

Resting in God
“The wonder of being tucked in the folds of His garment”

Study 8

Matthew 16:19 (Amplified Bible)

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven.

When Jesus died on the cross, the veil that kept the common person from entering into the presence of God was torn from top to bottom to signify that God had done it. This act was our welcome statement to come into His presence if we are under the Lordship of Jesus. It is an invitation to know of His ways and to have privy to what He is doing. It also was the invitation for us to take part in His Kingdom and its dealings with the world until He completes all things.

This personal request for intimacy with Him is the foundation of our new life lived in Jesus. As Jesus did nothing of Himself, but only did what His Father had taught Him while They were in communion, we must be taught the same way. When we know Who God is, when we know of His power, when we understand His ways and experience His love because we have been with Him, we understand that walking in the Kingdom of heaven on this earth is a natural way of living for those of us in Jesus. When we fully understand that His ways are so much higher than the ways of this world, to participate with the world in any form becomes unimaginable.

As we seek the kingdom of God as our priority, determined to submit to His ways by the power of the Holy Spirit, we realize that His kingdom really does rule over everything in the kingdom of darkness and the kingdoms of this world. As He reveals Himself to us, we realize that there is no power other than His power. As He shows us the wisdom of His ways and His plans, through His Word and in His presence, we begin to understand the wonder of them and cherish them more than all of the other ways of all other kingdoms combined.

Part of our understanding of God's ways is the awareness that everything is initiated in the heavens by God before it is realized in the earthly realm. When we focus on being with Him, we also realize that, through Christ, we are called to implement His will on this earth as we walk with Him and for Him in our personal anointing. We have been given the privilege of being His hands reaching out in His name through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Allowing the ways of the Kingdom of heaven to flow through us under the full submission of the Holy Spirit is the way we are called to live. As He moves, so do we because he has told us when to do so. As He implements the will of the Father, we allow the wealth of Jesus to move through us as voices of His expression, all by His power. We say what He says, command what He commands, and accomplish what He desires to have done when He desires to do it. We function as vessels, waiting on God to move through us, implementing on this earth what has already been implemented in heaven.

Matthew 11:12 (New International Version) From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

The fiercest battle we will ever face is the one that attempts to hinder us from continually living in the presence of God even though it is a privilege won for us at the cross. All of the strongholds of the world within us and all of the powers of the kingdom of darkness strive to have us focus on them. If they can make themselves big in our eyes, we will place more importance on them than on the things of God. They don't even mind that we go to God periodically to solve the challenges they present to us as long as we remain focused on the need rather than cultivate a love for God Himself.

Jesus accomplished everything He did out of love. The love that He had for His Father, and the love that He had for us, motivated Him. He loved before He did anything. Often in the Word, we read that He had compassion on those who needed Him and then healed them.

We will never be able to love as Jesus loves until we are as intimate with Father God as Jesus is. God imparts something of Himself to us whenever we are with Him. One overpowering characteristic of God is His love and we need it desperately to represent Jesus properly. His nature is to love.

Because He loves we live. We can only own that truth by spending Christ-like intimacies with Him. While in His presence He imparts His kind of love to us so that it can live through us. That is why the other kingdoms are so fiercely afraid of our taking our battle won place in the presence of God. That is why we must press hard into God for His power to bring us into His presence.

Press into God every day from now on. Make it your goal to make God your priority. Trust the Holy Spirit to engage in the battle for you. When you don't feel like going to God, tell Him that. He will come to you. When you are too busy, repent of that, He will make time for you to be together. Even when the prospect of going to God becomes laborious, admit your rebellion; He will show you His love for you and draw you to Himself.

You are in a war to keep you from the place that is most important for you to go. God however destroys that stronghold when we trust Him to overcome the battle to stop us from being with Him. Aggressively submit to the power of the Holy Spirit for Him make a way for the presence of God to be the most wondrous place in your life. The Kingdom of heaven always advances when you receive more of God by spending time with Him.

Hebrews 4:9-10 (New International Version) There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10) for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

You and I have been formed to be in the presence of God now and forever. It is our place of safety and rest. The lower kingdoms can't touch us there so they do anything and everything within their threatening and condemning power to stop us from making it our residence.

From that place of complete safety with God, however, we can observe all of the wiles of our enemies being defeated one by one. Surrounded by all of the powers of heaven, we have the privilege of being in the quiet presence of our loving Father while He forms His covenant of protection around us. Resting with God is a place we should always proceed from and always go back to as soon as we have done what we have been told to do.

For thought or discussion:

How real is the idea that you can actually implement on earth what has been accomplished in the heavens

What will it take for you to believe that you are really a participant in the work God chooses to accomplish