



Page I

**SEPTEMBER 2016**  
**THE KINGDOM PRINCIPLE (Part Two)**

Greetings saints of God!

We pray that you are seeing God's kingdom bursting forth all around you, on every side!

Last month, I began to give a recap of mine and Shannon's mission's trip to Mexico and I only got half way through it. So, this month, I want to give you the rest of the details...

Again, we arrived in Guadalajara on Wednesday evening, July 13th, and spent our first couple of days in Chapala where we were staying, both ministering and resting. Then on Saturday, we went into the city of Guadalajara for the first time to teach at the Fire from Heaven Bible Institute run by John & Judy Whitener. Shannon and I had the opportunity to teach for close to four hours on this day, and it was AWESOME!

In the first hour, Shannon and I tag teamed in sharing with the students some of the things that we had learned in our lives and ministry. Shannon shared on the importance of understanding our identity in Christ and I followed with talking about the importance of experiencing the grace and love of God in our lives. It was really good and flowed together perfectly!

Then, in the final three hours we had at the school, I taught on what seems to be my "go to" subject when I go to other nations to teach leaders and future leaders- the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Saints, I can honestly say that the Holy Spirit is one of my favorite subjects to teach on! But that leads me to make a major point that I drive home when I teach on Him- that He is not just a "subject;" He is a divine PERSON! Amen!

The students were just pulling the truths of His personality and ministry out of me, and those three hours just simply flew by! I was very impressed with this particular Bible school that the Whitener's coordinate because the students were (as the school name indicates) *on fire!*

Of course, the language barrier was difficult for both me and Shannon, but I was personally very surprised at how those three years of Spanish I took in high school started to come back to me. I think if you gave me a couple of months in Mexico, I'd become fairly fluent in "espanol."

Now on Sunday, we hit the ground running! This particular day felt more like the schedule I usually have when I go to India... Again, we spent the day in Guadalajara- first, by going to Pastor Gerardo Gaxiola's church and ministering there.

Now I just have to tell you how I got connected with this man of God...

Several months ago, while attending Andrew Wommack's Gospel Truth Seminar in Atlanta, I had a local pastor friend who was also in attendance bring up in conversation that his son's father in law was there and he was from Guadalajara. So I responded with- "Really? I would like

Page II

to meet him because I'm going to Guadalajara in July."

So when I was introduced to Pastor Gerardo, he asked me the reason for my visit and who it was that I knew in Guadalajara, and when I mentioned the name John Whitener, he said, "John Whitener!?! I know John Whitener!" And it turned out that he actually went to the Whitener's Bible Institute himself! Small world, huh?

So suffice it to say, I was excited about getting to come spend time with this local pastor because I knew that this just had to be a God-connection!

The church service that morning was simply wonderful! I felt led to share on the same subject that I began sharing with you last month and will continue with here in a moment, but this time, the emphasis was placed on the power of our words and the authority we have to decree, declare and confess in the name of Jesus.

When I gave the altar call, I was surprised at how many people came up for financial and job related needs. Well, we prayed for them- not necessarily sensing any strong anointing etc.- and I received word after we returned from Pastor Gerardo, that many of the people received job offers and other blessings the very same day! Glory to God! He is faithful!

We spent the afternoon with Pastor, his wife and his very special family, and then on that evening, we made our way towards the primary event that brought this trip to pass- the graduation ceremony of Fire from Heaven Bible Institute...

John Whitener, one of High Point Church's missionaries who hosted us on this trip, asked me to come and be the key-note speaker at their graduation, and what a beautiful graduation ceremony it was!

The word that the Lord gave me for this batch of students was how to be good ground in God's kingdom. I exhorted them to maintain a noble and good heart by continuing to value the Word that they have been taught. I encouraged them to keep that Word that was sown into them by giving the more earnest heed to it now that they have graduated. Then, finally, I instructed them to run their race with patience- staying in their lane and not looking back!

It was a very special time in the Lord, as was the entire trip! Shannon and I were so blessed by our time in Chapala and Guadalajara, and I believe that we have made friends for a lifetime through this trip! Amen!

Well, like with this recap of our trip to Mexico, I want us to also continue on with the message that I began last month- entitled "The Kingdom Principle." So let's take a moment to recap what we learned last month, amen?

