifts of love, grace, favor and mercy to me. If this is *all* that God did for me then I should be eternally grateful! But God offers us *so much more* now and in His emerging and expanding Kingdom of God!

### **Be born again, *again***

You may say that, “I have already done this. I have prayed to receive Christ as my Savior already, and I believe that I am saved.” I say to you, praise God! Now can I ask you a question? Are you *fully* alive in Christ? Jesus warned those who were saved in the early church that, *“You have left your first love.”* 13 There is *so much more* to your life in Jesus Christ than being forgiven of your sins and being saved by His sacrificial blood. You need to learn that Christ’s life is to be lived *through* your life in His Kingdom.

***Christ is always our example to live by, in all things.***

I have a prayer partner who likes to say, ‘The church needs to be born again, *again!*’

Opinion polls estimate that less than 50% of those who call themselves Christians are *truly* saved, born again of the spirit and are living their lives *surrendered* to Christ. Sadly even many who attend churches regularly are in this unsaved group! Just going to church does *not* make you a true follower of Christ.

So I ask you, **‘Are you fully living your life for Christ?’** Are you ready to meet Jesus? We will *all* meet Jesus face to face some day. And He alone will judge the everlasting value of the life you are living here and now.

**Ultimately. Jesus’ judgment of your life is the *only* one that will ever matter.**

Mike Bickle, Director of the International House of Prayer shared his personal testimony of having a dramatic encounter with the Lord when he was 23 years old. ‘Christ said to me, “Saved, but your life was *wasted!*” This experience had such a profound effect on my life that I vowed not to miss the purposes of God for my life.’

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### God verse the good

Your life may be filled with good things, but are they the *best* purposes that God created you for? The apostle Paul was a very religious and lawful Pharisee of Pharisees. He was hard working and very sincere, but he was sincerely *wrong* and was living his life in opposition to Jesus and His purposes. The world is full of those who are striving to live a lawful and moral life, but they miss the truth, they are missing Jesus! Your life may look very good on the outside, but do you have an on going close personal, intimate, obedient relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ? Or are you only lukewarm to God? 14

Take some time and pray now that God will show you who you truly are in the spirit in God. Jesus said about Mary who *sat at His feet* to learn from Him and worship Him, “*There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.*” 15

### Turn to Christ

You must turn away from your rebellion to God, His ways and His will. “*Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’*” 16 To repent means to turn around. Turn *from* your sin, your self and worldly ways. Then turn *to* Christ alone.

### Your door to the kingdom of God

This then is the *key* to God, to heaven, to the Kingdom of God and your everlasting life. God will ask each one of us the most important question of our lives here on earth when He asks, “**What did you do with My Son Jesus?**” Jesus said, “*I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*” 17 Remember that everything starts and ends with Jesus. All of creation is summed up in Christ! “*You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased.*” 18

### Your first priorities

You were created by God to live in loving relationships, first with God and then with your spouse, your family and your neighbors. “*Jesus replied, ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.*” 19

We spend your lives searching for the divine love relationships that we were created to long for and experience. Many follow the lies of the world seeking love in all the wrong places and ways. Those who are deceived will all come to dead ends and to their ultimate destruction.

You enter into salvation, forgiveness, heaven and the Kingdom of God all and only through following Jesus. You must understand and believe that **there is no other way!** “*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*” 20

All other options are only counterfeit distractions and a waste of your time, resources and energy. You are offered a choice to follow the highway of the world to destruction or follow Jesus into everlasting life. “*You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.*” 21 You can never get there by yourself, but Jesus will lead you there if you *follow* Him. Understand that living your life as a follower of Jesus is always challenging and often difficult, but it is infinitely better than any other way to live.

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### Obey God

When you obey God and all that He teaches you through His Word, the Bible, then He will empower you, through the person of the Holy Spirit to fulfill your divine purposes and your destiny in His kingdom. *“Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to **obey all the commands I have given you**. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* 22

### Your promise of freedom in Jesus

These are some of the many amazing promises from God. *Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life**. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* 23 The truth is a person. To truly know the truth, you need to know Jesus Christ. *“Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free**.”* 24 Jesus will set you free from bondage to sin as you abide in, rest in and follow Him. *“So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”* 25 When you walk in freedom you will have liberty in the spirit of God. *“For the Lord is the Spirit, and **wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom**.”* 26

### You are called to be a disciple

When Jesus was in the world he chose twelve men to follow Him as His disciples or students. They lived with Him, learned from Him and ministered to people with Him. You are invited to do the same. You may ask, ‘How can I do this if Jesus is seated in heaven at the right hand of the Father?’ This is a very good question. Jesus said, *“the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**”* 27 The Holy Spirit will teach you, empower you and guide you into the will of God.

