



KINGDOMNOMICS

REFLECTIONS OF A KINGDOM BOY (PART 1)

TREASURE

TALENT

TIME

PHIL WIEGAND

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KingdomNomics:

Reflections of a Kingdom Boy

(Part One)

by Phil Wiegand

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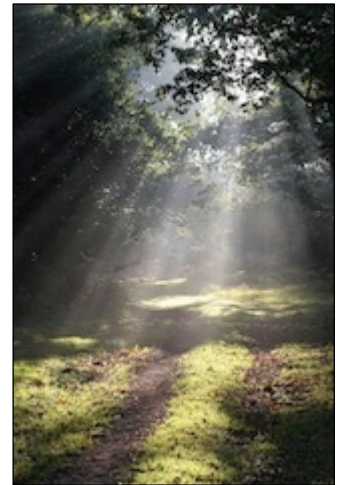
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1 GRACE EXPECTATIONS

What can you expect if you practice the concepts of *KingdomNomics*? Look at what we can anticipate in life when God's grace actually works in our everyday living.

By practicing *KingdomNomics* we place ourselves in a position, subject to God's sovereignty, for God to work mightily in us and our circumstances.

"The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me...." (Psalm 138:8, ESV)



1. We have the **expectation** of **GOOD** coming our way as we acquaint ourselves with him and receive instruction from his mouth. *"Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; Thereby good will come to you. Receive, please, instruction from His mouth, And lay up His words in your heart."* (Job 22:21-22, NKJV)
2. We have the **expectation** of God's living and powerful Word delivering us as we humbly **RECEIVE** and plant it in our heart. *"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."* (James 1:21, NKJV)
3. We have the **expectation** of reaping benefits of eternal life now as we **ABSORB** the Word, sowing it to the Lord as we recite and pray our verses to the King. *"My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer."* (Psalm 45:1, NIV)
4. We have the **expectation** of God literally working in us and our circumstances as we **COMMIT** our way to him and trust him to execute his promises for us. *"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:"* (Psalm 37:5, NIV)

5. We have the **expectation** of living a life that **ECHOES** into eternity as we fix our eyes on eternal goals. *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”* (2 Corinthians 4:16–18, NIV)
6. Notice the first letters of the capitalized words spell the word **GRACE**. Anticipating the grace of God working in our lives is one of the “WOW! FACTORS” characterizing the life of the Christian practicing the principles embodied in *KingdomNomics*. These are core principles. They are “**button pushers**” enticing us to make them reality in our experience in this world. They make the Word of God **personally operative** in our life.

Practice this ACROSTIC!

Look for the “finger of God” working in your life.

Expect to see God at work in the days ahead as you cultivate your relationship with him.

Notice the sense of excitement and expectation you experience each day as you practice these concept.

2 SENDING OUT THE LIGHT

"Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell." (Psalm 43:3 NIV)

God empowers those he is using to accomplish his purposes in this world. As *KingdomNomic* thinkers, we know that Christ is the light of the world, the source of life, and the fountain of life where we must spend time soaking our hearts in his presence. This investment of time is needed if we are going to be effective as fragile vessels of clay to carry the light of the gospel into this lost world.



Our life, our confidence, and our sufficiency are sourced in Christ. All of the promises of God find their *yes* in Jesus Christ. Christ-empowered light can only shine into the world through us as we allow and trust the power of the cross to suppress the self-life that is so eager to manifest itself.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I trusting in Christ to live his life through me instead of looking to my own self-effort to do so?

3

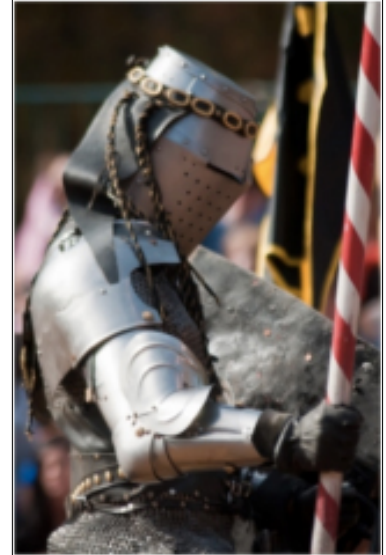
HEY!

THERE'S NO ARMOR FOR MY BACK!

"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." (Ephesians 6:11 NIV)

At the Gettysburg battleground there is a small plaque that says, "Write home, and tell them I died fighting the enemy."

The Christian life is all about advancing, pressing forward, running a race, forgetting those things that are behind – all for the purpose of accomplishing God's will on this earth. We invade the darkness with the light of the Gospel, going into all the world with all of the means God has given us. Retreat is not an option. We are in a battle, taking new ground. After taking it, we stand firm.



It is interesting to note the armor of God that we put on. Apparently, no provision is mentioned for our back. As Christians, we are to advance, not retreat. We are to invade our culture, keeping the culture from invading the church. Others have said that the best defense is a good offense.

The more active we can be in pursuing the goals of *KingdomNomics*, the more success we will have in holding off the enemies of discouragement, depression, excessive consumerism, greed, and fear. A growing and active faith is the best defense against the wiles of the devil. Taking new ground gives us increasing boldness.

All of us are in a race against time. Our loaf of time is shortened by the slice each day. When our time comes, would it not be great for people to say of us, "There is a person who died facing the enemy, taking new ground for the King!"

Today, ask yourself:

Am I on the move for the King? What can I do better to prepare myself to help advance the Great Commission?

4

OUR POWER DRINK FOR THE DAY

“For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.” (Psalm 36:9 NIV)

In the game of football, all the players on each team try to keep the opposite team from carrying the ball across the goal line. Many times they drink a power drink to aid them in their efforts.

We know that Satan is doing his best to disrupt our lives and divert our attention from achieving the goals God has for us.

It is only through God’s Word that we can drink the POWER DRINK we need to feed and energize us for the day. As we walk through this spiritually dark world, his word is a lamp to our feet. When we sit in darkness, the Lord is our light, and in his light we see light.



