



KINGDOMNOMICS

REFLECTIONS OF A KINGDOM BOY (PART 2)

TREASURE

TALENT

TIME

PHIL WIEGAND

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KingdomNomics:

Reflections of a Kingdom Boy

(Part Two)

by Phil Wiegand

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41

WHERE'S YOUR PERMANENT HOME?

“Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” (Hebrews 11:16 NIV)

Being heavenly minded, but earthly sensitive, is a core principle in practicing KingdomNomics. What does that mean?

It means that we know we’re passing through this temporary world on the way to our permanent home in heaven. With that in mind, we make choices in light of investing the three Ts – time , talent, and treasure – for the advancement of God’s kingdom.

Those who came before us did the same thing. Hebrews 11 lists people of faith who, from the beginning of time, chose to listen to God and guided their lives accordingly. The list included Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abram, and Moses. They willingly exchanged many of the temporary pleasures of this world so they could inherit the promises made to them by God. In faith, they looked forward to heaven.

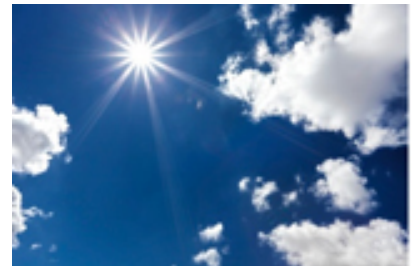


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We have the same opportunity. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we can daily overcome the siren songs of this world and live for Christ, who loves us and died for us.

Today, ask yourself:

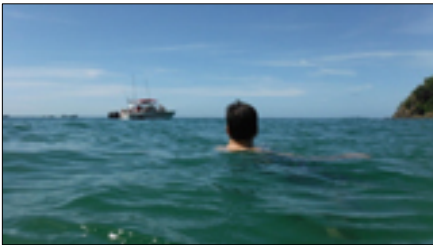
Am I imitating those heroes of faith who willingly exchanged the temporary pleasures and values of this world for the eternal values of the world to come? What choices can I make to show I am willing to do this?

Today, I encourage you to set a goal to be a low-profile, high-impact player (servant) for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

42
KEEP MOVING!

“The Lord said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward.’”
(Exodus14:15 ESV)

A paper weight on my desk has the inscription, “Don’t wait for your ship to come in. Swim out to it!” In practicing *KindomNomics*, we aggressively look for ways to invest our talents for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.



People often make the mistake of waiting for their ship to come in – hoping for something to come their way. Good intentions alone are not enough to accomplish any worthwhile objective. Perhaps the Lord is saying, “Stop waiting for your ship; start swimming!”

Someone said it is a lot easier to steer a moving car than one that is standing still. As we participate in worthwhile Kingdom efforts, we can more easily see how the Lord is guiding us to the places where we can be the most productive.

We need to be alert to areas in which the Spirit of God is moving and blessing the efforts being made on his behalf. Then we have to “swim” out to those places and join the forward movement with the rest of the “team.”

Today, ask yourself:

Am I aggressively looking for places where I can invest my time, talent, and treasure for advancing the Kingdom of God? How can I join the team effort where the Spirit of God is moving?

43 BE SURE TO PRAY!

“Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord. And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord” (Isaiah 37:14–15 NIV)

I heard someone say that it takes three things to accomplish the purposes of God in this world: prayer, leadership, and money.

Often, in our haste to do things or to “do” ministry, we forget to pray for God’s blessing and direction. This is a big mistake.

Hezekiah, after receiving a threat to his kingdom from the King of Assyria, took the letter defining the threat, went to the temple, spread it out before the Lord, and prayed about the problem. In response, God moved in a miraculous way and destroyed the enemy.

The power to change, the power to overcome obstacles, the power to overcome sin, and the power to defeat the evil one is sourced in Almighty God. We are told to boldly come to the throne of Grace to receive mercy, and to find help in the time of need.



Prayer is a key ingredient to spiritual success. As we practice KingdomNomics and learn how to strategically invest our time, talent, and resources, we discover the importance of prayer. As we recite and pray our verses to the King, our heart is stirred with a noble theme as the Spirit imparts his life, power, and revelation of God’s will to us.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I taking time to spread my requests before God? Am I listening for his instruction to me? Is my request for his glory?

44 REMEMBER!

"Put Me in remembrance...." (Isaiah 43:26NKJV)

We live in a world of challenges and turmoil. But, as believers, we are rooted and grounded in the person of Jesus Christ, the anchor of our soul.

To keep things in perspective, we need to remember what God's Word says:

Remember: The whole world is under the sway of the evil one.

Remember: Great and marvelous are the works of the Lord.

Remember: Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world.

Remember: He must increase, and I must decrease.

Remember: All the promises of God find their fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ.

Remember: Come boldly to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find help in the time of need.

Remember: Prayer and the supply of the Spirit will deliver us, empower us, heal us, and reveal God's will for us.

The *KingdomNomic* practitioner puts God and his promises in remembrance throughout the day.

Today, ask yourself:

In what ways will I put God and his promises in remembrance today?



45 BE A SIGNPOST

“And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman’s wife. Then she said to her mistress, ‘If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy.’” (2 Kings 5:2–3 NKJV)

Naaman was a great general who handed many military victories to the king of Assyria. But Naaman had a problem: he had leprosy.

Fortunately, a young servant girl captured from the land of Israel worked for Naaman’s wife. At an opportune time, the servant girl told Naaman’s wife that Naaman could be healed if he would see the prophet, Elisha. Ultimately, Naaman acted on the information, and he was healed from his leprosy. This “unimportant” servant girl was a signpost who pointed the way for Naaman to experience salvation from this deadly disease.

We may feel insignificant and unimportant. However, as believers, we are messengers who are able to tell people about the cure for their leprosy of sin. By fulfilling our responsibility to tell others the way of salvation, we enable them to experience the cure for the malady (sin) that would ultimately destroy them. We serve as a conduit that connects them to their heavenly Father.



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The key to Naaman’s healing was the *information* the seemingly unimportant servant girl communicated to her mistress. Even though the servant’s name is not mentioned, she is part of a story that will echo into eternity.

As we become strategic kingdom investors for expanding the Kingdom of God, our lives, too, will echo into eternity.

Today, ask yourself:

What opportunities do I have to communicate information that may help someone find healing and wholeness through Christ?

Starting today, set a goal to serve as a signpost that points the way to salvation.

46

FEEL INSIGNIFICANT?

“Pardon me, my lord,’ Gideon replied, ‘but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.’” (Judges 6:15 NIV)

It’s easy to feel insignificant or lost in this large, dynamic world. But sometimes, that very insignificance plays a key role in building God’s kingdom.



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Gideon was the least in his family, and his clan was the weakest. God had a purpose for this. He wanted the people to realize that *God* was going to be the deliverer, and not the power and strength of the people themselves.

Paul said that he would boast of his weaknesses so the power of Christ could rest on him. Paul also said that God chose the weak things of the world to shame the wise.

Jesus used the two fish and five loaves of a young boy to feed 5,000 people.

