



THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

KINDOM PRINCIPLE STUDY KP7

READ THIS FIRST

This is one of the most important studies so far. If we can grasp the principles presented here we shall enter a new sphere of victorious living and power-filled service for Jesus. The enemy has been strong to deflect believers from the simple life of faith, *hearing what God is saying and doing it, trusting Him for the consequences*. In its place he has brought his own Babylonian principles: the initiated priesthood and the power of the confessional. Men have taken over God's role and made Him their servant; the resultant church is intellectual but powerless, being based on the arm of flesh. We can avoid both errors by allowing God to saturate our being with His principles.

Key Scriptures include:

Romans 4:1-25; 5:1-11
Ephesians 6:10-20
I Corinthians 12 to 14
Matthew 12:24-30, 43-45
Daniel 9:1-23

LEARN THESE SCRIPTURES BY HEART

'We have total liberty in Jesus our Liberator who has set us free. Stand firm, then, as free people; do not allow yourselves to become slaves again' (*Gal. 5:1*).

'I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind (prohibit) on earth shall be bound, having been already bound in heaven, and whatever you loose (permit) on earth shall be loosed, having been already loosed in heaven' (*Matt. 16:18-19*).

THE WORD OF FAITH

We have already seen that God's sons are called to live by faith. Not human faith - the faith of the Son of God, who loved us and died for us. It is the same faith He lived by which He now gives to us by His Spirit (*Gal. 2:20, Mark 11:22*).

Very simply and beautifully, the life of faith is hearing what God is saying, and doing it, trusting God for the consequences (*Rom. 10:17, Heb. 11:1-40*).

But remember, we can only 'hear' what God is saying when we allow the living Word (Logos) within us access to have access to our hearts and minds. This we

do by the principle of praise, fanning up a fire from the coals that God has placed within us so that He can fill His temples with His life and reveal His kingdom to us! (*II Tim. 1:6*).

When we are filled with God's Spirit we hear Him speaking clearly! This is the only way we can receive specific instructions from our Father. General revelation comes through the creation and the scriptures and through the testimony of the brethren. Specific instructions are personal and direct. This is a key ingredient of the New Covenant (*Rom. 1:19-20 Jer. 31:34*).

All God's sons have the ability and the calling to keep themselves free inside so that they can hear what their Father is saying (*Acts 2:15-18*).

Many people believe that they can become witnesses for Jesus through searching of the scriptures without knowing what it is to live in union with Jesus. In scripture we find inspired principles of the greatest possible value to believers, particularly for the testing of the word of faith (whether it be of God or not). But principles ought never to replace specific revelation from Jesus by the Spirit within. Otherwise we may find that we have been living by principle but not by obedience and find ourselves numbered with those who said 'Lord, Lord' but never knew Him; those that did not do the specific will of His Father (*II Tim. 3:16-17, I John 4:1-3, Matt. 7:21-23*).

So, while in no way wishing to detract from the value of scripture we wish to emphasize the value of personal revelation. The two must go hand in hand - inspiration without the discipline of scripture can lead to error; scriptural discipline without inspiration leads to trust in human effort, and this, as history proves, leads to splintering of God's people into factions and sects (*John 5:39, Acts 17:11, I Cor. 1:21-31*).

We are called to walk by specific, clear instructions, which if they are from God, will fall neatly within the boundaries of God's general revelation in scripture. By general revelation we do not mean a verse here or a verse there, we mean the unified themes which abound in the scriptures. To help us in this, the Lord has set amongst His people teaching elders who have revelation of these principles and have the responsibility of sharing them with the brethren (*Acts 2:42, I Cor. 12:28-29, Eph. 4:11, I Tim. 5:17*).

Of course, understanding also comes by personal revelation, the scriptures themselves having been written by this method! In a sense, even the revelation of God in creation also comes from within; many see it with their eyes but do not see God, their minds being blinded by the prince of this world, i.e. the devil (*II Peter 1:20-21, Rev. 1:9-10, Rev. 4:2*).

THE JUSTIFIED (THOSE IN CHRIST) ARE CALLED TO LIVE BY FAITH

It is not sufficient to hear the word, we are called to live as if we believe it. Faith without action is useless. 'Blessed is the man who hears my words and obeys them ...' but 'woe to that man who hears my words but does not do them...' Sons of God are to be obedient sons!