Because life is such a battle, it is critical that we “drink” as much of his Word as possible. God’s Word is living and powerful, quenching the thirst of those who trust in it.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I taking time to POWER UP with the Word of God?

5 ARE YOU BEING TRANSFORMED?

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

(Romans 12:2 NIV)

God is in the life changing business. He wants to transform us into being more Christ-like in all areas of our life.



The first step occurs when we place our faith and trust in Christ alone to be our personal Lord and Savior. This is a huge step of faith for us to take. All other religions have people attempt to reach God through works of self-effort, trusting in themselves rather than trusting in the person of Jesus Christ alone to save them. Only the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

In *KingdomNomics*, we learn to exercise the same faith when it comes to living the Christian life. Only Christ can live it through us, because we do not have that power in and of ourselves to live it. The experience of this life is a process beginning with the renewing of our mind. We are wasting away outwardly, but we are being renewed inwardly as we focus our minds on Christ and his Word.

Our attitudes change. Our world view changes as we begin to realize we need to think in terms of exchanging the perishable values of this world for the imperishable values of the kingdom in the world to come. Through this process we become more attuned to the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

Today, ask yourself:

In what ways do I see evidence of the transformation process occurring in my life?

6 JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
(Galatians 2:20 NIV)

Wow! God has made provision for Christ to live his life in us as we allow him to overcome the desires of our flesh and overcome the lures of the world. Have you ever asked yourself why he has done this?

God has made this provision so Christ can be formed in us. He wants to continue his ministry in this world through each person who has come to know him personally. This is the greatest adventure a person can experience.

Why not join the thousands who have visited this website from 60 countries of the world, and the many who have received the FREE life-changing devotional and other materials available? Our personal goal in life is the compelling desire to join the adventure, so Christ can be formed in us.



Christ can live his life through us to the extent God performs his Word in and through us as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. Ask him to make his Word personally operative in your life daily.

This is why the *KingdomNomic* thinker relishes practicing the principles of *Soak, Sow, and Flow* described in the book *KingdomNomics*. Ask him to deliver you from anything holding you from bringing your life into conformance with his will in thought, purpose, and action.

Christ living in us allows us to live a life that truly will echo into eternity. How exciting!

Today, ask yourself:

Am I making it my life's priority to have the Word of God be operative in my life, so Christ can be formed in me? If not, then why not?

7

SOAK UP GOD'S WORD

"Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you." (Job 22 NIV)

The 22nd chapter of Job confirms a few of the basic principles of *KingdomNomics* for making the Word of God personally operative in our lives.

In verse 21 we are encouraged to acquaint ourselves with God so that we will be at peace with him and have the prospect of good coming our way. It is emphasized for us to receive instruction from his mouth, and then to be sure to lay up his words in our heart.



This confirms that we must soak our heart in the Word of God, treating it like our spiritual M & M's, that is, **m**emorizing and **m**editating on it. How good it is to feel and know that God is planning to have good coming our way! These truths point us in the direction of the truth stated in Job 23:14, "For He performs what is appointed for me." (NKJV)

Wow! This tells us that God is taking an active and working part in our lives as we acquaint ourselves with him and store up his word in our heart.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I acquainting myself with God by memorizing and meditating on his Word?

Doing this will help you store his Word in your heart, and will stimulate you to look for the finger of God working in your daily life.

8 RIDE THE WAVE

“...the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.” (Galatians 6:8)

As we practice the principles of *KingdomNomics*, we discover and experience the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to live the Christian life. We soak our heart in the Word of God and learn how to sow to the Spirit so he can impart his life to us.

One of the major ways we sow to the Spirit is to pray to the Lord verses of Scripture we have memorized and meditated on. As we allow our heart to delight in the precious morsels we glean from the Word, the power of the Spirit cleanses and empowers us for our daily tasks. We flow with the Spirit on the avenues of life as he navigates our way through the day's activity.

Think about the surfer who looks for the next great wave to ride. The rider focuses all attention on the movement of the waters to determine when, where, and how to jump on the board to catch the best wave.

Look for where the Spirit is moving, and take the steps you need to join those who are moving with him. Ride the wave of the Spirit and flow with him!



Today, ask yourself:

Am I looking to see how the Spirit is moving where I am living? What steps am I taking to join those who are moving with the Spirit of God?

SHOW ME YOUR WAYS, O GOD, THAT I MIGHT KNOW YOU BETTER

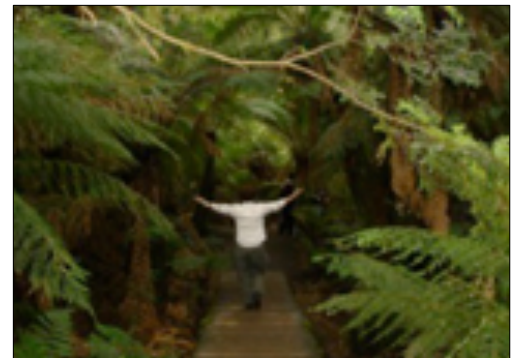


"You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways." (Isaiah 64:5 NIV)

This is an incredible statement. Almighty God will actually come to the help of those who gladly do right and remember his ways!

I am awestruck when I read passages in the Bible like this. My first response is to ask, "How can this truth of Scripture operate in my life?" I want to experience it to the fullest possibility!

Maybe Moses had this in mind when he said to God he wanted God to show him his ways so that he might know him, and thus, find grace or favor in his sight.



After all, if we have God's favor in this world, what else do we really need? He will come to our aid. He will make provision for us in a multitude of ways. In fact, he will do more than we could ever ask, think, or imagine according to his immeasurable power that is at work in us and in our circumstances.

Passages like these create a huge incentive for us to regularly soak our heart in God's Word, filling ourselves with Spiritual M&M's. The result is a transformation of our mindset, and desire to be obedient from our heart in accomplishing his purposes.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I in God's Word enough to know and remember his ways? Am I gladly obeying him to the extent I understand his will for me on a daily basis?

10

THE WOW FACTOR OF GOD'S WORD

"For thus says the Lord: ... I will visit you and perform my good word toward you...."