These examples could indicate that being “weak” makes us the kind of vessel God can use to facilitate the marvelous works he is doing in our world. When we realize our weakness, we can begin to look beyond ourselves, to the capacity of almighty God.

If we haven’t discovered that our sufficiency comes from God, he will bring circumstances into our life to show just how weak we are in ourselves. We should think in terms of offering ourselves and what we have so God can do his work through us. Nothing is too difficult for him.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I looking to do things for God in my own strength, or do I trust in God’s power to work in and through me?

47

YOU ARE GOD'S INSTRUMENT

“So Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.’” (Genesis 41:41 NIV)

What a life Joseph experienced! Favored by his earthly father; abandoned by his brothers, sold as a slave, falsely accused of assaulting the wife of his boss, thrown into prison, made second in command over Egypt, and finally, the savior of his family. All this happened by the time he was 30 years old!

Through all of these experiences, Joseph maintained a proper attitude, trusting in the Lord. He never became bitter over the brutal treatment, abandonment, imprisonment, and false promises made to him.

God worked and broke the “impossible” circumstances that literally imprisoned Joseph. God favored Joseph.

As Christians who practice the principles of KingdomNomics, we, like Joseph, have been redeemed from every lawless deed so we can proclaim the praises of him who saved us. We are a special people who are zealous to do the good works of the Kingdom.



Each Christian is an instrument of God with a purpose to worship and serve him. God’s people are spread throughout the earth at all levels of society for the purpose of expanding his Kingdom. What a privilege to be granted such a role! Let’s take advantage of the opportunities God gives us to serve.

Today, ask yourself:

Have I found my place in God’s service yet? Regardless of my circumstances, am I maintaining a proper attitude of trust, so God can be free to work through me?

GOD'S WAYS ARE HIGHER THAN OURS

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:9 NIV) "But Naaman went away angry and said, 'I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.'" (2 Kings 5:11 NIV)

Namaan, the Syrian general, was furious! When he came to see Elisha to heal his leprosy, he never imagined Elisha would send a messenger. He assumed Elisha himself would come out, call on the name of the Lord, wave his hand over his leprosy and cure him. How mistaken he was!

God had a different plan. Perhaps he wanted to break Naaman's pride. Naaman was told to go dunk himself in the Jordan River seven times. This made no sense to Naaman, and he almost missed the blessing of God's healing by refusing at first to do as he was commanded. He mistakenly thought he could have dunked himself in a river back home that was, in his opinion, cleaner than the Jordan.

The Scripture makes it clear that God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours as the heavens are higher than the earth. Often, we don't understand why certain things are happening or why we need to go through certain experiences. Perhaps, like Naaman, we need discipline or God needs to break our pride.

In KingdomNomics, we study the people in the Old Testament because we can learn so many lessons that we need to apply to our own lives. This is a part of soaking our heart, as a sponge, in the Word of God.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I refusing to obey God in an area of my life, assuming that I have a better plan than God has for me? Will I humbly confess my pride and ask God to show me His plan?

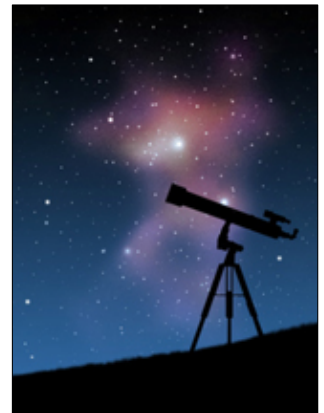


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THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

“So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, ‘On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.’” (Genesis 22:14 NIV)

What an incredibly intense encounter with God! Abraham was told by God to sacrifice his son, Isaac, as a burnt offering. Nothing was more precious to Abraham than his son. Abraham had so much faith in God, and was obedient to the point of preparing to sacrifice Isaac when God, at the last moment, provided the lamb needed for the sacrifice.

What can we learn from Abraham’s encounter with God?

We are called upon to sacrifice the BIG “I” or SELF at the foot of the cross. We do this by trusting in God’s provision for our salvation. We renounce, reject, and repent from trusting in “self-justification” by works, behavior, or anything else for our salvation. Instead, through faith, we accept the gift of Jesus’s sacrifice of his own life on our behalf.

Daily, we are called upon to put to death the misdeeds of the body.



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Daily, we need the power of the cross to crucify the sinful desires that constantly rear their ugly head. Daily, we rely on the Holy Spirit to help us say “no” to the lures of the world that would keep us from presenting ourselves as instruments of righteousness for expanding the Kingdom of God.

Yes, the BIG “I” or SELF, needs to be tightly fastened to the altar of sacrifice. If we consent to obeying God in this exercise, God will provide the substitute of his life of empowerment, blessing, and fulfillment far beyond anything we could ask, think, or imagine. As we give SELF to him, he gives himself and his LIFE to us.

Today, ask yourself:

Have I allowed the Lord to break me so he can live his life through me? Have I placed the BIG “I” at the foot of the cross?

50 GOD'S TIMETABLE

“A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord closed the door behind them.” (Genesis 7:16 NLT)

With all of the turmoil in the world, God is turning up the volume and asking, “Do you hear me now?”

God has a timetable. He has a plan, not only for the world, but also for each Christian in this world. God has a plan for YOU! We want to make sure we are living according to his plan, his values, and his timetable.

Noah was obedient to God. People must have laughed at him when he was building an ark in the middle of a desert-like environment. However, Noah had his instructions from God. He did not care about the world’s opinion. God’s opinion was what counted.

Noah was a spiritually motivated person. When he finished the project God gave him to do, what happened? Noah and his family entered the ark, and God shut the door!



For us to be faithful in practicing KingdomNomics, we need to be aware of the “loaf of time” factor. Time is a scarce commodity that diminishes with each passing day. We must use it wisely by investing in the things God has for us.

He counsels us to use the unrighteous mammon of this world to win friends for eternity. While the opportunity exists, the wise person will do so. We know what is going to happen! The night is far spent. The judge is at the door. The day will dawn soon! The time is coming when God will shut the door of opportunity.

Will we be ready to joyfully enter into his presence?

Today, ask yourself:

Am I in step with God’s timetable? Am I faithfully working on the projects God has given me to do?

51
BOASTERS, BE CAREFUL

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." (1 Corinthians 3:6 NKJV)

God is the source of everything. Such a remembrance keeps the person who is being blessed from thinking they have produced the successful outcome of any endeavor.

In 1 Corinthians 3:6, Paul makes it clear that the increase or the prosperity of any endeavor comes from God and not from us. The farmer plants the crop, but God gives the increase through the proper amount of rain, sunshine, and temperature.

Elsewhere in Scripture we read that God gives us the power to make or generate wealth. God is the one who teaches us how to profit and he leads us in the way we should go. I review these passages often, reminding myself that any perceived success I experience comes from and belongs to the Lord. Honor, praise, and glory belong to him alone.



The Christian walk is one of communion with God as he continuously reveals himself to us. Scripture says that the secrets of the Lord belong to those who fear him, and he shows them his covenant. If we are fortunate enough to be favored by God in any way, we want to be sure to give *him* the praise, honor, and glory.

