

Manifesting the Kingdom of God

By Schlyce Jimenez

Principle # 1 – The Kingdom Of God Should Be Our First Priority

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)

There is a miraculous principle in the Kingdom of God involving the “first.” Romans 11:16 says “For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.” Think about it. Whether it’s the tithe, the first born child, or our time, when we give our “first” to God, he supernaturally consecrates, multiplies and blesses the rest. What we do with the first determines how the rest performs. Now let’s take this concept one step further and apply it to our entire life. In Matthew chapter six, specifically starting in verse 31, Jesus talks about how Believers are supposed to make the Kingdom of God their first priority.

“Therefore, take no thought saying, what shall we eat? or, What shall we drink?, or Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:31-33)

Most people who don’t know Jesus are completely preoccupied with the pursuit of happiness and getting their needs met. What to eat, who to marry, how they look, where to live, how to make enough money to retire, etc., etc., etc. are the things they are concerned about. But as Believers, we aren’t supposed to live this way. We are supposed to make seeking the Kingdom of God our primary goal and trust that as we do, God will supernaturally take care of the rest of our lives. He will provide everything we need including our spiritual, physical, emotional, relational, and financial needs. God is completely aware that we need things in this earth to survive and in fact, he desires complete wholeness for us in every area of life. But, he’s commanded us not to seek things. Instead he tells us to “seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness.” This is an awesome concept. First of all it drastically simplifies life. We just need to make the main thing the main thing. Jesus understood this principle. Even as a young child, when he was only 12 years old, Jesus recognized that he was supposed to “be about his Father’s business” (Luke 2:49) He knew that seeking the Kingdom was to be his first priority. He knew that as he attended to His Father’s business, His Father would attend to his. Really it’s no different than going to work for a secular company. If you are on company business, the company pays for everything – meals, transportation costs, a place to stay, etc. They also pay you a salary so that you’ll have everything else you need to continue to successfully do your job. So why is it so hard for us to believe that if we make our job “the Father’s Business” that he’ll provide everything we need to get the job done?

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So what is the Father's business? What does it mean to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness? Well, first of all we must recognize that God is a God of increase. He commanded Adam and Eve to "be fruitful and multiply, replenish the earth, subdue it and have dominion" (Genesis 1:28). Furthermore, in the parable of the talents, the Lord rebuked the unprofitable servant calling him "wicked and slothful" because he didn't take what the Lord had given him and increase it (Matthew 25:26-27). So why is God so interested in increase? It's his nature to increase. Growth or increase is a basic attribute of life and God is the Spirit of Life. If something is not increasing, but is stagnant or decreasing, it is a sign that it is dying. Therefore, going about your Father's business and seeking the Kingdom means to increase the Kingdom of God. It means to look after the King's interests and to make expanding, increasing and manifesting His Kingdom your number one priority. As we do this, the King will supernaturally take care of us and provide us everything we need along the way.

Principle # 2 – Manifesting the Kingdom Requires The Supernatural

"Therefore be imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]." (Ephesians 5:1 AMP)

Manifesting the Kingdom of God requires that we think like God, act like God, talk like God and operate at a higher level than the world. With God, there is no problem that we can't solve, no solution beyond our understanding and no task beyond our ability. If you are born again and filled with the Holy Spirit, the word of God says that we "have an unction from the Holy One and know all things" (1 John 2:20). The word also says that "we have not been given the spirit of the world but the Spirit which is from God that we might know the things that are freely given unto us" (1 Corinthians 2:12). But we have to learn to live out of our spirit and receive revelation from God if we are to make a difference in this world. Jesus understood this principle and lived it perfectly. Jesus operated solely on revelation knowledge and depended on the Father completely. Whatever he saw or heard the Father doing or saying, that's what he did and said. He was an imitator of God. (John 5:19; John 5:30; John 8:38; John 12:49-50)

In addition to Jesus and other people in the bible, one of my favorite people in history to study is an African American inventor by the name of Dr. George Washington Carver. I was introduced to him by my pastor and mentor Dr. Bill Winston, but as soon as I heard about him, I became intrigued by his relationship with God and how it affected his work as an inventor. Basically, Dr. Carver would take his bible (and only his bible) into his laboratory which he affectionately called "God's little workshop." He then would begin to seek and ask God for wisdom and revelation regarding the inventions he was working on. In one encounter with God

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in his workshop, Dr. Carver said that the Lord taught him to take the peanut apart and put it back together again. From this meeting with God, he invented over three hundred products. Dr. Carver always felt that he was on a mission from God. He felt that it was his assignment to change the economic environment of the South. And through his relationship with the Lord, he did. Here's a couple of web links that you can go to for more information on his life and work: <http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly/aa041897.htm> & <http://michaelnewdow.com/GeorgeWashingtonCarver.htm>. Also, there are lots of books available on www.amazon.com about him if you desire to learn more.