(Jeremiah 29:10 NKJV)

If we could only grasp these truths, truly trusting in the promises that God performs for those who cultivate a close relationship with him, we surely would have a greater impact on our world!



God's word is living and powerful. It works in those who receive it and trust in it. Jesus promised he would not leave us as orphans. He also promised that He and the Father would make their home with us if we love him by obeying his commandments.

These verses and others indicate that he will visit us, and perform his good word toward us as we cultivate our relationship with him. These are great passages for our Spiritual M & M's (Memorize & Meditate). We can soak our heart in them, sow them to the Spirit in our prayer life, and flow with the Spirit as he imparts his life to our mortal body.

I wonder what we would experience on this side of heaven if we thirsted and hungered for these truths?

Jesus said in the beatitudes that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness would be filled.

Today, ask yourself:

Do I view God's Word as living and powerful, able to work in my life?

Ask God to make his Word operative in your life – beginning right now!

11

READY TO DO GOOD WORKS?

“Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.” (2 Timothy 2:21 NIV)

In order to perform effective and safe surgeries, a surgeon must take extreme caution to ensure that instruments are properly sterilized. Otherwise there is a risk of serious infection occurring. Uncleansed instruments are not useful to the surgeon.

One function of God’s Word is to cleanse us as we soak our heart in it. This is vitally necessary if we are to be effective instruments fit for use by God. God has a special purpose for each Christian. He wants to work through us; however, he must have cleansed “instruments” so he can use us for noble purposes.

Scripture tells us, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9, NIV) We can think of this core verse as a spiritual “bar of soap” and embed it in our heart.



Today, ask yourself:

Do I have unconfessed sin in my life? Am I ready to repent of it now?

When we repent of our sins, we will be cleansed, fit for use by the Master, and prepared for the good works he has for us to do.

12 BEING IN THE WAY

"....As for me, being in the way, the Lord led me to the house of my master's brethren."
(Genesis 24:27 NKJV)

For our life to echo into eternity properly, we have to make sure we are on the path the Lord has established for us to follow.

Most of us have experienced being lost or heading in the wrong direction because we have taken a wrong turn. Life is full of "detours" that lead us astray and hinder us from being the effective servants God wants us to be.

The Lord has specific plans for each of us while we are on this side of eternity. In this passage, the servant of Abraham was sent on a mission to obtain a wife for Isaac, the son of Abraham. The servant acknowledged that the Lord had led him since he was in the way God planned for him.



A practitioner of *KingdomNomics* is not only focused on the mission God gives, but also is sensitive to the importance of doing things God's way. This is another reason why it is critical for us to follow the principles of soaking our heart in the Word of God, sowing to the Spirit, and flowing with the Spirit as we navigate our way through this world.

By following this path, we have a much clearer focus of how and what God wants us to do as he reveals his will to us. The Psalmist said God's Word was a lamp to his path. This truth is applicable today.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I confident of being in the way God has planned for me? Am I looking to his Word to guide me?

13

JOIN THE FEW OF THE FEW

"Because narrow is the gate...which leads to life, and there are few who find it."(Matthew 7:14 NKJV)

You and I have a decision to make. Do we want to become a strategic Kingdom Investor, developing a life that will echo into eternity in a positive way?

If so, we will have to abandon the way of the crowd, and the multiple voices of the world that compete for our attention every day.

Jesus said that few in the world would choose the narrow way of salvation, but would prefer the broad way to destruction. When it comes to making strategic investments of time, talent, and treasure for the advancement of God's kingdom, only a few of the few grasp and run with the eternal mission assigned to the believers left in this world.



The Bible calls this *discipleship*. It is a discipline to join the few of the few who are on a mission, investing themselves to help others find and develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Can you imagine anything more important than assisting in changing the eternal destinies of people by showing them the way?

Today, ask yourself:

Have I decided to join the few of the few?

If not, why not do so today, and have a life full of purpose that will echo into eternity?

14

DON'T PARK HERE

"... But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 3:13–14 NIV)

I entered a parking lot and spotted a sign in front of a couple of parking spaces that said, "DON'T PARK HERE!"

I got the message. I moved on.

This is what God wants us to do in our everyday life. We are to learn from the past, move on, and strain to meet the goals and objectives he has for us.



Many people make the mistake of parking in front of their failures and/or disappointments. To do so is crippling.

Instead of parking in front of our failures, we must accept the fact that our circumstances and relationships are always in a state of flux, and we must respond to the changes and challenges that come our way. To overcome challenges, we need the power of the cross to operate in our life.

The best antidote for depression and disappointment is to keep doing the next thing God wants us to do. Each day brings new opportunity for us to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. God is always creating. He is always on the move, and we want to keep moving with him. He is in the restoration business.

Today, ask yourself:

What disappointments or failures in my life prevent me from enjoying a growing and active life in Christ?

It is time to forget what is behind, and press forward!

15 YOU CAN SHINE LIKE A STAR – FOREVER!

“Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.” (Daniel 12:3 NKJV)

You have the potential to be a real star for all of eternity, shining in all of the brilliance of a glorified body. Those who are engaged in turning many to righteousness will shine even more brilliantly, according to this passage and other passages of Scripture.

Since the Word of God and the souls of people will be the only things to last forever, it makes sense for us to spend our time, talent, and treasure—the three Ts—to win as many people to Jesus Christ as possible.

The eternal factor, that all of the human race has to consider, is the most important decision an individual faces. It determines our eternal destiny!

In the Proverbs we are exhorted to seek wisdom. Such wisdom includes being involved in winning souls for Christ by helping in this endeavor known as the Great Commission. All of us need to find ways in which we can be a part of God’s redemption plan for humankind. Those who do have the promise and expectation of shining like a star forever!

Today, ask yourself:

Have I captured the vision? How am I helping to fulfill the Great Commission?



16 OUR GREATEST REWARD IS KNOWING GOD

"....Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." (Genesis 15:1 NKJV)

Having access to, and knowing God through Jesus Christ is the greatest possible blessing we can have. The Lord told Abram that in the above scripture, and it is true for us today.