As we yield to him and give him the glory, he will communicate more of his secrets to us. We have the privilege of being low-profile, high-impact players for the advancement of the Kingdom.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I careful to give God the credit when I experience any success?

“HERE I AM, LORD. SEND ME!”

“Then I heard the Lord asking, ‘Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?’ I said, ‘Here I am. Send me.’” (Isaiah 6:8 NLT)

We need to ask ourselves this question. “Are you available?” Often, we don’t want to accept responsibility to do things others ask of us.

This was also true in Bible times. Moses didn’t want to go to Egypt to be the spokesman for leading the people out of their Egyptian captivity. He offered all kinds of excuses.

Gideon questioned why God would choose him, when he came from such a poor tribe, to head up the means for freeing his people from their oppressors.

Jonah ran away from the responsibility God called him to.

When it was time to anoint Saul king, they found him hiding in the baggage!

God is looking for available people to do his work. Jesus said the harvest was full, but the laborers are few. When it comes to investing our time, talent, and treasure for a life that will echo into eternity, we need to ask ourselves, “Am I available?”

When Isaiah heard that question, he volunteered to be God’s messenger. Will you volunteer?

Today, ask yourself:

Am I passing up opportunities God is giving me to serve him? Am I missing opportunities to put my time, talent, and treasure “in play” for the advancement of the Kingdom?



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53

AN INSATIABLE THIRST FOR GOD'S FRIENDSHIP AND FAVOR

"After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'" (Acts 13:22 NIV)

God is looking for people of character. If we could grasp the significance of how important this is to God, we could be candidates for fulfilling missions God has appointed to be done during the time we have on earth.

David was such a man – a man after God's heart. He had an insatiable thirst for relationship with God. He yearned for God's friendship and favor. When he messed up, he confessed his sin. When He learned what God's will was, he was prompt in seeing that it was done.

By the grace of God, we can determine to be a person after God's heart. But good intentions are not enough. Someone said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. God needs people who will execute and obey his will wholeheartedly.

Elsewhere in the Scripture, we are told that the eyes of the Lord go throughout the earth, looking for and working strong on behalf of those whose hearts are loyal to him. God is looking for clean vessels, fit for use by the Master, who are prepared for every good work.

If we practice KingdomNomics within the proper framework, we place ourselves in a position, subject to God's sovereignty, to be candidates he can use in his service.

Today, ask yourself:

On my "bucket list," where is my relationship with God? Is it first on the list? Do I thirst and hunger for it more than anything else?



54
SOAKING IN THE WORD OF GOD

“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2:19 NIV)

Can you imagine Mary’s reaction when the shepherds told her about the supernatural events they experienced when Jesus was born?

We learn an important lesson from Mary in this passage. *She treasured and pondered these things in her heart.* When we treasure things in our heart, they are special and we think of them often. They are the “go-to things” we reflect upon. These thoughts help us develop convictions that impact our behavior.

In KingdomNomics, we believe in soaking our heart in the Word of God. The heart absorbs whatever it is soaking in, so a cursory reading of the Word of God is not enough. We must treasure its content and ponder what it is saying to us. Scripture is living and powerful; it impacts how we think, feel, and act.

The supernatural exposure the shepherds experienced to the Word, as expressed by the heavenly hosts, so impacted them that they were moved to go to Bethlehem to see this miracle for themselves. Their lives were changed!

Today, ask yourself:

Have I taken the time to ponder, meditate, and memorize portions of Scripture, realizing God wants to transform me into the likeness of his Son for service in this world?



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WHICH DO YOU SERVE: GOD OR THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD?

"...for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia." (2 Timothy 4:10 NIV)

None of us want Demas's choice to be a part of our legacy. We do not want it said of us that we so loved this world that we abandoned opportunities to live a life that will echo into eternity. Exchanging a life of eternal value for one that is perishing is not a good exchange at all.

As a companion in the service of Paul, Demas was living a life that would echo into eternity. But the allure of the world deceived him. Scripture says that friendship with the world makes us enemies of God. We are not to love the things of the world more than we love God.



This does not mean we cannot be *in* the world, and serve effectively for the Lord. God's people are spread throughout the world system, joyously doing his work. Scripture tells us that even in Caesar's household, there were members of the faith. It boils down to our attitude toward God and toward the world system. Which one are we going to serve?

Each day is a new opportunity for us to find ways to serve the King. The older we become, the more we realize the "time bubble" in which we live is not permanent. As we practice KingdomNomics, we focus on eternal objectives versus the things of this world that are perishing.

We have to be careful since this world has a powerful allure that can deceive us. We do not want the giants of greed and excessive consumerism to rob us of opportunities to invest our time, talent, and treasure strategically into things of eternal value.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I spiritually alert so I do not fall into the trap of becoming a Demas? In what ways will I strategically invest my time, talent, and treasure into endeavors of eternal value?

56
VICTIM OR VICTOR?

“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.” (Genesis 4:7 NIV84)

Satan is in the business of stealing, killing, and destroying lives. Sin is crouching at our door, looking for the opportunity to gain control.

God’s instruction to Cain still applies to us today. We must master sin. We can only do so as we are empowered by the Spirit of God.

In KingdomNomics, we discuss three types of givers: the default giver, the philanthropist, and the strategic kingdom investor. Our objective is to be transformed from a default giver or philanthropist to a level-three giver, a strategic kingdom investor.



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The process of becoming a strategic kingdom investor is a daily battle. The power of the cross must continuously work, crucifying us to the lures of this world. We are never permanently immune to the deceitfulness of riches, cares, and the desire for more of what this world has to offer. At any time it is possible for us to regress into sins of the past. But as long as the Spirit – the power of the cross – is at work, we are protected from the wiles of Satan.

Instead of being a victim of the evil one, we become a victor in Christ, who leads us in triumph.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I aware that sin crouches at my door and seeks to control me? What steps am I taking to protect myself from the power of sin, so I can be a victor, rather than a victim?

57 OPEN MY EYES!

“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, ‘Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”
(2 Kings 6:16–17 NIV)

We are in a spiritual battle. Seemingly insurmountable circumstances perplex us, frighten us, and unsettle us. Life seems like a planned obstacle course intended to test us and strengthen our faith.

In today’s passage, Elisha’s servant was afraid when they were surrounded by the Syrian army. Elisha reminded him not to be afraid since “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” Elisha asked the Lord to open the eyes of the servant so he could see this was the case.

The world we see is in tremendous conflict and turmoil. In many ways it is the outward manifestation of the unseen battles that are taking place in the spiritual world.



The apostle Paul stated that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for tearing down everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. He also noted that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, authorities, rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness in high places.

Like Elisha’s servant, we need to have our spiritual eyes opened. Then we can have some understanding of the machinations of the evil one, who stalks around like a roaring lion to see whom he can devour.

Our defense is to remember that he who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. We are covered by the blood of Christ. His name is like a high tower. The righteous run into it, and they are saved!