Those who are led by God's Spirit are God's sons. We judge nothing from a human standpoint but according to the word we have received from our Father within us. Paul shared his experience in this regard in a powerful statement to the Corinthians. He did not come preaching in big words or great learning. No, he put to death his natural abilities and just spoke out what God told him to say. As we all find, the word God gives us is usually very different from our natural thinking. In 'the natural' it may sometimes scare us to speak out 'God's word' but it will be recognized as truth and God's specific word for the occasion by its supernaturally powerful effect! The wisdom Paul spoke out was God's secret wisdom - only discerned and received by those who have the Spirit. If we do not have the Spirit we cannot receive spiritual things (*Heb. 2:4, Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, Heb. 10:38, Rom. 4:1-25, Rom. 5:1-11, James 2:17-26, Matt. 7:24-26, Rom. 8:14, I Cor. 2: 1-16*).

SPIRITUAL THINGS (PNEUMATIKON)

The New Testament writers use the Greek word *pneumatikon* (e.g. *I Cor. 2:14, 12:1*) when referring to those things that we receive in the inner man when the Spirit is in us and we are open to hear Him. English translations translate this word 'spirituals', 'spiritual things' or 'spiritual gifts'. When writers wished to emphasize that such revelations are undeserved gifts from God they used the word *charismata* to imply that they are part of God's general grace, i.e. "the active merciful kindness by which God exerts His holy influence upon us, woos us to Jesus, keeps us, strengthens us, increases us in faith, knowledge and love for Jesus and our brethren and kindles us to display spiritual power!" That is a mouthful but worth studying!

Charismatics (unfortunate word) know that they are 'unworthy slaves' who have found the grace of God and who speak out His word with revelatory power. If we apply that word to ourselves we should, above all people, be aware that it is 'by grace and grace alone' that we do these things!

Paul believed that everyone should be involved in showing forth the things of the Spirit, though he had also noticed that different people tend to 'show forth' differently depending on how the Spirit decides. Our job is to relax and accept our part. That means both being satisfied with what God gives us to do but, at the same time, being anxious to be involved in spiritual revelation for the benefit of others in a spirit of love. We do not seek gifts for personal promotion, we seek them for the sake of others as Christ's obedient servant (*I Cor. 12:7, 11, 31; 14:1*).

We can classify spirituals in two ways:

By Description:

Paul lists nine types of 'word' (Gk, *logos*) he had seen in his letter to the Corinthians: words of wisdom, words of knowledge, words of faith, gifts of healings, the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues (*I Cor. 12:8-11*). All of these begin as specific words within by which a person discerns what God is saying in a given situation. Each word is a KEY to the Kingdom of God coming into the world! As the word is spoken, the door is opened for God's power to be released and the Kingdom to be revealed!

A believer should aim to spend his whole life under this kind of instruction although it is clear that God is not speaking to us specifically all of the time. He speaks when He wants to! But we should practice **holding ourselves open** to his instruction for we do not want to miss it when it comes. Much of the time we will be doing ordinary things essential to living in this world; we should not despise these things but we do not allow them to crowd out God's thoughts from our minds. Jesus showed us how to do it; that is why His life was so filled with power. Not only did His words have a powerful effect, he was always in the right place at the right time. The story of Lazarus being raised being an excellent example. We can walk in the same way if we wish to! (*John 6:63, John 11:4-7, 11-44*).

By Function

If we speak out as God desires, others will recognise that God has given us specific abilities. That is why in scripture some are classified *apostles* (i.e. *missionaries* = called out ones). Others are recognized as *prophets, teachers, miracle workers*, those with *gifts of healing*, those with *assisting ministries (helps)*, those with *administrative skills*, those with supernatural ability to *speak other languages*. This type of classification emphasizes that the spiritual gifts are given so that God can get His work done. We should covet the best gifts but make sure we exercise them in love (*I Cor. 12:12-30, Eph. 4:8, 11-12, Acts 2:7-12, I Cor. 12:31, I Cor. 13:1-13, Eph. 3:14-19*).

