

# Lesson #18

## Accessing Kingdom Power

### The Unseen Reality

In 2 Kings, Chapter 6, the king of Syria had sent a great army by night to the city of Dothan to capture the prophet Elisha. By seeing into the spirit, Elisha had been exposing Syrian military plans, and when the Syrian king learned of it, he wanted Elisha neutralized.

When morning came, Elisha and his servant saw the Syrian army surrounding the city. The servant was distraught and said, “What shall we do?” Elisha’s reply was, “Don’t fear. We have a bigger army than they do.” Then Elisha prayed for his servant’s eyes to be opened and see in the spirit. What he saw was the armies of God who were with Elisha. The mountains around them were full of horses and chariots of fire who promptly smote the Syrian army with blindness and eliminated the threat!

This is the reality of the spiritual world. The armies of heaven are constantly all around us and Jesus has given us the means of accessing their power for kingdom purposes. This power is available to those who can see the kingdom.

### How Do You Do That?

There was a man named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, who had been observing the miracles and signs that Jesus was doing. Nicodemus came to Jesus acknowledging his belief that Jesus was from God. He said, “...no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Jesus’s response is the classic verse used to equate salvation with being born again.

<sup>1</sup> There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

— John 3:1-3 (NKJV)

Though being born again certainly does constitute salvation, Jesus was addressing a different issue. Nicodemus’ statement, “...no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” reveals his curiosity about *how* Jesus was able to do signs and wonders. Though God was certainly “with Jesus”, His response explained to Nicodemus more clearly how He did the works Nicodemus had observed: He could see the Kingdom of God. Jesus wanted Nicodemus to be born again and see the kingdom as well, not just see the effects of it. This is why Jesus said, “...unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

## The Invisible Kingdom

The kingdom will be clearly seen in the age to come but it is invisible to the natural world in this present age. The kingdom exists now and is constantly present, but it exists in the heavenly or unseen spiritual realm. All born again people have the means to see into the spirit and thus access the kingdom just as Jesus did. Jesus looked into the spiritual world, saw what the Father was doing, and simply did likewise. He stated this clearly in John, Chapter 5.

<sup>19</sup> Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He **sees** the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

— John 5:19 (NKJV)

This statement from John Chapter 5, as was the case with Jesus' response to Nicodemus, was associated with a miracle, which is a kingdom manifestation. Jesus had just healed a lame man on the Sabbath and was being accused of breaking the law, which prohibited doing work on the holy day. His defense was that He was simply doing what the Father was doing and essentially said, "My Father is working and so am I." He had **seen** into heaven, saw what the Father was doing, and simply did what He had seen (see John 5:16-17).

## Choosing the Disciples

Seeing into the spiritual kingdom is how Jesus chose the apostles. Jesus had just spent the whole night in prayer, and when day came, He called His disciples together and chose 12 and named them apostles (see Luke 6:12-16). It is safe to assume that Jesus spent the night seeing the kingdom, its governmental structure, who the apostles were supposed to be, etc. Then He chose the twelve from among the disciples who were following Him.

Jesus was constantly seeing into the spiritual/kingdom realm. One of the disciples in the group (though not chosen as one of the 12 apostles) was Nathaniel. Philip had found Nathaniel, told him the Messiah had been found, and was bring him to Jesus. When Jesus saw Philip coming, He said, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Philip was curious and asked Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus replied, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, **I saw you.**" Then Jesus told Nathaniel that he too would see an open heaven and its workings. (see John 1:45-51)

## Three Disciples See the Kingdom

Peter James and John are generally considered to be the "inner circle" of Jesus' original twelve disciples. He was referring to them when He said, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they **see the kingdom of God** present with power." (See Mark 9:1).

Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John up a high mountain and He was gloriously transformed before their eyes. They saw Jesus shining in His glory with brilliant white clothing. They also saw Moses and Elijah conversing with Jesus and heard the audible voice of God. Their eyes had been opened and they saw the kingdom of God (see Mark 9:1-4)! Exactly what all they saw and heard is unclear. But it undoubtedly became a very foundational part of their understanding of the kingdom.

Those who are close to Jesus will see the Kingdom. He wants us to see it so we will long for it and prepare for its appearing. Possessing this kingdom desire is an important element of leadership.

### **Knowing His Will**

A desire to know for sure what God wants us to do is near the top of the list for most Christians. After all, the Bible tells us that if we ask anything according to His will, we can be confident that God hears us, and we will have what we have asked for (see 1 John 5:13-15). But we have all struggled with a lack of confidence regarding knowing God's will and have wrestled with doubt in our prayers and our walk of faith.

We can find many things from the scriptures that are the will of God, but even with this general knowledge we often wonder if we can ask for certain things. Is my situation unique? Have I allowed something in my life that is hindering my prayers? Is my faith strong enough? The list goes on and on.