Today, ask yourself:

Am I aware that I am in a spiritual battle to derail me from fulfilling God’s purpose for my life? How will I practice the KingdomNomic principles of soak, sow, and flow so I can win the battle?

DO PAUL'S LIFE AND WRITINGS SUPPORT A PROSPERITY GOSPEL?

“Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.” (2 Corinthians 11:23–27)

Some teachers promote the “prosperity gospel,” the idea that you will prosper in this world if you just believe the right way. But do the life and writings of the apostle Paul support this idea?

Consider what Paul faced once he began following Christ: He was beaten with rods and lashes, imprisoned, shipwrecked, faced countless dangers, and ultimately died a martyr's death. In fact, none of the Apostles experienced the so-called prosperity gospel. History and legend indicate that all of the Apostles died a martyr's death except the apostle John.



The question of whether the prosperity gospel is biblical brings us to a basic question raised in the study of KingdomNomics: to what extent are we willing to exchange the instant gratifications of this world for the delayed eternal rewards in the world to come that are promised to strategic kingdom investors? The apostles are the star examples of people willing to experience delayed gratification of this world in order to receive the promises of the future outlined in Scripture. They bet their lives on it!

Consider what is stated in Hebrews 11. *“By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward”* (Hebrews 11:24–26, ESV).

“Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth” (Hebrews 11:36–38, ESV).

We must keep in mind we are just passing through this world. *“For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come”* (Hebrews 13:14, ESV). Those who fail to appreciate this truth may be in for a very rude awakening. The idea that we will find “Easy Street” when we come to the Lord is a false teaching and should be avoided; it is a disservice to the church of Christ.

We must remember, *“Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised”* (Hebrews 10:35–36, ESV).

Today, ask yourself:

Do I realize the import of what Jesus says in John 16:33: “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world” (ESV)?

WILL YOU FORFEIT YOUR FUTURE FOR TODAY?

“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.” (Jonah 2:8 NIV84)

When we decide to cling to worthless idols instead of following God-given directives, our lives can be shortened or destroyed. A self-driven life forfeits what possibly could have been a great future for the rubble of temporary pleasures.

This principle is demonstrated over and over in the Bible:

Esau traded his birthright for a bowl of stew.

Cain failed to conquer sin crouching at his door, killing Abel, and was “marked” for life.

Achan and his entire family were stoned to death because Achan disobeyed the Lord by taking and hiding silver in his tent when the Hebrews attacked the city of Ai as they entered the Promised Land.

Absalom shortened his life by rebelling against his father, King David, when he attempted to usurp the kingdom from David.

King Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon, had an untimely end to his kingdom. Daniel prophesied to King Belshazzar: *“...you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways. Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription”* (Daniel 5:23–24, NIV).

Daniel continues: *“Here is what these words mean: Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. Peres: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians”* (Daniel 5:26–28, NIV). That very night King Belshazzar was murdered.

Today, people do the very same thing—trading their futures and forfeiting the grace of God, both in this world and the world to come—by devoting their lives to gaining and making idols of money, pleasure, power, and position.

We can see from the lives of these biblical characters that it is not worth it. This world in its present form is passing away, and SO ARE WE! Just look in the mirror in the morning!



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A core principle for us to remember is: THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS WORLD, NO IDOL WORTH CLINGING TO, WORTH SACRIFICING BOTH OUR PRESENT AND ETERNAL FUTURES.

Today, ask yourself:

Have I made an idol of anything, causing me to forfeit the operation of God's grace in my life? If I have, is it really worth it?

THREE OBJECTIVES TO HELP US MAKE THE MOST OF OUR LIVES

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.”
(Colossians 4:5 NIV)

For the person practicing KingdomNomics, redeeming the time we have been given is extremely important. We often hear in the world that “time is money.” Colossians 4:5 counsels us to make the most of every opportunity and to be wise in the way we act toward those who are outside of the faith.



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We must act on this challenge because our loaf of time grows shorter by the day. We must redeem our time since our time will run out.

What objectives should we implement on a consistent basis if we want to make the most of our lives?

First, the Word of God needs to become personally operative in our lives. We should heed the popular saying that we need to “walk the talk, if we are going to talk the talk.” Another way to put it is we need to “practice what we preach.” We cannot effectively communicate biblical truth unless that truth operates in our own lives.

Second, we need to see tangible progress in how we steward our time, talent, and treasure, continually being transformed into strategic kingdom investors. We must be vitally interested in not only enjoying life now, but we must be interested foremost in having our lives to echo into eternity in a way that pleases our Creator.

Third, we should strive to be low-profile, high-impact players in helping to fulfill the Great Commission by exchanging perishable values for eternal values. This objective will guide us as we navigate through this world.

Progress in accomplishing these objectives will lead to a life of fulfillment here, and to a life that will truly echo into eternity.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I putting these three major objectives into practice in my life? Am I seeing tangible progress in my life?

FIX IT WITH PHILIPPIANS 4:6

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7 NIV)

One time I heard a person say, “Fix it with Philippians 4:6.” We experience a lot of turmoil and challenges we need help to overcome. Philippians 4:6-7 gives us a formula to cope successfully with these episodes.

The key to overcoming challenges is learning how to pray. Everything good thing is sourced in God, and all of God’s promises have their “yes” or fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ. This in itself should help relieve the anxiety or worry that the flesh wants to control us. With an attitude of thankfulness that God will hear our prayers and requests, we are to make our needs known to him. The promise is that the peace of God will, indeed, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.



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The peace of Christ is one of the greatest promises we can experience. In fact, we are commanded to *“let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful”* (Colossians 3:15, NIV). When we are thankful, we are expressing faith in God’s provision for us.

KingdomNomics affirms a basic formula: “Prayer plus the supply of the Spirit will lead to God’s provision and deliverance.”

Indeed, we see this principle confirmed in Scripture: *“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:19, NIV).

How much peace can be ours when we have the expectation of God’s provision to meet our needs!

Today, ask yourself:

Have I tried to “fix it with Philippians 4:6” when I have problems?

ROOT YOUR ZEAL IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD



“For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.” (Romans 10:2-4NIV)

What a huge red flag for us to heed in these verses from Romans! Indeed, zeal is a wonderful attribute to have in doing the Lord’s work. However, we must be sure our zeal is based on the right knowledge of Christ. We do not want to have a zeal that is unproductive. Instead, we need to be fueled by the Spirit of God.

The religious establishment of Jesus’s day had a zeal for God, but it was based on the law, self-effort, works, and self-justification rather than faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus was in this world, zeal for his Father’s house consumed his life. When I think of our life, I think of four logs—LIFE, TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE. These “logs” are being consumed by one

of two “fires” every day: either the perishable values of this world or the eternal values that are important to almighty God.

Each person chooses what values are pre-eminent in his or her life. It is a shame to see so many lives being consumed by temporary and perishable things. They fail to realize we are merely passing through on our way to the real world of eternity. When we submit to God’s righteousness, though, our zeal can go far in furthering his Kingdom.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I zealous for God? Is my zeal based on the knowledge of faith in Jesus Christ?



