



VOLUME 86 JANUARY 2013
SEEKING FIRST THE FATHER'S BUSINESS

Greetings in name of our great and awesome King of kings- Jesus Christ!

We hope everyone has had a good start to 2014 and are pressing forward for the prize and high calling of Christ Jesus! We are definitely "pressing forward" here at Living Logos Ministries and are expecting big things during this year as we have several big projects planned to propagate the gospel of the kingdom in India as well as here in the United States.

One stride that we have just made is the much more professional look to the electronic distribution of our Living Logos newsletters! We believe that these "e-blasts" are going to help us impact many more lives through a much more colorful and visually appealing email that also makes available many more of our ministry tools and materials. This new design was made possible by Katie Noel of Denver, CO. So a big thank you goes out to her for the great job she did!

With that said, if you are not receiving our newsletters via email or even know of someone else whom you feel would be interested in receiving them, please just let us know through the contact info provided below and we will make those additions or corrections speedily.

Well, as promised, we wanted to conclude this month with a summarization of my October trip to India by talking about what occurred at my last stop, Chennai. For the last two months, we have covered the first two stops of my trip- beginning with Bangalore and then, last month, talking about Madurai. So let's talk about what occurred during my last (but definitely not least) stop- Chennai.

Many of you are aware of this, but for those of you who are not, this was my second visit to the city of Chennai (the first being in 2011). So in many ways, this visit felt more like a family reunion when I arrived at the Charis Bible College/ Andrew Wommack Ministries building that Tuesday morning. This was because I made many life-long friends the last time I was there and, thank God, I got to see many of them again this time. I am so thankful for the family that I have on the other side of the world! Praise God!

That is one thing you learn when you travel overseas to do the Lord's work- it is how all of God's children all over the world really all speak the same language- the language of love. Though we look different in ways, live in different cultures, and even speak different languages, God's Spirit is the same everywhere! He manifests Himself the same everywhere despite the differences that embrace different cultures. There is no shadow of turning in Him!

And a reoccurring lesson that I have been led to share over the past several months is that the Holy Spirit is a perfect gentleman! He actually manifests Himself in the ways that we invite Him to. He does not force His way into our midst. He only does what we are open to Him doing and is willing to move in our lives to the degree that we can receive Him moving. And during the 6 classes I was given, this is one of the many things that I taught the students and staff at CBC Chennai about the Holy Spirit...

Friends, the Holy Spirit is absolutely one of my favorite subjects to teach on and He seems to always really bless these services/classes when I have taught on Him and His ministry. And this time was absolutely no different! Undoubtedly, the Holy Spirit was inspiring me during these classes because as I have gone back and listened to some of these messages, I have been amazed at the revelation that came forth because, although many of those sitting in those classes might not have realized it, I know that many of those truths that came out throughout each message were not preplanned. They were manifestations of the Spirit's ministry to bring to our remembrance things and to guide us into the truth. Thanks be to God for the Anointing!

I also had the opportunity to be a part of CBC Chennai's first Grace and Faith seminar that the ministry has held along with Mickey & Susan Cartegena (also former graduates from Charis Bible College Colorado). And, friends, this meeting was so powerful! The same Spirit that I have sensed through Andrew Wommack's meetings in the US, I sensed in this particular meeting as well. It was awesome! I actually caught myself with tears running down my face several times during this meeting. The praise and worship was so anointed and perfectly coincided with what the Lord has laid on my heart to share which was the part our faith plays in the arena of grace and faith. These two messages I had the opportunity to share were full of life, energy, and excitement! Many were blessed by the spirit of faith exhibited!

Then I had to leave a little early from the seminar that day to go to a prearranged meeting that same evening at a local church. It too was awesome! As I arrived at the church and sat on the stage, prayerfully seeking what I was share with this local church body, the Lord placed on my heart to share on the blessing that is upon all of God's children which causes us to be the head and not the tail and above only, not beneath. Just like all throughout my trip, God put His words in my mouth on the spot and spoke directly to His children. Then I had a time of ministry afterwards where the Lord spoke prophetic words of exhortation, encouragement, and comfort into their lives. I received many testimonies afterwards of how the Lord had spoken specifically to them and the Word of the Lord was glorified. Amen! To God be the glory!

Then on my last day at CBC Chennai, we had a time of ministry for the students and staff and, again, God spoke directly to one individual after another revealing the thoughts and intents of their hearts and giving the comfort and exhortation that only He can give.

One manifestation of the Spirit that is worth noting here is an awesome healing that we saw... There was a young lady there who had been riddled with pain all throughout her body for a while and the doctors could not even explain its cause. Well, I prayed for her and we did not see any manifestation at that moment. Then I just put my arm around her and laid my sweaty head on hers (unintentionally). She came to me afterwards, so excited, saying that all the pain was gone! And I have even talked to her since then, and she is still pain free. She told me afterwards on that day- "That is one powerful sweat ministry, brother!" (referencing what I had taught about Paul's handkerchiefs). To God be the glory!