In today's world, many people will do almost anything to access what they perceive to be power, thinking people in those positions can do something for them.

We learn from the scripture that power belongs to God. He is the one who can open doors for us, gives us opportunities, blessing us with whatever benefits he wants to share with us. Knowing the King is more important than anything else a person can have.

This is one of the reasons Jesus tells us to labor for the food that leads to eternal life, and not for the food that perishes. Moses wanted God to show him his ways so that he could know him, and thus find grace or favor in God's sight.

Why? Moses knew that by doing so God would show Moses and the people of Israel his acts and works. That is exactly what happened.



Today, ask yourself:

Am I feeding on the word of God so I can know him and thus, place myself in a position for him to work in my life?

17

GOD WORKING IN YOUR LIFE?

"...—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." (Philippians 2:12–13 NIV)

Have you ever tried to push a car by yourself when the engine was not working? For most of us it is not possible for us to do so in our own strength.

The key to living the Christian life is trusting in the Holy Spirit to live through us, and not trusting in ourselves to do so. The flesh in itself does not have the power to live the Christian life.

The Holy Spirit is like the engine in the car. The car will not move without the engine working. The Holy Spirit is like the battery in the flashlight. Unless the battery is working, there is no light. For the car to move and serve its purpose, the engine must be turned on. For the flashlight to shine a light beam, the battery must be engaged.



For us to live the Christian life, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit and be controlled by him. This occurs when we ask him in faith to fill us and control how we think, feel, and act.

Today's verse says, "... for it is God who works in you to will and act in order to fulfill his good purpose."

Our attitude and understanding are key in seeing Christ living his life in us. He is the one who prompts us to work and fulfill the purposes of God. He is the one who empowers us to do his work.

Today, ask yourself:

Do I trust the Holy Spirit to empower me to live and work for Christ, or do I trust self-effort?

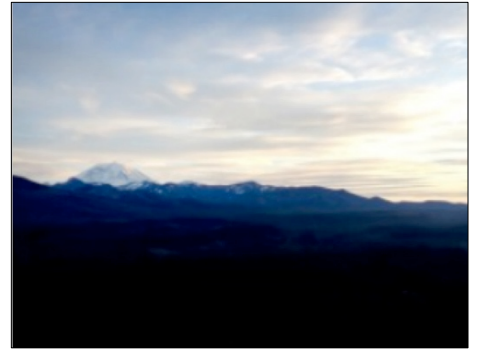
Ask God to shine the light of the Holy Spirit into your heart, trusting him to control how you think, feel, and act.

18

THE POWER OF CHANGE BELONGS TO GOD

He wraps up the waters in his clouds, yet the clouds do not burst under their weight. He covers the face of the full moon, spreading his clouds over it. He marks out the horizon on the face of the waters for a boundary between light and darkness. The pillars of the heavens quake, aghast at his rebuke. By his power he churned up the sea; by his wisdom he cut Rahab to pieces. By his breath the skies became fair; his hand pierced the gliding serpent. And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him! Who then can understand the thunder of his power?"
Job 26:8-14 (NKJV)

How awesome is our God! In Job 26:8-14 (NKJV) we are told, among other things, that he hangs the earth on nothing, and that he stirs up the sea with his power, and by his Spirit he adorned the heavens.



The power and scope of his workings are beyond human comprehension. Even with the revelation of these truths we are told that, "Indeed these are the mere edges of his ways." We have so much more to see, understand, and experience in our relationship with God.

This is why Paul said he can do more than what we can ask, think, or imagine by his incredible and immeasurable power that is at work on the inside of us and in our circumstances.

Today, ask yourself:

Does my view of God take into account the unlimited attributes of his capacities? Do I believe he can accomplish anything he desires to do in the heart of a willing Christian who trusts in him?

Ask God to help you to see him for who he really is: Almighty God!

THE LOAF OF TIME

"For the form of this world is passing away." (1 Corinthians 7:31 NKJV)

Time is passing quickly.

This has become a stark reality for me.

The company I used to work for is now gone, having been purchased by another company.

My formal work career has passed away. The house we lived in for years has been sold and is now gone.



When I look in the mirror in the morning, the evidence is increasing that even my body is passing away.

When you think about it, we are only "renting" or leasing our bodies for a period of time. We are going to have to turn them in at some point. The question facing those of us who realize the importance of the brevity of life is: *how should I be spending the time I have left in this world?*

Jesus tells us not to labor for the food that perishes, but for that which leads to eternal life. This makes me think about how I leverage what is perishing into the imperishable? How do I leverage the mortal into immortality? How do I leverage the fading into the unfading? Is there a way for me to leverage the temporary into the eternal?

I believe the answer to these questions is a resounding "Yes!"

KingdomNomics thinkers realize that our loaf of time is being shortened by the slice each day. We constantly think about how we can leverage the temporary into the permanency of eternity that becomes reality when the "time bubble" in which we find ourselves is "popped."

Today, ask yourself:

Do I realize my world is passing away? How can I leverage the temporary aspects of my life so my life can echo into eternity?

20

BUSY DOING WHAT?

"There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" (1 Kings 19:9 NIV)

Have you ever been in a place and asked yourself, "What am I doing here?"

For the *KingdomNomic* thinker, this is a very important question. As I make choices daily, this question is in the back of my mind. I need to evaluate what kind of a "giver" I will be during the time I have left in this world.



The ways in which I decide to spend the time God has given me will determine how much of my activity will echo into eternity. The spending of my treasure, however great or small, will determine if I have anything stored in the "First National Bank of Heaven."

By soaking our heart in the Word of God and feeding our soul with the spiritual M & M's we find in the Word, we will discover what is important to God. He will reveal his will, plan, and purpose for our life as we focus on him and his values. His desires will become our desires as we surrender our self-life to his life, allowing him to do his work in and through us.

As we practice these *KingdomNomic* principles, we become more productive in our knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Today, ask yourself:

Are my everyday choices reflecting clarity to the question, "What am I doing here?"

FISH HARD! LIFE IS SHORT!