As your life is transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit working *in you*, then you can live a victorious life as you learn to follow Christ and let Him live and *love through you*. Praise God!

### God invites you to a great spiritual adventure now

Now God *invites* you to join Him, to be loved by Him and to start living a great *supernatural* adventure beyond your wildest imaginations.

You are invited to follow Jesus and truly live in freedom in His kingdom. Understand that this is *not* the freedom to live a selfish, independent, lawless, sinful and disobedient life. Great freedom comes with great reasonability. This is the freedom you are offered, to join in the service, in partnership and the divine plans and purposes of God in building His kingdom on earth.

### There is *so much more* for you from God

There is *so much more* for you in your life in Christ and in the Kingdom of God. God is your heavenly Father and you are His child. He wants to richly bless those who believe in Him, trust Him in faith and obey Him. He wants to teach you how to live a *supernatural* life of receiving and sharing God’s love and power.

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Every journey starts with a first step. You are invited to take that first step in faith toward God. God created you with your own free will and He will *not* violate your will and *make* you do anything. He *invites* you to agree with Him, and align with His heart, His will, and become a true follower of Christ, a citizen of His Kingdom of God.

If you do not accept His invitation you will never know all that you have missed.

This book is about the *so much more* that God has prepared for you to receive and learn how to **live as a true citizen of the kingdom of God**. Learn about your blessings, responsibilities and everlasting rewards and benefits of your relationship with Christ the King, and your citizenship in His Kingdom of God. The greatest gains come with great risk and trials. God called Abraham to leave his home to receive the great blessings that He had planned for Him. I strongly recommend that you to take the risk, step out in faith and trust moving into a life of faith and love that is planned, guided and blessed by God.

### **Your invitation to learn and experience more of God**

Please read on and begin to enter into a fuller understanding and experience of your *supernatural* everlasting life of love in the Kingdom of God. If you seek God with all your heart you will find Him, and you will find your place in His unshakable, everlasting kingdom that you were created to live in starting right now!

Learn the great works and blessings that God has prepared for you to walk in. You will come to know that, for those who believe in Christ and receive Him by faith as their Lord and Savior, and truly follow Him, then, *The best is yet to come!*

### **There is no greater adventure in life than to truly following Jesus Christ into His kingdom**

#### **My prayer for you**

Lord God, You are the Creator of heaven and earth. You are above all. I pray that the Lord blesses you and that He will open your spiritual eyes and ears to the truth of His word, and that you will receive the everlasting love of God. I pray that you will be set free from bondage to the lies of the Enemy and this fallen world, and that you will walk in liberty and freedom in His spirit. I pray that as you read this book God will open up your spiritual supernatural life and lead you to a clearer understanding of Him, His love, His plans, His purposes and His divine destiny for your life. And that God will reveal to you your place and purpose in His kingdom. I pray all this in the name above all names, the Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN

#### **Your next action:**

Continue to read the following chapters in Your Kingdom Focused Life book and learn how you can apply these truths to your life, and receive *so much more* from God, living your abundant *supernatural* life that Christ has prepared for you right here, right now and forever as a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

#### **Question:**

Do you want your life to have everlasting meaning, purpose, significance and rewards?

Are you willing to make the investment and pay the price for all the Lord has to offer to you?

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### Chapter 1 - End Notes:

1. John 3:3 NLT	10. Romans 10:9 NLT	21. Matthew 7:13-14 MSG
2. Romans 3:23 NLT	11. John 1:12 NLT	22. Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV
3. 1 John 3:4 NLT	12. 1 Peter 2:2 NLT	23. John 14:6 NLT
4. Romans 6:23a NLT	13. Revelation 2:4-5 NLT	24. John 8:31-32 NLT
5. John 3:16 NLT	14. Revelation 3:16	25. John 8:36 NLT
6. John 14:6 NLT	15. Luke 10:42 NLT	26. 2 Corinthians 3:17 NLT
7. Romans 6:23b NLT	16. Matthew 4:17b NASB	27. John 14:26 NASB
8. Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT	17. John 10:9	
9. Mel Gibson interview with Lee Strobel at Azusa Pacific University, CA February 7, 2004	18. Revelation 4:11NLT	
	19. Matthew 22:37-38 NLT	
	20. Acts 4:12 NKJV	