TWO WARNINGS:

- Do not categorize yourself with a capital letter! 'I am an Evangelist'! If you are, it is by God's unmerited favour. So do not think anything of yourself; simply live out what God is calling you to do.
- Do not categorize yourself so that you are closed to new abilities. It is the Spirit who decides on the basis of what is needed in the circumstances. For

this reason, those who are led to work alone (e.g. apostles sent out to start new Christian communities) tend to exhibit greater diversity of spiritual abilities. As an aside: it is a sad fact that many missionaries are young people with minimal experience sent into areas where there is no-one to help them. In the Bible, God chose the most experienced people to do this kind of work. Each believer can expect God to give Him exactly what is needed in the circumstances (*Acts 13:1-5; 2:14; 3:1-10; 8:5,26, 40; 10:5-6*).

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

We need to remind ourselves that we are involved in a spiritual battle. Satan has taken control of the kingdoms of this world but Jesus, the Captain of the Lord's host, has totally defeated him on the cross. What remains is for us, who know by faith what Jesus has done, to repossess the Kingdoms of this world.

Because of His victory on the cross, Jesus could say, 'All authority is given to me both in heaven and on earth'. The angel announces, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Liberator – Jesus'. Jesus already had authority in heaven when He came but, by His death and resurrection, He gained authority over the territory previously lost to the devil (*Matt.28:18, Rev. 11:15*).

It follows that, as we live in union with Jesus, we also have authority. 'Go ye therefore... to all people everywhere and make them my disciples; baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always to the end of the age' (*Matt 28:19-20*).

Only those who have received the Holy Spirit and go out hand in hand with the Lord have this authority. We have no power or authority in our own strength to invade Satan's kingdom, only as we travel with and work with Jesus (*Acts 19:11-22*).

BINDING AND LOOSENING

Jesus's word to us as we enter into the battle is summed up well in His word to Joshua: 'Get going... I have already won the victory... no-one can defeat you... I am with you... be courageous and confident ... but make sure, though, that you do it my way'. If we really see and believe these statements we shall indeed be courageous and confident! (*Joshua 1:1-9*).

Now, because Jesus has already won the victory we see that our job is not to fight but to possess the land. We do this by BINDING and LOOSENING as the Lord directs. We need to remind ourselves that we will only be successful when we go out under orders. Jesus has the battle plan which He shares with us one point at a time: Go!, Stay!, Bind!, Loosen! His words to us in the inner man are the keys that open every situation. NOTE: The sense of the Greek in the

statements that Jesus made about binding and loosening is missed in many translations (*see the memory verses*). We can only bind what is already bound in heaven and loosen what has been loosed in heaven. This is the only sense which agrees with the New Covenant statement and the Law of the Spirit (*Matt. 16:19; 18:18, Rom. 8:2*).

It is very relaxing to be Jesus's co-worker. We just do what He says!!! More precisely, we say what He tells us to say and our words become a sword which destroys the enemy and liberates the captives! (*Eph. 6:17*).

As an example of binding and loosening, consider the case of a demon possessed person whom the Lord indicates is to be released at a specific time (only He knows when they are ready). We approach the problem as follows:

First bind: Who shall be bound? Never make the mistake of battling with minor demons; bind the 'father' and you have the whole bunch. Once Satan is bound the person's mind is open to hear the good news that Jesus desires to bring them into His Kingdom (*Matt. 12:29*).

Then loosen: Once a person has received Christ's Spirit within, we can speak the word of release for them to receive (welcome) the Holy Spirit into their soul life. The 'laying on of hands' helps them do this. The actual work of deliverance from demons is done by God's powerful Spirit. It may take time, but once the Holy Spirit is within a person it is inevitable that the demons will leave sooner or later. The Holy Spirit knows how to clean and fill the house; if we do it ourselves we leave the house empty; if He does it from within the house is filled with God's glory! (*Matt. 12:28, Matt. 12:43-44*).

Those who follow the path of obedience through their life will find the Captain of the Host giving them progressively 'bigger' jobs. (NB They are not really bigger jobs; it is not more difficult to deliver a nation than a single person. It is just that experienced people find it easier to believe God for things which humanly speaking appear more difficult).

