

Kingdom of God Part 3

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Review definitions of The Kingdom of God

- The Kingdom of God is the Rule and Reign of God
 - **Psalm 103:19**
The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.
- The Kingdom of God is a future realm where the fullness of Kingdom glory happens. (*heaven*)
 - **1 Peter 1:4**
...to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...
- The Kingdom of God is the realm of God we enter now, through our new birth, in order to experience the blessing of God's reign now
 - **Hebrews 6:4-5**
...have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come...

Live in the meantime

**We live in the meantime,
the time where we're waiting for the future fullness
of the Kingdom to come in all its glory —
AND, the time of getting tastes
of the powers of the future Kingdom now**

Fullness only comes in the future — taste isn't the full feast — it is a taste nonetheless — it's great!

IMPORTANT

- *if we think Kingdom is only future, we miss out on tastes now, tragic!*
- *if we think we get Kingdom fullness now, we get disillusioned when we don't experience it all now.*

Listen-** learning to live in the **tension of the meantime** is critical for Believers, learning to live with hope and expectation for heaven to touch our broken earthly circumstances with miraculous power now — AND — learning to trust and endure when the power doesn't show up the way you were hoping it would, and yet still believing for miracles next time one is needed... **we must navigate both waters.

Question- How do we live in the meantime, between tasting powers of the age to come now, and realizing the fullness of the future feast isn't until later?

Answer — Position ourselves for tastings now — don't blow it off because it isn't the fullness!

- **Kingdom praying**

- **Matthew 6:10**

- Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

- **Matthew 6:13**

- And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

- **Kingdom positioning** ...disciples' actions at Pentecost teach us so much...

- **Acts 1:4-8, 12-14**

- And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

- **Acts 2:1-4**

- When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

You position yourself for tastes of the Kingdom as you position yourself in...

- **obedience** — Jesus commanded to wait in Jerusalem, they went and waited!
- **patience** — waited 10 days for promise, "by patience possess souls" Luke 21:19.
- **prayer / asking** — stating need; **seeking** — pleading reasons; **knocking** — demanding requests Matthew 7:7; **agreement** Matthew 18:19
- **openness** — sound heaven, rushing mighty wind, tongues of fire, language never spoken... 1 Thessalonians 5:19. Don't quench the Spirit.

Question— *Is there real openness to taste the supernatural of the Kingdom in your life?*

- **if not** — no need praying for Kingdom to come because it is supernatural!
- **if so** — add obedience, patience and prayer to it, and you'll be positioning yourself for tastes of the Kingdom

Another way to position yourself for tastes of the Kingdom

- **faith**

- **Matthew 9:22**

- But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, “**Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.**” And the woman was made well from that hour.

- **Matthew 9:28-29**

- And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, “**Do you believe that I am able to do this?**” They said to Him, “**Yes, Lord.**” Then He touched their eyes, saying, “**According to your faith let it be to you.**”

- **Acts 3:16**

- And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Question— *is your faith weak?*

- **confess it**

- **Mark 9:23-24**

- Jesus said to him, “**If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.**” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

- **get in the Word**

- **Romans 10:17**

- So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (*testimonies are faith-builders*)

Faith, along with obedience, patience, prayer, and openness clearly positions you for tastes of the Kingdom of God now!

Trust

What about when the Kingdom doesn't come when and how you wanted, with miraculous power, to save, heal, deliver

- results belong to God

- trusting His love, goodness, and sovereignty are also critical while living in the meantime
- “My God, My God...into Your hands” “Though He slay me, yet I will trust Him”
- can’t get offended

- **Matthew 11:1-6**

Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities. And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”

Listen — *when Kingdom power is happening around you and not “for you”...*

- can’t get offended with God’s will in your situation
- you can’t quit believing in the power of the Kingdom now, in next situation
- you must realize Kingdom power is power to deliver from unwanted circumstances as well as power to endure unwanted circumstances!

In the meantime

We must position ourselves to taste of the Kingdom now

- **faith, obedience, patience, prayer, openness**
knowing it’s our Father’s good pleasure to give us the Kingdom, Luke 12:32

**Trust God in it all, commit my spirit to Him,
take no offense... never quit saying,
Your Kingdom Come**

Discussion Questions

1. Why is learning to live in the “tension of the meantime” critical for believers?
2. How do we position ourselves for “tastings” now?
3. Is there a real openness to taste the supernatural of the Kingdom in your life?
4. What do you do when the Kingdom doesn’t come when and how you wanted, with miraculous power to save, heal, deliver?
5. Has there been a time when it seems that God is working in every one else’s situation but yours?
6. Why did Jesus tell John the Baptist, “blessed is he who is not offended because of Me”?