

# Kingdom of God

Christian Belief 103-12

The 'kingdom of God' is where God manifests His kingly presence.

- Heaven is God's dwelling place yet He condescended to stay in men's hearts. A believing heart is where God's kingly presence dwells and manifests. 'Kingdom of heaven' (see Matthew 4:17) emphasizes on its heavenly nature and 'kingdom of God' (see Mark 1:15) on God's ownership of it.

## 1. *God's kingly rule begins at salvation*

Salvation entitles you to inherit the kingdom of God.

After preaching the Good News in Derbe and making many disciples, Paul and Barnabas returned again to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia, where they strengthened the believers. They encouraged them to continue in the faith, reminding them that they must enter into the Kingdom of God through many tribulations (Acts 14:21-22 NLT).

- The apostles strengthened 'the believers' who had already responded to the 'Good News', and encouraged them to 'continue in the faith' or to 'enter into the Kingdom of God through many tribulations'. Salvation and 'kingdom of God' are not synonymous.

Jesus replied, "I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God." ... Jesus replied, "The truth is, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit (John 3:3, 5 NLT).

- Only when your spirit is 'born again' or being regenerated, you are able to 'see' or witness the kingdom of God operating in your life.  
For he has rescued us from the one who rules in the kingdom of darkness, and he has brought us into the Kingdom of his dear Son (Colossians 1:13 NLT).
- At the moment we believe in Christ, God has moved us out of Satan's 'kingdom of darkness' and brought us into the 'Kingdom of his dear Son'.  
For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17 NKJV).
- Because of Adam's sin, 'death' as a payment of sin rules in human life to destroy it eventually (see also Romans 6:23a; Genesis 2:17). By washing away our sins in His own blood, Christ 'has made us kings' (see Revelation 1:5-6) to 'reign' (Gk. *basileuo*, means exercise kingly rule) in our life together with Him. The right to inherit the kingdom of God gives you the right to reign in your life.

## 2. *Walk in the Spirit for God's kingly rule*

You reign in or manage your new life by a Spirit-led sanctification.

- According to Ephesians 5:2-21, you 'have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God' (verse 5) by 'walking in love' (verse 2), 'walking as children of light' (verse 8), 'walking circumspectly' (verse 15), or 'being filled with the Spirit' (verse 18). Also in 1 Corinthians 6:9-20, 'inheriting the kingdom of God' (verse 10) is 'glorifying God in your body and in your spirit' (verse 20).
- 'Walk in the Spirit' (see Galatians 5:16) is to be 'led by the Spirit' (see Galatians 5:18 NKJV) or 'directed by the Holy Spirit' (see NLT). It is to 'keep in step with the Spirit' (see Galatians 5:25 NIV) or 'follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives' (see NLT).

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit (Romans 8:1 NKJV).

- You are truly saved and will never be condemned but it is your responsibility not to give in to the 'flesh', the sinful nature. Man-made religion, pretentious humility, remorse, and self-punishment cannot remove 'the indulgence of the flesh' (see Colossians 2:23). You need to 'walk' or live 'according to the Spirit' to stop the sinful desires.

God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit (Romans 8:3b-4 NKJV).

- Christ has condemned 'sin' which is our sinful nature ('with its sinful passions and desires'. See Galatians 5:24). By 'walking in the Spirit' you can fulfill the righteous requirement of God's law (see Galatians 5:18) and your new life 'shall be free indeed' from sin (see John 8:36b).

Setting your mind on the Holy Spirit activates God's kingly rule in your life.

**For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit (Romans 8:5 NKJV).**

- 'Minds' (Gk. *phroneo*, mentality) is a mindset, the way you think. You live or 'walk according to the Spirit' (see also verse 1) by 'setting your mind on the things of the Spirit' and away from the 'flesh', the sinful nature, to become a practice.
- It is 'putting to death' or 'putting off' sinful desires and sinful behaviors to 'put on' godly attitudes and godly behaviors (see Colossians 3:5, 8; 12-17).
- It is to 'be filled with the Holy Spirit' always (see Ephesians 5:15, 18).
- It is 'looking' or focusing at Christ, 'the author and finisher of our faith' to 'lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us' (see Hebrews 12:1-2).

Setting your mind on the Holy Spirit deactivates the old nature.

**I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16 NKJV).**

- By 'walking in the Spirit', you 'shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh'. For the Spirit and the sinful flesh in us are 'contrary to one another' (see also Galatians 5:17).  
**For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace (Romans 6:14 NKJV).**
- When you put yourself under the grace of God for your salvation, sin shall lose its 'dominion' or control over you.

### 3. *Benefits of living under God's kingly rule*

Spirit-led sanctification gives you a godly character.

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV).**

- The fruit of the Spirit is an effortless outcome of walking in the Spirit. You cannot produce supernatural things by self-imposed discipline. As you yield to the Holy Spirit, God puts these fruits on your life to form a godly character.

By Spirit-led sanctification, you can enjoy the rich supplies of God.

**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you (Matthew 6:33 NKJV).**

- 'Seeking first His kingdom' is reigning with Christ in your life. 'Seeking first His righteousness' is receiving the gift of righteousness (see Romans 5:17). And you are connected to God's overflowing blessings. For Christ has become poor to make you rich (see also 2 Corinthians 8:9).

Walking in the Spirit gives you strength and health.

**For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life (Gk: *zoe*) and peace (Romans 8:6 NKJV).**

- To be 'spiritually minded' by setting your mind on the Spirit draws 'life' (Gk. *zoe*, 'life as God has it') on your mortal body (see also Romans 8:5, 11).

Walking in the Spirit gives manifestation of God's kingly presence.

**But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you (Matthew 12:28 NKJV).**

- Deliverance is a manifestation of God's kingly presence. God's kingly presence among us is a demonstration or manifestation of the Holy Spirit and power (see 1 Corinthians 2:4; 12:7-11). The kingdom of God does not manifest in eloquence (see 1 Corinthians 4:20) or in religious observations (see Romans 14:17).

**Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NKJV).**

- 'Such were some of you', was referring to the way they were behaving before they were saved. 'But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified' further pointed out the fact that they were saved. Paul was warning them against relapsing to their former idolatrous and sinful living. Some of them were 'controlled by their own desires' and were 'acting like people who don't belong to the Lord' (see 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 NLT) and were risking forfeiting the manifestation of God's kingly presence.
- Paul said in Galatians 5:19-21 'anyone living that sort of life' (in NLT) or 'those who practice such things' (in NKJV) 'will not inherit the Kingdom of God'. Sanctification is expected of Christian living (see 1 Thessalonians 4:3). 'Without which no man shall see' or experience the Lord (see Hebrews 12:14).