So, in conclusion, what a powerful trip I had and how exceedingly fruitful it was! Again, a big thanks to all who were a part of making this trip happen! I can assure you that your support and prayers were not offered in vain! They bore much fruit during my time there and will continue to bear fruit for many years to come as many different God-ideas were birthed through this trip! In the near

future, I will unveil some of these projects that the Lord has orchestrated that will help us to impact the great nation of India for many years to come. So be on the lookout for more info on that.

Friends, I believe that there is no greater joy that one can experience than the joy that comes from going on a mission's trip like this one. When you are there, the grace of God carries you through all of the sacrifices and struggles. And when you return, there is an overflow of grace that you bring back with you that carries you for a good period of time. It is awesome!

And why is there so much grace before, during, and after trips like this? It is because when God's children lay down their lives for a period of time and seek first the kingdom of God, there is an abundance of life to be found! It is because this is His plan- for us to make His things our priority- and when we do, there is a super-abundance of life that we tap into.

Another testimony I want to quickly share that echoes this is after I had returned from India, a neighbor friend of mine (who was more concerned about the paint job my car so desperately needed than I was) had asked a mutual friend who owns a paint & body shop here in Macon about how much it would cost to paint a car like mine. Well, our friend the owner, offered then to paint it for nothing! When I found out about this, the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "Trey, I wanted to tell you how much I appreciate you going overseas and seeking first my kingdom for those two weeks like you did. Therefore, I have added this to you because I can." Wow!

Now mind you, this was not a necessity, nor was it something that I was praying for and seeking God about. It was just something that would be nice to have done but was certainly not anything that I thought much about at all.

Well, herein lies a great lesson for all of us... When we live our lives seeking first the kingdom of God like this, we don't have to spend time seeking these other natural things! Why? Because God has promised to add these things to us as we put His things first. Another way of saying this is that when we spend our time, money, and energy seeking first His business, He will take care of our business. Amen!

Friends, we can all seek first God's business, and we do not have to go to another country to do it. We can seek first His kingdom everyday wherever we are- because there are multiple ways in which we can do it.

So that is what I wanted to talk to you about this month- ways in which we can seek first His kingdom in our lives and, therefore, experience the fullness of life that comes as a result. Therefore, let's look at the Scripture that teaches us this- Matthew 6:33: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you."

OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS

Now when Jesus said to seek first the kingdom of God, what did He mean? What is this kingdom of God that He told us to seek? Well, as I made reference of already, a good synonym for God's kingdom would be His "business." And when He says to seek His business first, this implies seeking His interests before we seek our own.

Do you remember the story of Jesus leaving his parent's side and remaining in Jerusalem when he was a young boy? What did He say when his parents found Him teaching the Jewish leaders? He said, "Don't you know, I must be about my Father's business?" Jesus was basically saying the same thing as He was saying here in Matthew 6:33- that He must seek first His Father's kingdom and that is why He was out doing the will of His Father when His parents were looking for Him.

And, friends, we must be about our Father's business as well! It is not optional, nor is it a suggestion. The Lord expects this mentality from all of His children, not just the "preachers" or the "select elect."

You know, this is unfortunately an issue with so many of God's children: They are first and foremost concerned with their own things, family, career (basically anything that pertains to their own kingdom). For example, all of their hard earned money goes towards their home and their family- to pay for the things that they have need of. But this is the mentality that Jesus was countering. Sure, He knows we have need of these things and He knows our heart's desires. Of course, He is not against us having these things. What He is against, however, is His children seeking their own wants, needs, and desires first before they seek His. No, He wants us seeking His wants, needs, and desires first because this is how the kingdom of heaven operates- love first for others as opposed to love first for self.

But why does the majority of the church today not seek first His kingdom? I do not believe the majority of the church fails to put God's kingdom first because they don't have an innate desire to help expand God's kingdom. I believe that many born again believers do not seek first His kingdom in their everyday lives because they think that if they do not focus on getting what they need and desire, then they will be in want and suffer lack. In other words, they think that if they focus on anything other than their own needs and desires, their own needs and desires will be left unfulfilled.

But the awesome truth is that God, first of all, already knows what we need, and secondly, has promised to add these things unto us as we seek first His kingdom. And don't you reckon that God can take care of you much better than you can take care of yourself? I guarantee you He can! It is just a trust factor... Are you going to trust Him enough that if you seek Him and His things first that He will take care of you?