### **THE KINGDOM PRINCIPLE**

Last month, we learned that the law of sowing and reaping is, in fact, the law of the kingdom. Just as we have the law of gravity that works regardless of how we feel or what we think, this law of the

Page III

kingdom of God is working for us one way or another.

Friends, this kingdom principle is either working for us or it is working against us. So the choice is ours- will we abide by this law of the kingdom or not?

We learned that this law of sowing and reaping is the first level of the foundation that we lay in order to build God's kingdom in our lives. We saw this in Mark 4:13 when Jesus said that if we do not understand this parable, how are we going to understand all other parables? What He was saying here was that this Parable of the Sower that He was referring to is "kindergarten Christianity." In other words, it contains the fundamentals of kingdom living, the basic building blocks of the way things work in the kingdom of God.

Therefore, as we also learned, through abiding by this kingdom principle, this is how we will see God's kingdom come and His will be done in our lives on a regular basis. So if we want to consistently see God's kingdom come in our life, we have to learn to operate according to the laws of God's kingdom. Why? Because the kingdom does not come by hoping and praying; the kingdom comes by sowing and reaping. Amen!

But we have seen that the first step to understanding this kingdom principle is to understand what the seed is- for the seed is the most important part of sowing & reaping. Why? Because if you do not have a seed, you have nothing to sow and, therefore, will have nothing to reap.

But many miss this point! They do not know what the seed is, much less, where to find it. And then they wonder why they do not see the fruit of God's kingdom in their life.

Well, we would not look in our garden and wonder why there was no fruit and vegetables if we never planted their seed, would we? Then why would we expect good fruit in our life if we have never sowed those respective seeds? It just doesn't make sense, does it?

But the reason many think it works differently is because they believe God is in control of everything and all we are going to see in our life is what God chooses and allows. I'm here to tell you, it just doesn't happen that way.

Sure, as we made the point of- there are times that God supernaturally brings fruit in our lives through things like the gifts of the Spirit and by His grace, but these situations are few and far between. The key to consistent results in the kingdom is by learning this kingdom principle and abiding by it. Amen?

So if this law of sowing & reaping is, in fact, the kingdom principle (and we have learned that it absolutely is), then I reckon we need to find out what the seed is and also how this seed is sown into the ground. Amen?

And that is what I want us to camp on this month. So let's begin by talking about the seed in this kingdom principle...

## THE WORD OF GOD'S KINGDOM

Now in Mark 4:14, Jesus makes it very clear what the seed is- He said it is *the Word!* Therefore, the Lord told us that the seed that have to sow in order to see the fruit of God's kingdom in our lives is His Word.

But this is not spectacular enough for some. Many "charismaniacs" want more fireworks! But it is truly that simple: God's Word is the seed that holds the power to produce the fruit we want to partake of in our lives. Amen!

Now we just referred to how Mark's Gospel says that the seed is *the Word*, but let's look at the other two accounts of Jesus' Parable of the Sower and see what He specifically said that the seed is because this teaches us a good point...

Again, in Mark 4:14, He says that the seed is the Word, but in Luke's Gospel, He says the seed is the Word of God. Then in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus specifically calls it, "the word *of the kingdom.*" So when you combine all 3 of these accounts together, what Jesus was saying was that the seed is "the Word of God's kingdom."

Now I bring this to your attention because it sparks a very good point... We need to know specifically what kind of seed we are planting (i.e. What the Word is that we are planting?)

You see, it is not good enough to just be general. We need to be specific by sowing the particular seed that we want to see a harvest in. In other words, we need to purpose in our heart to sow seed to where it's not just a passing thought of "Oh yeah, I guess I need to sow something today. Let's see what I have left." No! We need to purpose in our heart what we are *sowing* and guard that seed that is in the soil. Amen!

And this example from the three different Gospel writers commentary of the Parable of the Sower is very apropos because people have all kinds of squirrely ideas as to what Jesus preached during His earthly ministry...

If you were to ask the average Christian what Jesus preached, you would hear things like "love, acceptance, mercy, etc." And a lot of times what you'll find is people will throw this out there when they want you to not judge them and just accept their sin. "Don't throw stones at me," they say. But while Jesus certainly did talk about these things, they were not His message. In other words, they were not the seed He sowed.