To servants who have proved faithful, the Spirit will give the keys to whole nations. They will stand on mountain tops to bind the strong demons that control those nations and open doors for the invasion of the Holy Spirit. Thus, and only thus, shall the earth be possessed and filled with God's glory. For 'the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and all they that dwell therein'. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son... (*Dan. 10:20, Psalm 24:1, John 3:16*).

EFFECTIVE PRAYER BEGINS IN HEAVEN

Having understood the principle of the Law of the Spirit which is obedience, we can now better

understand Bible statements on prayer. Prayer is communication with God by which we lay our needs before Him (although He already knows our needs) and hear what He has to say to us with regard to them. The answers to prayer do not always come at once. Those who know the Lord also know how to wait for His answers (*Jer. 42:1-7, Dan. 10:10-14, Psalm 27:14, Provo 3:5-6*).

As God is a spirit, so our communication with Him must be in the Spirit. The only purpose of speaking out in prayer in an understandable language is so that others may hear what God is saying to us and what we are saying to Him in our spirit (*1 Cor. 14:15, Eph. 6:18, 1 Cor. 14:16, John 11:41-44*). Prayer that brings a revelation or manifestation of the Kingdom of God is that prayer in which God speaks to our spirit a word which builds faith in us for specific action. It begins with God, not with us, for we do not even know what to ask for! Jesus told us to pray this sort of prayer (*Rom. 8:26, Mark 11:20-24*).

THREE IDEAS ABOUT PRAYER

Priest Centred Prayer: The Babylonian system of mysteries has long invaded the community of God's people. With it came the idea that God can only be reached by special people (priests). Ordinary men need to ask the priest to pray and tell them what God is saying. This is the way the priesthood of Babylon maintained power over people. Regrettably, it is much the same in some churches. Such an idea is totally against the New Covenant and the statements of Jesus (*II Thess. 2:1-12, Jer. 31:34, Heb. 8:11, John 16:26-27*).

Man Centred Prayer: Many people see prayer beginning with us asking God to do something and that is how they always pray! The great mystery is that very often God does answer petitions; such is His serving nature. However, persistence in this type of praying usually ends with silence from heaven. God desires that we leave this sort of prayer behind us. An interesting Bible example is the story of God's dealings with King Asa. Regrettably, many Christians persist in this type of prayer, believing that the more people that pray in a given situation the more chance there is of twisting God's arm and getting a desired result! (*II Chron. 14:8-15; 15:1-7*).

God Centred Prayer: In this kind of prayer: we listen, God speaks, we declare what God has said, the anointing of God meets the need and the Kingdom of God is manifested before the eyes of men. The mechanism and beauty of this type of prayer is portrayed in the picture of the olive trees and the lamp stand. For the Kingdom to be seen in the natural world, both our spiritual gift and our natural abilities must combine under the direction and empowerment of God's Spirit. A word without anointing is useless, as is anointing without the speaking out of God's word (*Zech. 4:1-7*).

PRAYER WITHOUT CEASING

Having grasped that effective prayer is none other than living by the word of faith we are released to live in a constant state of prayer, even as we go about our ordinary business. To a man or woman who has been trained by the Spirit to pray God's way, prayer is a way of life not a spiritual exercise. We are praying always, keeping our spiritual ears open at all times for the majestic whisper of our Father in the innermost part of our being. What God says to us surprises us much of the time. For His thoughts are usually ahead of our thoughts. There is nothing in this world that can compare with the excitement of living this life that Jesus has given us (*I Thess. 5:17, Col. 1:3, Is. 55:6-9*).

Of course, there are intimate times when we are physically alone with our Father and other times when we pray together with the saints. But we can know the 'bed chamber experience' even when we are on the run. Praise the Lord!

QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand that Jesus meant when He said 'Have the faith of God' (*Mark 11:22*)?
2. What do you understand to be a 'word of faith'?
3. What does it mean to live by faith?
4. What are 'spiritual things'? Why should we covet the best gifts?
5. For what purpose has Jesus given us spiritual authority? What does He specifically command us to do. Explain in your own words how you see us doing these things?
6. Write down in your own words how you feel we should pray.

Post your answers to:

**The Paraclete Institute Inc.
Kingdom Principles Course Coordinator
96 Barramundi Drive, Hallett Cove, South
Australia 5158**

Or scan and email them to:

paracamp@senet.com.au