

Series: "How to Survive in the Kingdom of God"



Message: "How to Enter the Kingdom of God"

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August 1, 2021

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How does one enter the Kingdom of God? And what does the Atonement have to do with it?

Jesus Christ was sent into the world for a purpose, to preach the KOG. We find this out in Luke 4:33. Jesus began His earthly ministry by declaring the arrival of the Kingdom in Matthew 4:17. He ended His ministry speaking things pertaining to the Kingdom in Acts 1:3.

Luke 4:33: But He said to them, I must preach the KOG to the other cities also because for this purpose I have been sent.

Matthew 4:17: From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

Acts 1:3: To whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during 40 days and speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

In this series, which we are beginning, we will discover and discuss the principles that govern this kingdom. The Kingdom of Heaven or the Kingdom of God has spiritual laws, or precepts, that operate in the invisible realm as certainly as laws operate in the physical realm, like the laws of thermodynamics. We talked about it last week.

In Matthew 6:33 Jesus exhorted us to seek first the KOG and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto us. In other words, an invisible world undergirds and grounds the visible world in which we live. The invisible realm controls the visible. The invisible is unrestricted, unlimited, and infinite.

But we are not only to seek the KOG; we are to enter this Kingdom. We are to reach into the invisible from the visible just as the invisible reaches into the visible. Jesus said to repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Thus the work of salvation is that of the Holy Spirit applying to those given to Jesus by the Father, those for whom He atoned, those receiving, all that Jesus accomplished in their place and stead.

People go on in their limited ability to cope because they insist on living according to the ways of the world. Faith reaches into the invisible world of the possible. In Mark 11:22 Jesus says to have faith in God. He said, **You believe in God, believe also in Me. I and the Father are one.**

Now God is God Almighty, Creator, Source and Sustainer of all life and blessing, Sovereign Lord, the Great I AM. The Living God looked into a void but saw the creation. Then He spoke and it was so. He called to the dark, and said, Let there be Light, and there was light. He called the light, day.

That's just a little bit about our Most High God. Jesus says to have faith in Him. Then He said, **If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father; believe in Me.**

Before we delve into the Kingdom of God to understand how it works and it rules in the affairs of men and women, boys and girls, we're going to declare the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I want us to know the facts of who Jesus is and what He has done, so that all those in whom the Holy Spirit is working may believe, and in believing, enter the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God is a state of being in which one yields all sovereignty to the rightful Sovereign and Divine Suzerain and Lord, Almighty God. The Kingdom of God is the rule of God in the heart, mind, and will of one who has been born of water and the Spirit (John 3). Jesus said, **You must be born again.** This work is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Let's listen to John 1:1-14 from the NKJV in order to gain insight into who Jesus is.

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2**He was in the beginning with God. **3**All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. **4**In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5**And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7**This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light; that all through him might believe. **8**He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. **9**That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

10He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11**He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. **12**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: **13**who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus Christ is God Incarnate, the Word made flesh, Savior, and Lord. He is the Divine Messiah. Jesus Christ is God.

What more can we say about Jesus Christ? We know that it pleased God in His eternal purpose to ordain the Lord Jesus to be the only Mediator between God and humanity. We know that Jesus is God's only begotten, one and unique Son, Prophet, Priest, and King; Head and Savior of the Church (*ekklesia*); Heir of all Things; Judge of the World. We know that from all eternity the Father gave Jesus a people to be His seed and to be, by Him, in time, redeemed—called, justified, sanctified, and glorified. The Father sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten [one and unique] Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 KJV

Jesus Christ is the Second Person of the Trinity (Godhead), the Son of God, the eternal God of one substance and equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. And when the fullness of time had come, He took upon Him a human nature with all the essential properties and infirmities thereof, yet without sin. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, and so He was of her substance.

Jesus Christ has two distinct natures, God and humanity. They are inseparably joined together in one Person so that Jesus is one Person with two perfect and distinct natures, without separation, without division, without mixture, without confusion. Jesus Christ is very God and very Man, and yet, one Christ, one Anointed One. Jesus was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit,

having the Holy Spirit above measure, having within Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

So, Jesus Christ is a Divine Person with a divine nature who took on a human nature in a human body. He came to do the Father's will. (Hebrews 10:5-7ff; cf Psalm 40:6, 7)

It pleased the Father that in Jesus all fullness dwell. Jesus was holy, harmless, undefiled; full of grace and truth. He was thoroughly furnished to execute the office of Mediator and to be Surety of the Covenant of Grace. He took the office not unto Himself but was called by His Father, and the Father put all power and judgment in Jesus' hand. The Father gave Jesus commandment to execute the same. Jesus took this office willingly, most willingly. Made under the law, Jesus perfectly fulfilled the Law of God in true righteousness and holiness. His was a perfect, personal, perpetual obedience—a radical obedience even to death on the Cross. He had no iniquity, no sin, no personal sin.

Jesus endured torment in His soul and sufferings in His body. We know that Jesus was crucified, dead, and buried. He remained under the power of death yet with no corruption. On the third day He rose from the dead, as He had said. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father, of the Majesty on High. Even today He ever lives to make intercession. He advocates. Jesus Christ shall return to judge humanity, all people, and angels, at the end of the age. Jesus is Judge of the living and the dead.

The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience and sacrifice of Himself, which He through the Eternal Spirit once offered up unto God has fully satisfied divine justice. Through His voluntary substitutionary sacrifice of Himself once for all time, He purchased reconciliation with the Father and an everlasting inheritance in the Kingdom of Heaven for all those whom The Father has given unto Him.

We enter the Kingdom of God by confessing that we are sinners and cannot save ourselves. We miss the mark, have committed cosmic treason, broken the covenant, broken the Law of God, and need a Deliverer, a Savior. We ask Jesus Christ to forgive our sins, transgressions, and trespasses and grant us grace and power to repent of our sins and to turn to Christ as our Savior and Lord. Jesus determines our destiny. We ask to be reconciled with the Father, to be redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, by Jesus' sacrifice of Himself, to be loosed from debt and liability of sin, for the wrath of God to be propitiated, and for the defeat of Satan in our lives. We thank Him and praise Him and give glory to Him. And we ask for the Holy Spirit to fill us.

The recording of this message has a prayer for you.

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Mary Craig, D. Min.

John 11:25, 26

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: ²⁶And whosoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

Do you believe this?



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