So what was Jesus' message? It was the gospel of the kingdom of God! Just go through and look at what the Bible says Jesus went about preaching and you'll find time and time again, the subject matter was the kingdom of God.

The reason I bring this up is because we need to specifically understand what the Word of God teaches so that we know what the seed is that we have to sow.

## SPECIFIC SEED

You see, sometimes people don't receive what they need because they are not specific enough...

For example, you wouldn't go into a nursery and just grab a bunch of miscellaneous seeds to sow in your garden or field, would you? You wouldn't say, "Oh, this looks like a seed. That's what I need" and plan on planting it. No, you would search out the specific seed that you need based on the kind of plant you desire and then purchase those particular kinds of seeds, right?

You know, when it comes to many believers getting their needs met, you will hear them say things like, "Well, I'm just trusting God." And my question is: "To do what?" What are they trusting Him to do? What is their trust based on? We need to be specific in our faith, saints!

For example, you will hear people say, "I am just waiting on God!" and what most of these people mean is that they are waiting on God to do it for them. But no, when David said, "Wait on the Lord, Be of good courage..." (Psalm 27:13), he was not saying that we are just passively waiting on God to do whatever He wants to do. No, He is talking about waiting on the Lord in faith and hope- not a wishful thinking kind of hope, but with the Bible-kind of hope which carries the idea of confidently expecting. And the problem with most Christians is- confidently expecting the Lord to do anything is a foreign concept to them. They wonder how one can actually "expect" God to do something because they believe that He is just going to do whatever He wants to do.

But do you know how you can come to the place of actually expecting something good to happen? When you have sown that specific seed into good ground! Amen! This is when you can actually wait in faith- expecting the particular harvest- because you know that particular seed has been planted! Therefore, you know and are confident that there is a harvest coming! It's just a matter of time! Amen and Hallelujah!

And, again, this is how we do it in the natural... When we are planting a garden- we prepare the ground, we buy specific seed, and we sow it carefully. We then guard our garden- sometimes with some pretty extreme measures. We go through certain concentrated and calculated steps to get the fruit, flower, vegetables, etc. we want, and that certainly includes choosing the particular seed for the fruit we want to see.

So why would we do it any different in God's kingdom? Saints, I'll tell you, we need to become more deliberate, purposeful and intentional in what we are sowing into our lives- because as a general rule, our lives are a product today of what we planted yesterday! Amen!

But, again, you don't have to be purposeful or deliberate to grow weeds, briars and other unwanted plants in your yard, do you? All you have to do to get a massive harvest of undesirable plants growing up in your yard is nothing! Just stop tending to your garden and you will get all the unwanted plants you want! But, on the other hand, good things like cotton, wheat, watermelons, grapes, etc. don't just grow by accident in your yard.

Saints, always remember, **bad fruit comes naturally; good fruit comes intentionally.** In other words, things we don't desire will just come naturally; things we do desire will only come deliberately.

### HOW TO SOW THE SEED

So now that we have seen that God's Word is the seed, and if we want a specific harvest, we need specific seed from the Word of God to sow, there is a question that we should be asking...

After we have found the specific seed for the area we desire to see fruit in, how do we sow it?

Well, allow me to illustrate how we do this...

If say, we are in need of healing in our bodies, we take that specific seed from God's Word and then begin to sow it, first of all, by meditating on that promise until it fills our heart in abundance and then by saying it. In other words, we take that promise from the Word of God and after we have hid it in our heart through meditation, we let it come out of our mouth by confession- saying, "It is written...It is written... It is written..." Amen!

Or, say we need a turnaround in our finances, we need to, of course, give into the kingdom of God in order to see an increase in our finances- this too is abiding by this same law of sowing & reaping. But then we need to water those seeds. How? By the washing of water by the Word, of course. Amen? We do this watering of those seeds by camping on God's promises concerning our needs being met and God's will concerning our finances and sow those specific words into our hearts and then out of our mouths.

No matter what the area that you need to see change in and desire to see God's kingdom come in your life, just take this same pattern of finding God's specific promises and begin sowing them into your heart and then saying them out of your mouth. If you do this, those mountains will soon be removed and you will experience the fruit of God's kingdom in your life! Amen?

Victoriously,