Jesus Christ came to "...purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."
(Titus 2:14 NKJV)

The above sign hit me between the eyes when I first saw it at a dock where many boats left daily to go fishing. It brings to mind many possible spiritual applications Jesus taught that are so relevant for today.

In Titus 2:14, Paul states clearly we have been redeemed as a special people to be zealous for doing good works. This passage helps define the purpose for why we have been left in this world.



Jesus came to finish the work that God, the Father, had given him to do. In fact, Scripture says that zeal for his Father's house would consume him. Jesus also knew his time was limited. There was a sense of urgency about his life and his limited time in this world. This urgent pattern for living should characterize us. I want to

"FISH HARD" during the time God has given me to live.

With each passing day, we become aware that life is truly short. Life becomes meaningful and fulfilling when we find God's purpose for our life, and we discover the works he has prepared for us to do. Then we can be full of zeal in living life.

Today, ask yourself:

Have I discovered what God wants me to do? Am I zealous in doing it, realizing that I do not have an unlimited amount of time on this side of eternity?

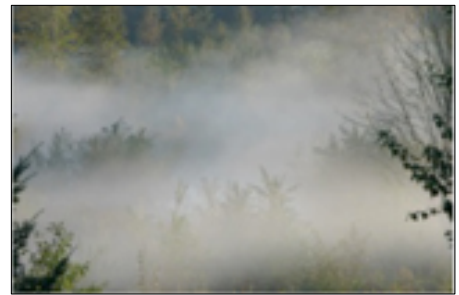
22

THE WORLD IS PASSING AWAY BEFORE OUR EYES!

The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:17 NIV)

In 1 John 2:17 we are reminded that the world and the lust of it is passing away, but the man who does the will of God will live forever. These words hit me like a bullet between the eyes.

In my own life so many of things I considered so important over the years are now gone! The company I worked for is now gone. Boards of companies I served on are now gone.



Just through the aging process, we can see how we ourselves are “passing away.” Our bodies are temporary. Let’s face it. We are only renting or leasing them, having to turn them in at the end of the lease term. The Bible has so many references regarding the brevity of life. One is our life is like a breath that passes by and does not return. Wow! That is really brief!

The *KingdomNomic* thinker develops the attitude, “I am going to live forever!” Because of this he has a forever focus that acts as a motivator or governor for his everyday life.

We all have this loaf of time, but we do not know how long our individual loaf is. We want to have the attitude of Jesus who wanted to be sure to finish the work he had been given to do.

The *KingdomNomic* thinker wants to have the same attitude that God will be able to fulfill his purpose in his life before he is taken home to heaven.

Today, ask yourself:

How can I focus on God’s purpose for me and the specific works he wants me to do?

Then we want to be sure to be busy with the King’s business while we can.

23

FOLLOW THE SMART MONEY

"...But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...."(Matthew 6:20 NKJV)

You can have an eternal 401 (k). Yes, it lasts forever! Yes, it is guaranteed. The returns are fantastic! In fact, they are beyond our human ability to measure.

In this world crowds of people follow "stock tips." They follow what they perceive to be "smart money" and invest in companies for which they have little or no information. Most of the time this type of investing results in losses.

Jesus gives us an "eternal investment tip." He says the smart money of this world will be sure to invest in treasures in heaven. He also says we should use the unrighteous mammon (money) of this world to win friends for eternity!



Yes, you can take it with you by investing it in the world to come. You can only do this by sending it ahead by giving or investing in the kingdom while you are in this world.

Just think; he is giving us the opportunity to trade the paper currencies of this world, which will become worthless, for eternal treasures that will last forever. We can trade the perishable for the imperishable. That seems like a good deal to me!

Today, ask yourself

Am I following the smart money and investing my time, talent, and treasure in my eternal 401(k)?

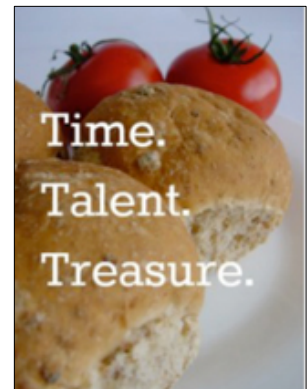
24

GOD TAKES THE LITTLE AND DOES BIG THINGS

“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” (John 6:9, NIV)

In John 6 we read about the feeding of the 5000 by Jesus. We learn a tremendous *KingdomNomics* principle from the small lad in the story who had two small fish and five barley loaves of bread. In verse 9 the disciple Andrew questions how so little could be relevant in feeding a multitude of people. Jesus took what was little or insignificant in the view of the world, and miraculously used it to feed the 5000!

What does this say to us? God can take our **time, talent, and treasure**, even though we think they are small and insignificant, and exponentially multiply them for the advancement of his kingdom in this world. We all want to be “two fish and five loaves people” willing to share so Jesus can do great things through us as we make ourselves available to him.



This lad's life echoes through eternity because he was willing to share what he had as he yielded himself to the purposes of God.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I willing to share what I have for the advancement of the kingdom, regardless of the amount?

God can take what we think is inconsequential and use it to do great things. Think about what God can possibly do through you! When he works through you, you are creating an echo into eternity through your life.

25 ARE YOU THE OWNER?

"My son, give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways." (Proverbs 23:26 NIV)

“What is the process of withdrawing money from the bank of mammon and depositing it in the bank of heaven?”

We recently received this question from a reader of the *KingdomNomics* book.

Withdrawing funds from the bank of mammon and depositing them in the bank of heaven is basically an attitude. Our attitude toward ourselves and everything we have changes as we cultivate our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Who owns us? Who owns what we have in our possession?

KingdomNomics thinkers come to the realization that we are a steward of the time, talent, and resources God has entrusted to us. God is the owner. He bought us with the precious shed blood of his Son.



The first **KingdomNomics Applied** devotional cites Proverbs – My son, give me your heart. If God has our heart, he has everything related to us including the money entrusted to us. Every good and perfect gift comes from heaven. Everything, including every breath and heartbeat, is sourced in God.

Thus, by an act of our will, we choose to withdraw funds from the bank of mammon and deposit them in the bank of heaven.