Brethren, is our God not the Possessor of the heavens and the earth? Is He not the Owner of the cattle on a thousand hills? Does He not own all the gold, all the silver, and all the precious stones of the earth? And can He not move heaven and earth to add all of these things unto you? Bless God, He certainly can as we operate under the laws of the kingdom to lay down our lives and seek His kingdom first! When we truly live our lives according to Matthew 6:33, we untie the hands of the Possessor of the heavens and the earth to release His abundance into our lives!

This is why Jesus dealt with the subject of worrying and anxiety in the verses leading up to Matthew 6:33. It is because far too many of God's children are worrying about their own lives instead of being concerned with the things of God. Friends, focusing on the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things is actually counterproductive. Allowing these thorns to rent space in our hearts and minds actually will choke the production of God's will in our lives!

GIVING OF OUR FIRST-FRUITS

Did you know that is why the Lord instituted the tithe to His covenant people- which is the first 10% of our increase? It is not because God is trying to get His children to pay 10% like it is some kind of bill or insurance payment. No, He instituted the tithe for us, not for Him. He doesn't need our money, but He instituted the principle of the tithe for our own good. As my first pastor used to say- God is not trying to get something through you; He is trying to get something to you!

Now invariably someone will say, "Awww Trey, don't you know that we don't have to tithe under the New Covenant?" Well, I just never understand anyone who is trying to do the bare minimum under the new and better covenant we live in. I mean, if our covenant is better, then why are we trying to get away with practicing less? No, we should be looking for reasons to do more and not less than the Old Covenant believer and to try and prove otherwise from the Scriptures shows a wrong heart.

I would respond to the skeptic of the tithe being a good practice for the New Covenant believer by saying that giving 10% began through Abraham before the law was ever given and, therefore, is a good starting point for us who walk according to the faith of Abraham. No, I don't believe we are cursed if we do not give to the Lord, but I also believe it is impossible to seek first His kingdom if we are not looking for ways to give of our substance. Therefore, if one is not giving the first 10% of their increase, then they are not seeking first the kingdom of God with their finances. Amen?

You see, the attitude that most believers have is they will give of their increase if they have enough left over after they have paid all of their bills and taken care of their business. This is not the attitude we are to have! We should be seeking to give to the Lord first, not last! And oftentimes when we simply make that adjustment in our hearts that we are going to put God first in our finances, we will immediately begin to see the Lord's provision. You see, seeking first the kingdom of God is primarily a heart issue. That is why Isaiah 1:19 says that we will eat of the good of the land, not just when we are obedient, but also when we are willing. Friend, this is an adjustment you can make at this moment. Get wisdom, and in all your getting, get willing!

But finances are not the only way in which we can seek first the kingdom of God. There are several other ways in which we can put God's business first. For example, we can seek first His kingdom with our time.

You know, next to our money and possessions, our time is the most precious thing we possess. So if you give someone a few hours of your day to help them with something or to simply just be at their side, oftentimes you are giving more sacrificially than if you gave them hundreds of dollars. Why? It is because time is precious and is something that can be given away in love.

So how can we seek first the kingdom of God with our time? We can give God our time by maybe giving Him the first-fruits of our day by sitting at His throne and seeking His face. We can give Him of our time by going to help one of His children who maybe just need our presence. And there are many other ways in which we can give God our time.

So aim to seek first His kingdom today. Make any heart adjustments necessary to put His kingdom first in your life. Sure, I understand that you might not be in a position to give financially unto the Lord, but if there is breathe in your body, you can at the very least pray and give God of your time. If your schedule does not permit you to have much free time, perhaps you can give God of your finances. The point is that everyone has something that they can use to seek first His kingdom whether it be their finances, their time, or their gifts and talents. And the blessedness is that the Lord has promised us that when we put His stuff first, He will add unto us the stuff we have need of and even give us the desires of our heart. Of course, our motive for doing these good things should not be just so that God will give back to us, but it is a principle of the kingdom nonetheless.

I perceive that there will be several of my readers this month who are currently struggling with their finances, their marriages, and their careers. You do not have to be a prophet to call these things out because we all struggle from time to time. But where I do feel like this message you have heard today is prophetic in nature is in the identifying of the cause of many of these struggles. Friends, your answer is in practicing this first principle to prosperity in God's kingdom- Matthew 6:33!

So examine your faith, as the Apostle Paul taught us. Look at your life objectively and ask yourself these specific questions- "Am I truly seeking first God's kingdom? Am I seeking it first in my finances, in my time, etc.?" This is something every Christian should ask him or herself from time to time. Why? Because this is just something that is so easy for us to fall into because of the subtlety of the flesh. So ask yourself this today and, by all means, ask the Lord as well to show you how you can better seek first His business.

The best news out of all of this is... You can never out-give God! The more you give to His kingdom, seek His business first, and lay down your life for His sake, the more you will receive in return- the more joy and peace you will experience and the more tangible benefits you will see in your life as well!

God bless you as your seek first His business here in this new year!

Victoriously,