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SONSHINE: THE CALL TO BE LIGHTS IN A DARKENED WORLD

“So may all your enemies perish, Lord! But may all who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength.’ Then the land had peace forty years.” (Judges 5:31 NIV)

Think of the sun when it rises in its strength. We can feel its warm and comforting presence. It provides light so we can see where we are going. Christians are called to be lights in this darkened world.

Scripture affirms our identity as light bearers: *“You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. (1 Thessalonians 5:5, NIV).*

Again, we are challenged to be lights: *“...that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15, NKJV).*

Each Christian has the daily opportunity to be a light in their personal world. We are the message bearers of the good news, as attested in this verse: *“But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Timothy 1:10, NIV).*

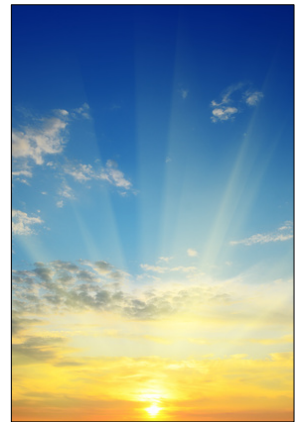


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We say in KingdomNomics that if we are to be an effective light bearer, we have to be like a flashlight filled with new and powerful batteries. A flashlight without the batteries empowering it is useless. In our lives, the Holy Spirit is the battery empowering us, infusing the aroma of life that makes us effective in showing the way to life and immortality through the gospel of knowing Jesus Christ in a personal way.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I a light in my world pointing the way to life and immortality? Am I sharing the good news of Jesus Christ?

SIN IS CROUCHING AT YOUR DOOR—BE ON YOUR GUARD!

“If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.” (Genesis 4:7 NIV)

We must always be on our guard against the wiles of the evil one. As we can see from this message God gave to Cain in Genesis 4:7, sin is indeed crouching at every person’s door. We must rule over the power of sin that desires to have us.

The secret to overcoming sin is to be aggressive in fulfilling the mission God has given us, fueled by the power of the Holy Spirit. When we are powered by the Holy Spirit, we will be able to see the Holy Spirit put to death the misdeeds of our body, just as it is written in Romans: “Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live” (Romans 8:12–13, NIV).



By the power of the Spirit, we can put to death those fleshly desires. The power of the cross crucifies the lures of this world and the flesh with its passions, so we can live a life pleasing to the Lord. The power of God in our lives is rooted in the cross: “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18, NIV).

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Yes, it is the power of God that enables us to exchange what is perishable for the eternal values that God rewards in the real world to come. Living by the Spirit is a daily exercise for us to practice consistently.

There is a hundred-year-old saying, “A habit is like a cable. We weave it one strand at a time until it becomes so strong it cannot be broken.” When we practice the concepts of KingdomNomics consistently, we weave a cable that cannot be broken. Let’s be sure to do it.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I on my guard to make sure sin is not creeping into my life to render me ineffective in fulfilling God’s purpose for my life? Am I daily asking the Holy Spirit to put to death the misdeeds in my body so I can live?

65

FISHING FOR SPIRITUAL RICHES

“Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.” (Matthew 4:19 NIV)

Have you ever asked yourself, “What am I fishing for?”



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Everyone in this world is fishing for something. Everyone would like to experience fulfillment, peace, pleasure, material sufficiency, and contentment. Unfortunately, many people, in their striving for these things, miss out on God’s plan for their life since they pay little or no attention to him. Actually, he is the source and provider of all of these things.

When Jesus called the disciples, he said he would make them fishers of people. Note the difference in fishing for the produce of the sea and fishing for people. The fish of the sea are perishable. When they are caught in a net and brought to land, they are literally dead meat.

In the context of fishing for people, though, the person who is spiritually dead before being “caught” suddenly becomes spiritually alive. That person has the guarantee of a wonderful eternal destiny in the world to come.

Can you think of anything more exciting than helping someone who is spiritually dead to become spiritually alive? God has made this a priority for the church. We are to be fully engaged in helping to fulfill the Great Commission. Yet we do have our earthly responsibilities to perform, which is why we say in the book, *KingdomNomics*, that we are heavenly minded, but earthly sensitive.

Proverbs leaves us with this pearl of wisdom:

“Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding” (Proverbs 4:7, NKJV).

66

ACKNOWLEDGING GOD'S MIGHTY POWER

"God has spoken once, twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God." (Psalm 62:11 NKJV)

Power belongs to God. This is confirmed throughout Scripture. No wonder the Psalmist said, *"My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him"* (Psalm 62:5, NKJV).

The psalmist learned in his life experience with God, *"By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of the far-off seas"* (Psalm 65:5, NKJV).

Do we as believers have the same expectation as the Psalmist in our everyday living? The answer should be a resounding "YES!"

Where can we find the power of God? Scripture tells us, *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God"* (1 Corinthians 1:18, NKJV).

We find the power of God in the cross, which is manifested in the person of Jesus Christ: *"...to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God"* (1 Corinthians 1:24, NKJV).



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We also read in Ephesians that our source of power is God: *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us"* (Ephesians 3:20, NKJV).

From Philippians we can see that it is God who works in us: *"It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure"* (Philippians 2:13, NKJV).

The Scripture make it clear—power belongs to God. When we acknowledge God's mighty power, he will answer us with awesome deeds. He is able to do more than we could ask, think, or imagine according to his power that is working inside of us. Such a prospect makes for a great and exciting life!

Ask for it, and expect to happen in God's time and way.

Today, ask yourself:

Do I have a great sense of expectation and anticipation that God is at work in my life? Do I believe God can do more than I can ask, think, or imagine?

LIVING A POWER-DRIVEN LIFE

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1-3 NKJV)

If you are a serious practitioner of KingdomNomics, you are living a power-driven life. The person of Jesus Christ has become the power within your life to bring you into conformity with the will of God for his purpose in this world.

You are also seeking the things above. Your life is also becoming increasingly hidden in Christ as you strategically invest your time, talent, and treasure into advancing the kingdom of God.

What are some of the characteristics of the person whose life is hidden in Christ? *"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work'" (John 4:34, NKJV).*

You will be focused on doing the will of God and accomplishing the work he has for you to do. You will also be consumed in doing these tasks, *"His disciples remembered that it is written: 'Zeal for your house will consume me'" (John 2:17, NIV).*

Doing the will of God and being zealous for him are indications the Word of God is operating in your life. The power of the cross will crucify the passions and desires of the flesh and keep the lures of the world at bay. This transformation grows us from being "getters" to becoming "givers" who are willing to exchange the perishable things of this world for the immortal values of the real world to come.



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Increasingly, the fruit of the Spirit will manifest itself in our lives. Our objective will be to develop into low-profile, high-impact players on the field of life to help fulfill the Great Commission. What a privilege to think God would allow us to partner with him!

Today, ask yourself:

Does my life show that my heart and mind are focused on the things above? Am I tangibly involved in God's program for this world?