Lord, I am yours. What I have, Lord, is yours. Take me: my time, talent, and resources. Exponentially multiply them for the advancement of your kingdom.

Today, ask yourself:

Have I decided who owns what I possess? In which bank are my “funds” deposited?

26

BE AN IMPACT PLAYER

“But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to....” (Numbers 14:24 NIV)

In football, certain players are designated as *impact players*. They are players who make a difference in a material way. They are outstanding, enabling their team to be more effective.

They are very focused on their mission. Unlike most of the world, they are on their field of life to make a difference. They want to win, and they give everything they have to accomplish their goal.

Caleb, one of the spies sent to spy out the Promised Land, was an impact player. The Bible tells us he was a man of a different spirit who wholeheartedly followed the Lord. He was not a lukewarm, indifferent, casual believer. He believed that God could do anything through him. He was on a mission. Because he gave a favorable report based on his faith in God, Caleb was one of the few of his generation whom God allowed to enter the Promised Land.

You and I have the same opportunity to be impact players on the Lord’s Great Commission team. Our lives can echo into eternity if we bring ourselves into harmony with God’s great plan. We are encouraged to be a Caleb, a person who follows the Lord wholeheartedly. Will you join the team?

Today, ask yourself:

How am I training and developing myself to become a Caleb in attitude and faith and action?



HAVE YOU CAPTURED THE VISION?



“Then the Lord... said, “Write the vision, and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.”
(Habakkuk 2:2 NKJV)

Can you think of a more worthwhile cause to join than one ordained by God?

The last command of Jesus Christ was for his disciples to go into all the world and make disciples. He gives us the privilege to join in the greatest movement in the history of the world: to help save mankind from the coming destruction and judgment of God.



Each generation has the responsibility to reach the peoples of their time with the gospel of Jesus Christ. For me this means to capture the vision, to run with the mission, to help fulfill the Great Commission!

Only the Word of God and the souls of people are going to last forever. Everything else will be destroyed. What does this say to us as to how we should invest our time, talent, and treasure while we are in this world?

Today, ask yourself:

Have I captured the vision God has for me?

Why not join his cause today and become a part of *his story* that is much bigger than your story?

ASK GOD TO SHINE HIS FAVOR ON YOUR LIFE



"What do you want me to do for you?"

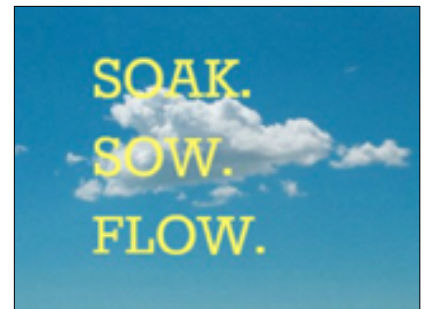
"Lord, I want to see," he replied. (Luke 18:41 NIV)

In Luke 18:41 Jesus asks the question, "What do you want me to do for you?"

He asks the same question for us. What would you like Jesus to do for you today? Would you ask him for something that you know is in accordance with his will, something that will echo into eternity?

Or would you ask for some perishable item that has no eternal benefit?

The *KingdomNomic* thinker allows his mind to be transformed through the *KingdomNomic* principles of SOAK, SOW, AND FLOW so that his life is brought more into conformance with the will of God. This way God can empower and bless his life.



His will includes our asking for a spirit of revelation and understanding, having his will become our will, and asking that he will shine with favor on our lives and endeavors for helping in the expansion of his kingdom

Today, ask yourself:

Have I made room in my requests to God for these vital ingredients for a prosperous Christian life?

29

HOW WISE!



“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11 NIV)

The wise men were students of their age. They followed the star, found Jesus, bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts. Perhaps these were the first strategic kingdom investors in the church age.



What an example for us to follow! As students of our age, our purpose or mission is to be *heavenly minded*, but also *earthly sensitive*. We know there is a world to come, the real world. Preparation must be made to enter that world if our life is to echo into eternity.

The wise men first gave their hearts to the Lord by bowing down and worshiping him. The “star” in our life is Jesus Christ. Once the Lord has our heart, he has everything else related to us. We seek to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel, presenting *ourselves* – our time, talent, and treasure – to the King. Daily, we present all of ourselves as a living sacrifice to him.

The wise people of today will first give their heart, and then open their treasure to the King! Such a life will echo into eternity.

It is most interesting that the wise men, after encountering the Lord, no longer listened to Herod, who represents the voice of this age. They departed into their world another way, indicating their lives had experienced life-change.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I truly a wise person, in the mold of the first wise men, bowing down, worshiping the King, and presenting my time, talent, and treasure to him? What steps do I need to take to follow the example of the wise men?

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED THE THIRD CONVERSION?

“Lord, Lord, I give...” (Luke 19:1-10 NIV)

Giving is at the core of the Christian life. In this account a tax collector, Zacchaeus, took extraordinary measures in order to see Jesus. He took advantage of the one opportunity in his life when he could possibly meet him.

He ran ahead of the crowd, climbed a tree in order to see Jesus, and when Jesus called him, he responded by coming down and meeting him. He did not care what the crowd thought. When he heard the voice of Jesus penetrating through the noise of the crowd, he listened and obeyed.

For Zacchaeus, the encounter was LIFE CHANGING! Not only was his spirit and soul converted, but also his “purse” or pocket book was converted.

Martin Luther referred to the willingness to give as a *third conversion*. Zacchaeus reflected the change that occurs in the life of a person who truly accepts and trusts in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. He gave with an “I want to give attitude,” not grudgingly or under compulsion.



He became a changed man. The encounter with Jesus Christ transformed Zacchaeus from GETTER into GIVER.

Today, ask yourself:

In what tangible ways has Jesus Christ changed my life?

31

DO YOU HAVE A SELF-SERVE MENTALITY?

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
(Luke 6:38 NIV)

In Luke 6:38 Jesus tells us that as we give it will be given back to us in good measure, pressed down, and shaken together along life's way.