In summary, I guess the most important thing I've learned from studying the lives of people that walked and talked with God is that we are called operate at a higher level than the world. God desires to use you and me to change the world we live in by manifesting His glory everywhere we go.

Principle # 3 – Complete Your Kingdom Assignments

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Once we are born again and translated into the kingdom of God (Colossians 1:13) we became ambassadors for Christ. As an ambassador for the King of Kings, we have Kingdom business to complete. Therefore, we need to recognize and know what we have been assigned to do. The Lord desires to us in positions that will solve the problems of the world and manifest His glory. Think of the way he used Joseph, Daniel, and Esther. They were used mightily by God to influence entire cultures and kingdoms.

We need to recognize that God desires to use us as well. We have been born for such a time as this and we also have specific Kingdom assignments. Of course our assignments cannot be fulfilled in our own strength. They will have to be orchestrated by God and performed in the power of the Holy Ghost. Therefore, we need to find out the King's instructions and follow them. We need to know what we are called and anointed to do. We need to know who we are assigned to help and how to go about it. We need to know the problems we are assigned to solve. Also, we need to know the difference between what's good and what is best. Remember, just because something is good, doesn't mean it's an assignment from God.

A Kingdom assignment can be many things. It can be specific person or group of people that we are assigned to minister to or it can be a secular job assignment where we are supposed to

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display the character of Jesus. It might be a business we are supposed to start or a ministry assignment of some kind. There are many different things that God may ask us to do in the course of His business, but in general, a Kingdom assignment when completed successfully should serve the King and manifest heaven on earth. One thing to keep in mind is that a Kingdom assignment is different than working a job for money. When you are on Kingdom business, the place your work is no longer your source - it's your assignment. As long as you know that the Lord has called you there and that you are there as an ambassador representing the Kingdom of God, according to Matthew 6:33, the Lord is obligated to provide for you. Therefore, each and everyday we must make our Father's Business our number one priority. Another important point to recognize is that as an ambassador for Christ, your assignments can change from time to time. Therefore, it's important to be able to recognize when a season for a particular assignment is up and when it's time to start a new one.

Now remember, manifesting the Kingdom is not just for people in full-time ministry. Every believer is a minister of the gospel in their respective sphere of influence. God has called every believer to preach the gospel to every creature, not just five-fold ministers (Mark 16:15). While you may not have a pulpit ministry, you are the minister to your family, your neighborhood, your workplace, etc. You may be the only Jesus certain people ever see. So we must wake up everyday and recognize that we are on assignment. Daily we have a Kingdom mission to fulfill. I'm not saying that if you work in a secular job that you should neglect your duties and witness or pray for people all day long. You need to use wisdom and remember that displaying the character of Jesus is just as important as doing the works of Jesus. However, we must realize that our job is not our source, the King of Kings is, and that regardless of what we do for a living, being an ambassador for Christ is our real profession. Therefore, the question we need to ask the Lord in prayer is "what are my assignments?"

In order to answer this question, we must have revelation. Therefore, we must recognize that our relationship with God involves a two-way conversation in prayer. Our prayer life must be more than just a religious duty. It must be alive with the presence of God and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Ghost. (2 Cor. 13:14) We need to be able to go to God in prayer and ask questions like "Lord what do you want me to do today?" "Am I performing the assignments that you have called me to complete?" I recommend to people all the time that they start and keep a prayer journal. It's not a religious thing, it's a scriptural thing. (Exodus 17:14; Jeremiah 30:2; Habakkuk 2:2) A prayer journal is where you record and refer back to the Lord's instructions to you. It's where you record the revelation that you receive in prayer so that you can study it again and again. Many times I minister with people who once they start a prayer journal, their entire walk with God is transformed. I always tell people to start their

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prayer journal with a “letter to God,” which is nothing more than a written prayer. Then I tell them to get quiet and listen for the Lord to speak to their heart in his still quiet voice. He may bring a scripture to mind or actually begin to speak. Or he may speak to you in a vision, a dream or through other people. Regardless, write it down. Also, another good thing to do is to pray in tongues and then ask for the interpretation according to 1 Corinthians 14:13. Then remember to write down what you get in your prayer journal so you can refer to it often to help you stay on track.

Remember, when we make seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness our main focus, God will supernaturally provide for your needs. So, make manifesting his Kingdom your number one priority and find out what it is that he is calling you to do. Then set your heart to obey and finish whatever it is that he asks of you. Recognize that while it won't always be easy, as long as you continue to be led by the Spirit and rely on the Lord for the revelation that you need to complete your assignment, you will succeed. There's no better way to live or stay supernaturally connected to the blessings of God.

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Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 2:49

And he said unto the, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business.

John 5:19

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

John 5:30

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 8:38

I speak that which I have seen with my Father:

John 10:25(b)

The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

John 10:30

I and my Father are one.

John 12:49-50

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that the commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ.

Eph. 5:1 (AMP)

Therefore be imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father].

1 John 2:20

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.