DEVELOP A CONSUMING DESIRE FOR GOD'S WORD

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." (1 Peter 2:2-3 NIV)

Once a baby has tasted its mother's milk, the focus of that baby's life is to cry, "More! More!"

The cry for more milk becomes the overriding desire of the baby's life. The milk tastes good! The baby needs the milk if it is to survive and grow into a child and then an adult.

Peter uses this metaphor to illustrate our consuming desire for the Word of God. The only way we will be able to grow up into mature believers is if we consume God's Word. The Word of God must saturate our inner person if we are to be effective witnesses for him. By ingesting our "spiritual M&M's"—**m**emorizing and **m**editating on the Word of God—we can grow in him.



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When we begin to uncover the riches in the Word of God, we become hooked. *"It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age"* (Hebrews 6:4-5, NIV).

Think of the key words in this passage. We are "enlightened" by the gospel bringing to light "life and immortality." We have "tasted" the heavenly gift of salvation, and actually have "shared" in the Holy Spirit by being partakers of the divine nature. Furthermore, we have "tasted" the goodness of God's Word, like the baby has tasted the mother's milk of life. Finally, we have "tasted" and been touched by the "power of the coming age."

Such exposure leads to a "spiritual addiction." The Lord tastes good! The Lord increases our appetite for wanting "More! More!" Such a desire places us in a position where the Lord, subject to his sovereignty, can reveal more of himself to us in his way and time.

Today, ask yourself:

How would I define my desire for God's Word—lukewarm, indifferent, strong, or intense? Am I in the process of tasting it, consuming it, and beginning to experience the "power of the coming age?"

69

SHARING IN GOD'S SECRETS

"The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them." (Psalm 25:14 NIV)

Imagine it! The Lord actually confides in those who fear him. Not only that, but he also shows them his covenant. This means he shows them his favor.

What are we willing to do to experience the favor of God?

When we become acquainted with God through his Son, Jesus Christ, all kinds of wonderful things happen. We become friends with God, and friends share secrets along life's way.

The same is true in our relationship with God. He reveals many of the mysteries of the kingdom as our relationship develops with him. *"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory"* (1 Corinthians 2:7, NKJV).

The apostle Paul continued by saying, *"these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God"* (1 Corinthians 2:10–11, NIV).

Paul asks God to reveal his Spirit of wisdom and revelation so we can know him better: *"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come"* (Ephesians 1:17–21, NIV).



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This is a lot of Scripture. Take time to meditate on these passages. Ask God to give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in order **to know him, and his incomparably great power for us who believe, the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead.**

Continue praying that God will give us the Spirit of revelation so we can know and experience the secrets of the kingdom. We want our faith to rest on the power of God, Jesus Christ himself, and not on the wisdom of men.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I placing myself in a position where God can feel free to reveal himself to me? Am I asking for the Spirit of revelation and wisdom?

70

BE A WINNING TEAM PLAYER

“We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.” (1 Corinthians 2:6 NIV)

Fans of the winning team become really pumped up, yelling and waving their arms. Those of us who practice KingdomNomics are not only fans of the winning team, but we are also players on the team—and it is always exciting to be on the winning team!

The Bible explains to us God’s plan for the ages and generally how it is going to end. He also reveals how we can be significant players on his winning team. Not only that, he gives us the opportunity to invest our time, talent, and treasure in this huge salvaging operation to save humankind. He even promises an immeasurable return on the investments made on his behalf.

The crazy “wisdom of this age” and the “rulers of this age” are coming to nothing. For this we are truly grateful, since they are really messing things up! They are on the losing team. God’s team is going to win, and we are on it! That really gets me pumped up!

Ever since I have caught this vision, I have committed to the following three principles.

First, I decided I wanted to do my giving while I am living. This way I can enjoy the excitement of seeing what my investments in the kingdom are doing. I made the great discovery that giving is one of the major gateways God uses for interfacing with me as a believer in the details of my life.



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Second, I try to follow the principle of increasing my giving of time, talent, and treasure each year. I’ve discovered that the more I participate in the endeavors of God, the more I enjoy the provisions of his covenant and the company of his people. The experience and continued anticipation of his working in my life is truly exciting and fulfilling.

Third, I try to conduct my life and affairs in such a way that I do nothing to impair my ability to give.

Such a program has created within me an aggressive “I want to participate attitude” in this mission of missions, the Great Commission.

It is difficult to grasp the scope and depth of this greatest salvaging operation the world has ever seen. However, great rejoicing awaits those who choose to be players on God’s winning team. Oh, how their lives will truly echo into eternity!

Today, ask yourself:

Am I a casual observer of God's winning team, or am I a genuine player, using the gifts and talents God has given to me for advancing his kingdom?

COUNTERING A CULTURE OF INSTANT GRATIFICATION

“Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, ‘Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!’ (That is why he was also called Edom.)

Jacob replied, ‘First sell me your birthright.’

‘Look, I am about to die, Esau said. ‘What good is the birthright to me?’

But Jacob said, ‘Swear to me first.’

So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.” (Genesis 25:29–34 NIV)

In this passage of Scripture, we see a man foolishly give up his birthright; he exchanges all the benefits and the favor of his father for a pot of stew just because he is hungry. His temporary hunger causes him to mistakenly give up a permanent blessing for something transient. How foolish! Esau did not take time to think of the devastating consequences of his careless action.

We live in an age of instant gratification. We want what we want right now. So many people think only of meeting their needs and wants for the day or for the near future. Little or no thought is given from an eternal perspective.

As we study the Scripture, we discover that what we do now will echo into eternity. By deciding to trust in Jesus Christ to be our personal Lord and Savior, we determine WHERE we will spend eternity.

What we do with all of the wonderful provisions of our salvation in the remaining time we have in this world determines HOW we will live in eternity. In other words, the living out of our salvation will have a direct impact on our quality of life in the new eternal paradigm.

A big question for all of us is, *to what extent are we willing to delay temporary gratification for the eternal rewards God has for those willing to invest time, talent, and treasure to further the Great Commission?*



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Are many Christians making the same mistake Esau made? Are they exchanging possible eternal rewards for the passing pleasures of this world, the equivalent of a pot of stew? This makes no sense at all!

Jesus Christ himself says our deeds count for eternity from a reward standpoint: *“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End”* (Revelation 22:12–13, NIV).

These words, along with the rest of what Scripture says about eternity, have a major impact on my thinking, behavior, and investment of time, talent, and treasure. We need to consider them very seriously, and act accordingly.

Jesus states here that he is the BEGINNING and the END. Should we not ask, “Has the person of Jesus Christ made a measurable impact on my life?”

The degree of measurable impact is dependent on our willingness to bring our life in harmony with God’s plan for us.

Today, ask yourself:

In my everyday living, is the eternal aspect of life part of my decision-making process? Does the desire for instant gratification distort my perspective when I think of my life echoing into eternity?

HOW DO YOU FACE THE REALITY OF ETERNITY?



“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NIV).

“The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them” (John 3:35–36, NIV).