The other day I drove into a gas station and I saw a sign in big letters, SELF SERVE over the gas pumps. Before I became a practitioner of *KingdomNomics*, my attitude was the SELF SERVE MENTALITY. When I pulled up to anything I wanted, in effect, I said to myself, "FILL'ER UP!"



The principles of *KingdomNomics* teach us life does not consist of the abundance of things, and that we should labor for the food that leads to eternal life. We find an increasing life of fulfillment as we practice giving or investing in what matters to the Lord Jesus Christ.

When the "time bubble" in which we find ourselves pops, and we suddenly find ourselves in realm of eternity, we will be very glad we invested in eternal values while we were in this world. God's values and priorities should increasingly become our values and priorities.

I remind myself from time to time what John the Baptist said, "He must increase and I must decrease." This is a great mindset for the *KingdomNomic* thinker to have regarding Jesus Christ.

Today, ask yourself:

Is he increasing in my life and am I, the "self," decreasing?

Such an attitude will echo into eternity.

32

ARE YOU FOLLOWING A MIRAGE?

"Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life...."
(John 6:27 NIV)

The self-life is a dead end.

Unfortunately, most people concentrate on how they can meet their own desires and needs and give little thought to their own eternal destinies or the eternal destinies of others.



When we labor for the food that endures to eternal life, we become more heavenly minded and earthly sensitive. We realize we have been left in this world to serve the interests of God.

We begin to join others who are in the process of bringing their lives into conformance with God's will. As we do this, God empowers us to serve him and others, bringing us a life of fulfillment.

Following the self-life and the pursuit of more and more never satisfies one for long. It is a mirage that ultimately leads to self-destruction.

Paul said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil. 1:21, NKJV). He was a follower of Jesus Christ.

We have to ask ourselves: what or who are we following? Are we following a mirage or are we following the Lord's plan for us? Are we laboring for the food that perishes or are we investing our lives in eternal objectives?

Today, ask yourself:

Am I laboring for those things that will ultimately perish or am I laboring for the food that will pay eternal dividends?

33

STAY FOCUSED DADDY! GO GET THE PIZZA!

"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to finish His work.'"
(John 4:34 NIV)

My daughter requested that I go get pizza for dinner for the children. As I was leaving the house, I stopped to have a conversation with someone else. That is when I heard the words, "Stay focused, Daddy! Go get the pizza!"



What an illustration this is for the person practicing *KingdomNomics*. We need to stay focused on the important things in life. Jesus was on a mission. His will was to do the will of him who sent him, and to finish the work he was sent to do.

We should have the same desire and goal. That is, we want to finish the work God has gifted us to do before we leave this world. We are on a mission: a mission to help fulfill the Great Commission.

Today, ask yourself:

Have I captured the vision of the mission God has gifted me to do? Am I focused in some way in helping to fulfill the Great Commission?

34

DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU

“Do whatever he tells you to do.” (John2:5 NIV)

Obedience to God results in blessing. Many times we experience a blessing far beyond any reasonable expectation. This happened when Jesus turned the water into wine at a wedding feast.

The people ran out of wine and the mother of Jesus told the servants that whatever Jesus told them to do, they should do it. When they obeyed the instructions of Jesus to pour the water into the large jars, Jesus turned the water in the best tasting wine of the wedding feast. This was totally unexpected since the best wine was usually consumed at the beginning of the celebration.

Professions of faith mean little without confirming acts of obedience that are in response to our relationship with Jesus Christ. Our obedience proves that we love him.

As we practice listening to him and obeying him, he will reveal more of himself to us. Not only that, but he will also work on behalf of those who have a heart that is loyal to him.



By reading God's word and feasting on our Spiritual M & M's, we understand more about what the Lord wants us to do. We will become obedient from the heart—a heart deeply planted in the soil of God's Word—developing an attitude of, “I want to serve him, and help accomplish his will for my life.”

Today, ask yourself:

Am I progressively obeying God as he reveals his will to me through his Word?

35

THE MASKS MONEY WEARS

“But the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.” (Mark 4:19 NIV)

In *KingdomNomics*, we discuss money because Jesus had a lot to say about money and the dangers associated with it. And money is dangerous, like a rattlesnake. It can be so deceitful.

Jesus tells us that our excessive concern for money can choke the Word, keeping us from bearing fruit. This happens when we think so much about money that we fail to allow the Word of God to take root.

Money can wear many “masks.” Excessive worrying about money is one mask that can hinder us from developing our relationship with God.

Another mask might be an unhealthy desire for money—an assumption that we’ll be satisfied if we have a lot of money.

The mask of desiring the things money may provide can also choke the Word from being effective in our life.

If we allow money to control us in this fashion, we make an idol of it. Instead, we must control money, and use it in our service to God.

The fire in the fireplace serves us when it is kept in the fireplace. Outside of the fireplace it is a dangerous tool of destruction.

Instead of our serving money, we must serve God with the money entrusted to us. Otherwise money can be a tool for destroying us. Let’s keep money in the place of a servant, and not allow it to become our master.

Today, ask yourself:

What is my relationship to money? Am I serving it, or am I serving God with the money entrusted to me?



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36

MAKE A HABIT OF EXPRESSING GRATITUDE

"He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God." (Psalm 50:23 NIV84)

We live in a world where gratitude is a rare commodity. Most people spend their time asserting their rights or demanding more and more for doing less and less.

The focus of the KingdomNomic thinker is sharply different. The KingdomNomic thinker works to be an effective instrument of God. The focus is on making an impact for the advancement of the kingdom of God, not on asserting personal rights and ambitions.

This passage from Psalm 50 tells us we honor God when we express gratefulness. Not only does a grateful heart honor God, but it prepares the way for God to move in the life of the believer. When we express gratitude to God, we are also expressing faith in him and in his provision for us. This causes God, subject to his sovereign will, to prepare the way for his saving actions in our everyday life.

To express gratitude properly, our attitude must be right toward God, other people, ourselves, possessions, and the world. Expressing gratitude constructively means that we continually adjust our attitude in an affirmative way – one that is pleasing to

God and others.



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Today, ask yourself:

Am I a grateful person? Do I continually express my gratitude to both God and other people?

