

THE FAITHFUL ARE FOCUSED ON THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven are synonymous terms. The Kingdom of God tells us WHO runs it; the Kingdom of Heaven tells us WHERE it is from.

1. The Church has been given the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven:

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven”; Matthew 16:19 (NASB)

“Woe unto you, lawyers! For ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered”; Luke 11:52 (KJV)

2. Faithful disciples are Heavenly-minded, not earthly-minded:

“If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God”; Colossians 3:1-2 (NASB)

“For he (Abraham) looked for a city, which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God...These...confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth...For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come”; Hebrews 11:10, 13; 13:14 (KJV)

3. A disciple will have peace when his focus is upon the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom:

“You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind (both its inclination and its character) is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You, leans on You and hopes confidently in You”; Isaiah 26:3 (AMP)

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid”; John 14:27 (KJV)

4. Disciples do not “set up” the Kingdom of Heaven; it is already prepared:

“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”; Matthew 25:34 (KJV)

“But now they desire a better country, that is a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city”; Hebrews 11:16 (KJV)

5. Disciples do not attempt to convert society, transform the culture or take over the world system:

“Blessed are the “meek” (the gentle, patient, long suffering); for they shall inherit the earth”; Matthew 5:5 (KJV)

“My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence”; John 18:36 (KJV)

6. The Kingdom of Heaven does not come with observation (in a visible manner):

“Asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He replied to them by saying, the kingdom of God does not come with signs to be observed or with visible display. Nor will people say, Look! Here (it is)! or, See (it is) there! For behold, the kingdom of God is within you (in your hearts) and among you (surrounding you)”; Luke 17:20-21 (AMP)

“Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you (the chief priests and Pharisees), and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof”; Matthew 21:43 (KJV)

7. The Kingdom of Heaven within us produces righteousness, peace and joy:

“For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”; Romans 14:17 (NASB)

“These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full”; John 15:11 (KJV)

8. The faithful know that obtaining the Kingdom promises involves leaving all behind to follow Him:

“Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God’s sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting”; Luke 18:28-30 (KJV)

“And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it”; Mark 8:34-35 (KJV)

9. Faithful disciples are supernaturally sustained because they seek His Kingdom first:

“Do not be anxious then, saying “What shall we eat? Or What shall we drink? Or With what shall we clothe ourselves? For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you”; Matthew 6:31-33 (NASB)

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us”; Ephesians 3:20 (KJV)

10. Faithful disciples are the “signs” of God’s Kingdom power:

“Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion”; Isaiah 8:18 (KJV)

Those who are focused on Jesus Christ and His heavenly Kingdom will demonstrate:

- a. A victorious, overcoming lifestyle of faith and obedience.
- b. Purity in the life and the overcoming of temptation.
- c. A sound mind that flows with truth and revelation, not ignorance and tradition.
- d. Rest and peace of mind in the midst of fear, confusion, trials and lawlessness.
- e. The willingness to lay down their lives as a sacrifice in behalf of others.
- f. A life that consistently yields to the headship of Jesus Christ.