Many people make the mistake of developing perceptions and convictions based only on what they see and observe. Although they may be sincere in their beliefs, when they base their convictions solely on the observable, they are likely to make wrong choices that can ultimately lead to destruction.

It is vitally important to see all that pertains to life from *God's perspective*.

Each of us must face the reality of ETERNITY. We may try to ignore it, minimize it, or refuse to listen to anything about it. However, such actions will not remove the reality of its existence.

“...but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Timothy 1:10, NIV).

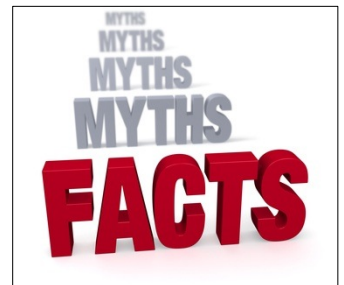


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Immortality is about eternal life!

Jesus Christ spent a lot of time talking about eternity to prepare us for it. And God's Word makes it very clear. There is only one way to face the coming eternal destiny that awaits us. We must accept and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ alone, for our salvation, or we face eternal separation from God. The only “currency” acceptable to God for the payment of our sin is the precious blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross for us.

This is why Jesus came into the world in the first place. Our works, our behavior, our giving, and our sacrifices of any other kind will never be acceptable to God for the payment of our sin. This is truth. This is fact.

“Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins” (Hebrews 9:22, ESV).

If our life is to echo properly into eternity, it must be transformed in harmony with God's Word. In KingdomNomics, the Word of God is the foundation for everything. The Word of God reveals the mind and will of God and instructs us how to live. If we live under the counsel of God we will be rewarded tangibly in the world to come. This world ends, but the next world lasts forever!

Through the Word of God we see life from God's perspective, which allows us to develop convictions that lead us to take proper steps and actions. As the reality of eternity sinks into our mindset, we can ensure we are not carelessly living for the perishable, temporary goals of this life.

We will begin to think more in terms of delaying passing gratifications, willingly exchanging them for eternal rewards. Such a life will echo into eternity with favor and reward from God.

Today, ask yourself:

In what ways am I learning to see things from God's point of view?

HOW TO BECOME A FRIEND OF GOD



“The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.” (Psalm 25:14 NIV)

What a majestic promise! God will confide in those who fear or respect him in the proper way. Because of our relationship with him, we are placed in a position where he can, subject to his sovereign will, bless and favor us. There is no better friend a person can have than Almighty God!

The secret of this relationship is to abide in Christ. *“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me” (John 15:4, NIV).*

In John 14:23, Jesus tells us that he and the Father will make their home with us if we love and obey his commandments. *“Jesus replied, ‘Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.’”*



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When we cultivate relationships with people, we get to know them and they get to know us. Our relationship with God follows the same pattern. Through his Word and the Spirit, he reveals “secrets of the kingdom”—God reveals himself to us as we navigate through life.

“...these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:10, NIV).

Today, ask yourself:

Am I cultivating my relationship with Jesus Christ in such a manner that he and the Father feel free to make their home in my heart?

ARE YOU FOCUSED ON THE SON?



“I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”
(Psalm 16:8 NIV)

When you drive a vehicle, you keep your eyes focused on the road. Pilots of aircraft keep their eyes focused on their instrument panels, particularly in inclement weather.

Focus is such a critical factor as we navigate through life. If we focus on the wrong values, we will crash. But, like the Psalmist, when we keep our eyes on the Lord, we will not be shaken. For the practitioner of KingdomNomics, *Christ* is the goal of life—pleasing him, doing his will, being transformed into his likeness, and ultimately, being with him in heaven in a glorified state.

“Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure” (Psalm 16:5, NIV).

Have you ever held a penny close to your eye and tried to gaze heavenward? The penny blocks out the sun. In the same manner, when we get consumed with the minutia of life, our vision gets blocked.

God wants us to keep on mission, to help reach a lost and dying world that desperately needs Christ.

Clarity of mind is key. *“I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me”* (Psalm 16:7, NIV). When our minds are consumed with worry and anxiety, divine counsel can get blocked. This is why the Psalmist says, *“I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”*

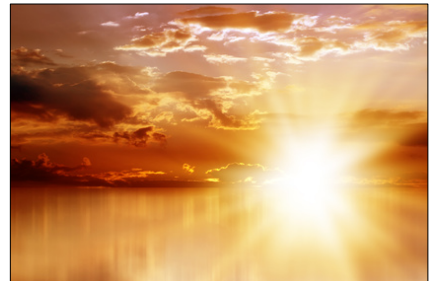


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Staying focused on God is a discipline. Disturbing events that fill the news make it difficult to keep looking straight ahead. Fortunately, we live in a world that is passing away along with all of the false premises that fill the airways. *“We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing”* (1 Corinthians 2:6, NIV).

“Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure” (Psalm 16:9, NIV). What a privilege it is to have a living relationship with the person of Jesus Christ who will be returning soon!

Today, ask yourself:

Where is my focus today? Is a penny blocking my view of the Son? Or is my focus on God? How can I use my time, talent, and treasure for his purposes?

SKATE TOWARDS THE PUCK

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5:10 NIV)

Wayne Gretzky, the famous hockey player, reportedly advises, “Skate to where the puck will be.”



For the successful athlete, it is important to anticipate your opponent’s next move. Timing is critical; a split second can give a major advantage for scoring a goal. Failure to anticipate can mean the difference between victory and defeat.

We can apply Gretzky’s advice to our spiritual life. Sooner or later, our “time bubble” will pop and we will face eternity. It is inevitable, regardless of what the world says.

“Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment” (Hebrews 9:27, NIV).

It behooves us to anticipate this reality and skate accordingly.

Fortunately, believers have a guaranteed salvation in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, *“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life” (John 5:24, NIV).*

The believer who trusts in Jesus Christ alone for salvation has already crossed from death to life! *“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:11–12, NIV).*

Salvation in Jesus Christ is a present possession. However, believers will still stand before the judgment seat of Christ to render an accounting of what we have done with our time, talent, and treasure.

The Bible frequently mentions the brevity of life. In terms of eternity, our life span is like soap bubbles blown by children. The bubbles last for a second or so. That is the time frame we have to discover God’s intended use of us for the expansion of his kingdom.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I skating in the direction of where the puck of my life will ultimately land?

THE REWARD FACTOR

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” (Revelation 22:12–13 NIV)

Jesus Christ is coming back to this world soon!

Unfortunately, most people give no thought to the certainty of his return. But for KingdomNomics thinkers, this passage is the MAJOR motivating factor in life.

Jesus Christ is not only coming back, but he is bringing his reward with him. He is going to give to each person according to what he or she has done in this world.



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“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11, NIV).

“If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames” (1 Corinthians 3:14–15, NIV).

We must be careful to make sure that Jesus Christ is the foundation on which our life is built. We want our activity to be CHRIST-SOURCED and HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERED, reflecting the reality of the Word of God operating in our lives.