And then there are those specific things that scripture does not speak to. Should I take a new job or keep the one I have? Should I pray for a raise or learn to get by on what I have? Should I seek a mate or remain single? There are many such specific questions for which we need to see into the spirit and get clear directions.

The answer to this struggle is simple. Know His will. But to know the will of God we must know God. In other words, when we have a real relationship with Him, we see into the spirit (the kingdom), and like Jesus did, we see what the Father is doing and do likewise. But as we all know, simple does not always mean easy.

Paul says, "For now we see as in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face (1 Cor 13:12). Even though as born again people we have access to the kingdom, the ability to see clearly in the spirit is something we grow into. Paul wrote to the Corinthians that we are being transformed into the same image (of Jesus) from glory to glory (see 2 Cor 3:18). Paul specifically addresses this issue of seeing into the kingdom/spirit realm in the passage below.

<sup>9</sup> But as it is written: "*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*"

<sup>10</sup> But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

<sup>11</sup> For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

<sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

<sup>13</sup> These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

<sup>14</sup> But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

<sup>15</sup> But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one.

<sup>16</sup> For "*who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?*" But we have the mind of Christ.

— 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 (NKJV)

Our mortality sometimes hinders our ability to operate in the spirit. But that should not prevent us from seeking to do so. God has many wonderful things prepared for us — and He desperately wants to reveal them to us! Each time we see a new kingdom insight we take another step in the transformation process and have more of the mind of Christ. But revelation comes not through natural means, but spiritual. This is why we need the Holy Spirit and this is why we pray for the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him (Eph 1:17).

If we are not sure of God's will, we should seek Him until we are. He will reveal His will to us. Jesus said,

<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

— Luke 11:9-10 (NKJV)

When our eyes are opened to the spirit, faith is the result and that which seemed difficult or impossible becomes easy. When we really hear from God, faith comes (see Rom 10:17). When we really have revelation knowledge of something spiritual (see Eph 1:17), guesswork is over and we simply do what we have seen. When we see in the spirit, faith truly becomes a substance and evidence for what we have not yet seen in the natural (see Heb 11:1). This substantial faith produces absolute confidence that we will receive what we have seen in the spirit.

### **A Key to Moving in Kingdom Authority**

A key to moving in kingdom authority in this present age is knowing and preaching this Kingdom message. Consider the first verse in the Bible where "*preaching the gospel of the kingdom*" is mentioned.

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people

— Matthew 4:23 (NKJV)

Notice that the "healing of all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease" is directly linked to preaching the gospel of the kingdom. This is because healing from sickness and disease is an advance taste of resurrection life which we will experience in the kingdom when it appears. It is a taste of the immortality which we will have in the age to come where we will be totally free from disease, aging and death.

Jesus said, "*...if I cast out demons ... the kingdom of God has come upon you*" (Luke 11:20). Therefore, whenever we see signs and wonders, we are seeing a manifestation of the kingdom and a taste of the powers of the age to come. This is the kind of preaching Paul did:

<sup>4</sup> And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

-1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NKJV)

This is why Paul prayed for the Ephesians that “the eyes of their understanding would be enlightened.” He knew that kingdom vision was a key to unlocking the power that is available to us in this age. Once our eyes have been opened to kingdom purpose and we have a sense of direction, there is an amazing amount of power that becomes available to us to accomplish it.

So why do we see so few people walking in kingdom authority? One answer is immaturity. We see this in the context of the foundational principles where it speaks of milk for babes and solid food for the mature. This was addressed in a previous lesson, *The Milk and the Meat.*, and it was pointed out that solid food is for the mature who, by reason of use have their senses trained, and are moving in the ministry of righteousness. The book of Revelation also speaks of this ministry of righteousness, calling it “the righteous acts of the saints.”

<sup>7</sup> Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

<sup>8</sup> And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

— Revelation 19:7-8 (NKJV)

This passage implies the maturity of the church, speaking of a bride/wife that has made herself ready, or has prepared for the Lord’s return. Then it tells us how this wife has prepared herself: by doing righteous acts, which is doing the same works Jesus does. Again, Jesus saw what His Father’s will was and did the same thing — and so can we. This is kingdom preparation.

### **What Is Solid Food?**

Now, let’s take note of how Jesus defined food. Jesus said: "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work" (John 4:34). So according to Jesus, food (solid food for the mature) is to see what the father is doing and do the same thing. The immature might copy what they see others do in the natural, but the mature copy what they see in the spirit.

Maturity, moving from milk to solid food, is drawing near to God, seeing the kingdom and doing likewise. In doing so, we are teaching the immature and providing them with milk. As we use the foundational principles and put them into action, we are preparing the way for the Kingdom to appear.

### **Corporate Maturity**

Personal maturity is one thing, but corporate maturity, the maturity of the Bride, is another. God is concerned with both, particularly as it relates to preparing the way for the kingdom’s appearing. In the next lesson, we look at this concept and two other factors that serve as tools to measure our progress in kingdom preparation.