Make it your goal to develop a pattern of expressing gratitude. It takes about six weeks to form a habit. Every day for the next six weeks, intentionally express your gratitude in a tangible way to both God and to another person.

PLUG IN TO THE POWER GENERATOR



“...that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”
(1 Corinthians 2:5 NKJV)

Faith operates only when it is placed in the right object. Power flows through a power line only when it is plugged into a proper power source. There is no power in faith itself. Faith is the power line that transmits the power flowing from the power generator: God.

Believers must place our faith in God, the source of power that sparks us to do his work in our world. We have no power in and of ourselves. For it is God himself who is at work in us, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. According to Isaiah 26:12, it is God who does our works in us.

This is a core KingdomNomics principle: unless God operates in our lives, our efforts will fail to stand the test of fire in the future. A foundation built on self will burn up. But when we build our lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ, our faith will survive the test of fire when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Because the person of Christ does the work through us as we place our faith in him, our boast is in him alone, and not ourselves.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I trusting in Christ “plug me in” to his power source?



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38

BE A VESSEL OF CHRIST

"I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only."
(Psalm 71:16 NKJV)

As we navigate our way through this world, we need to remember that we are mere vessels. We are carrying precious cargo: the message of Christ to declare to a lost and dying world. Our mission is to proclaim his story, not our own story.

Only by the strength of Christ can we hope to live the Christian life in a credible way. The righteousness of God saves us and gives us right standing with God. This is why the Psalmist said he would go into his everyday life in the strength of the Lord and in God's righteousness alone.

We have no righteousness of our own. In fact, Scripture says our righteousness is as filthy rags in the sight of God. The apostle Paul said he did not want a righteousness that comes from self – one based on the law, works, and self-effort. Rather, Paul wanted the righteousness that comes from God, by faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. When we place our faith in Christ alone, we receive the righteousness of God as a gift.



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God gives each of us a platform for proclaiming his message of salvation. But we must be careful to proclaim him, and not ourselves. Our resources are to be used for proclaiming his message, to bring glory to him.

Today, ask yourself:

Have I found a way to share Christ with others, either on an individual or group basis? What steps do I need to take to make this a part of my mission in life?

39

A NEW WAY OF LIVING

"But... the Lord has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'" (Deuteronomy 17:16 NKJV)

After the wise men's encounter with the newborn King, the Lord instructed them to return to their homeland by a different route.

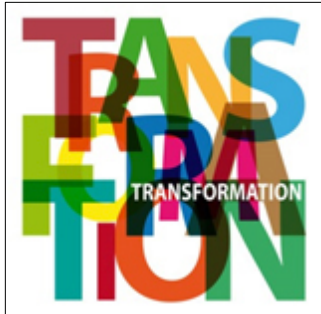


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Things change when Jesus Christ assumes control of our lives. We become new creations and are transformed into instruments for service to God. We abandon the old ways of doing things. We no longer try to earn our way to God through works. Instead of living the law of the flesh, we live by the law of faith. We become ambassadors for Christ.

As we practice the concepts of *soak*, *sow*, and *flow* (explained in the book, *KingdomNomics*), our attitudes, thinking, and behavioral patterns change. The love of Christ compels us to live in harmony with the will of God. Even though we are wasting away outwardly, we discover we are being renewed inwardly daily.

As we consider this transformation process, the words of John the Baptist come to mind: "He must increase, and I must decrease."

It is a battle, isn't it? The old self doesn't want to let us go. But as we begin to taste God's word operating in our lives, the *Christ* in us progressively overcomes the self-life of our sinful nature.

Today, ask yourself:

Is Jesus Christ progressively gaining control over how I think, feel, and act? What steps do I need to take to allow him to transform me?

40

SILENCE IS NOT AN OPTION

"Then they said to one another, 'We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household.'" (2 Kings 7:9 NKJV)

The siege was on by Aram, and people were starving in Samaria. Four lepers decided to surrender to the enemy, hoping they'd be allowed to live. When they went to the location of the enemy camp, the lepers discovered the soldiers had fled. The Lord had made the soldiers hear sounds that caused them believe allies were approaching to help.

In their haste to flee, the army had abandoned all of their food and valuables. The lepers plundered what they could, storing as much as possible for themselves. Then they realized that what they were doing was not right. People were starving just over the hill!

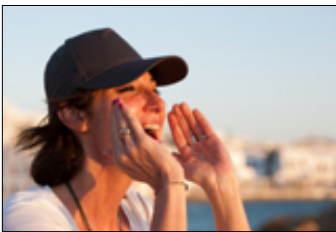


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Remaining silent was not an option. They felt compelled to share the good news of their discovery. Is this not what happened when the shepherds heard the good news of Christ's birth? They went to the place of his birth, and felt compelled to spread the good news when they returned to their everyday lives.

When we discover and experience the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ, remaining silent is not an option. We are compelled to share the good news to a lost and dying world. One of the main reasons God allows us to remain in this world is so we can help fulfill the Great Commission for our generation.

Today, ask yourself:

How do I share the good news of Christ with others? What can I do to help the cause of Christ?

PHIL'S BIO AND MORE RESOURCES



K*ingdomNomics Applied* has been developed for use with the *KingdomNomics* book, which also has a Study Guide for use by individuals and small groups.

Phil has a weekly blog, called “*Reflections of a Kingdom Boy*,” where he shares more practical insights about how to create your echo into eternity. See his latest blog posts at KingdomNomics.com/blog.

To find these resources, check out the *KingdomNomics* website at KingdomNomics.com and the Facebook page at facebook.com/KingdomNomics.

Phil has spent a lifetime learning about and living out the answer to this single question: How can I enjoy life now, and still live a life that will echo into eternity?

He is the former CEO and President of T.W. Phillips Gas and Oil Co., and Phillips Resources Inc. (recently purchased by Exxon Mobil Corp.).

Phil graduated from Harvard University and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He knows what it is to make wise business decisions and to reap the benefits of those choices. In addition, he has learned what it means to make wise choices in regard to the use of personal wealth and how every choice can reap an eternal dividend.