Our works should be an OUTGROWTH, an OUTWARD MANIFESTATION of his working in us. *“...For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure”* (Philippians 2:13, NKJV).

It is God’s glory that counts, not ours. Someone once said we do not want to get near the “glory stone.” In practicing KingdomNomics, we strive to be low-profile, high-impact players who help fulfill the Great Commission.

Today’s Scripture from Revelation 22:12–13 also states how Christ is the Beginning and the End. The time and the space in between is “filler,” impacted by what we do with our time, talent, and treasure.

Paul was able to say, *“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”* (Philippians 1:21, NIV). Christ was the “filler” in his life. Christ became Paul’s all-consuming passion because Paul had his eyes fixed on eternal values.

The question for you and me is, “What is the ‘filler’ between the beginning and the end of our lives?”

Today, ask yourself:

For me to live is _____ . Fill in the blank.

DESIGNED BY GOD

“He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.” (Psalm 33:15 NKJV)

Incredible! Each of us has been specifically designed by God for his purpose and use.

Christians are told this in Scripture: *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:10, NKJV).

Discovering God’s plan and purpose is the most fulfilling part of life one can imagine. God has redeemed us for his purposes, *“who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works”* (Titus 2:14, NKJV).

God considers all of our works. After all, he designed us, and he is interested in seeing whether his purposes are being served. Our redeemed talents, gifts, and desires call us into the avenues of service he has prepared for us.

God has given you a heart to do something for him. You have been designed for it. In all probability, he has or will open doors of opportunity for you to use your God-given talents, gifts, and desires to serve him. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities when they come your way.



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“‘But now be strong, Zerubbabel,’ declares the Lord. ‘Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the Lord, ‘and work. For I am with you,’ declares the Lord Almighty” (Haggai 2:4, NIV).

This is also what God is telling us today. Be strong. Be busy doing the King’s business, for he is with us in all that we do.

As you do the King’s business, be encouraged. The works of God’s people performed in the power of the Holy Spirit will echo into eternity.

“Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’”

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them” (Revelation 14:13, NKJV).

Today, ask yourself:

Am I living in the power of the Holy Spirit, so my life can truly echo into eternity?

CONVICTIONS ARE KEY

“Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”
(Scripture: Romans 4:20–21 NIV)

Abraham is a prime example of one who was fully persuaded that God would perform what he had promised. That is conviction. Conviction was a controlling factor in Abraham’s life, and he ordered his life accordingly, experiencing the blessing of God.

Conviction is a key component of faith. When a person lacks conviction, their faith wavers and the promises of God may not be fulfilled. Scripture tells us, *“When you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord”* (James 1:6–7, NIV).



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We must have the conviction that the Word of God is living and powerful, and that it works in those who receive and trust in it. The promises of God are all sourced in him and find their yes in Christ. “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God” (2 Corinthians 1:20, NIV).

From a practical standpoint, we must have the conviction that we serve a God who sees and provides. When he gives us assignments, we can be confident of experiencing his provision. *“The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it”*(1 Thessalonians 5:24, NIV).

We are told in Isaiah that he does our works in us: *“Lord, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us”* (Isaiah 26:12, NIV).

Throughout Scripture we see God performing his Word in people and circumstances. He is still in that operating mode today. *“Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him”* (Psalm 115:3, NIV).

Today, ask yourself:

Do I truly have the conviction that the Word of God is living and powerful? Do I believe God’s Word will work in my life as I “digest” my Spiritual M&Ms through the SOAK, SOW, AND FLOW principles of KingdomNomics?

WEAVING A PATTERN OF GIVING INTO YOUR LIFE



“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

(2 Corinthians 9:7–8NIV)

Recently, I received an email from someone who desires to be a kingdom investor, but struggles to give cheerfully. The person asked how to get started in this type of giving. I encouraged the individual to read the book, *KingdomNomics* and followed up with this:

God honors the giver who gives with a cheerful heart. My suggestion is to study 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. Each person is to give as he purposes in his own heart, not under compulsion or grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Love is an action word. Verse 8 indicates that God will swing into action in the life of the cheerful giver.

Verse 6 explains the “sowing” principle. It says that if we sow bountifully, we will reap bountifully. He gives us the choice of sowing sparingly or bountifully. I do not see any reference in the New Testament where God demands you give. He gives us the choice and shows us the benefits of being a cheerful giver.



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When the opportunity to give comes, ask, “How much can I cheerfully give to this project?” Then make the gift. The New Testament teaches us to give proportionally as we have prospered (1 Cor. 16:2). God wants us to develop an “I want to give” attitude.

I do not let the “percentage factor” determine what I give. It smacks too much of the law and in my mind, equates giving with paying taxes and membership dues. I believe that a smart grace giver, if he or she has the resources, will give more than the 10 percent mentioned in the Old Testament. After all, such giving will result in more treasure in heaven, according to the *sowing* principle in verse 6.

New Testament giving is an act of grace empowered by the Holy Spirit. What is reasonable for me to give considering the circumstances in my life?

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1, NKJV).

From www.KingdomNomics.com

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Each of us has to decide what is “reasonable” in our circumstances. Giving is a part of worshiping God.

You can begin developing the “giving” mindset by weaving a pattern of giving into your life. Start out small if necessary, and as you practice giving, you will increasingly desire to give more.

I like the following analogy: Faith or giving is like a cable. We weave it one strand each day until it becomes so strong, it cannot be broken.

Make giving a habit in your life, and you will be living a life that will echo into eternity, and one that is also blessed in this world.

Today, ask yourself:

What one step will I take today to develop an attitude of cheerful giving?

THE CONVERTERLATOR



"I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings." (Luke 16:9 NIV)

Yes, I know. There is no such word as "converterlator."

It is a figure of speech to make a point. We know we cannot take anything with us when we enter the "real world" after our demise in this one.

We live a perishing life in a perishable environment. Everything about us is perishing, including our time, talent, and treasure. Even our bodies are perishing; they are "on loan" to us, and we'll "turn them in" on a date known only by our Creator.



Yet, we are given the opportunity to convert these perishable items into kingdom investments that will last forever, with ever-increasing returns in the real world to come. The "converterlator" is the process by which we convert the perishable into eternal investments. We do this by investing our time, talent, and treasure in the eternal values treasured by God.

"...But the word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word that was preached to you" (1 Peter 1:25, NIV).

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"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIV).

The Word of God will last forever, and the souls of people will last forever. Everything else is perishable. This is why KingdomNomics thinkers fix our eyes on the unseen. *"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 4:18, NIV).*

The temporary is perishing. Think eternal!

Today's Scripture, Luke 16:9, is a "converterlator" verse. The writer encourages believers to use the perishable money of this age to invest in the imperishable souls of people who are going to live forever in the heavenly realm.

This is what the "smart money" is doing today. Let's follow it, and send it ahead. After all, what did the wise men do?

“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 person today will follow their example, first giving their heart to the King, and then presenting their treasures to the King of Kings.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I following the “smart money” principle and investing my time, talent, and treasure in eternal values?

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.