



KINGDOMNOMICS

REFLECTIONS OF A KINGDOM BOY

(PART 3)

TREASURE

TALENT

TIME

PHIL WIEGAND

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KingdomNomics:
Reflections of a Kingdom Boy
(Part Three)
by Phil Wiegand

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WHAT CONTROLS YOU – EARTHLY DESIRES OR HEAVENLY ONES?



“The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.” (Romans 5:20 NIV)

We must be careful about what we desire. Desiring only earthly things, with no thought of the eternal implications, is a formula for disaster.

“For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:18–20, NIV).

It is critical that the resurrection power of Christ be at work in our life. As this power grows in the heart of the believer, the spiritual desires to invest our time, talent, and treasure in the Kingdom will overcome desires of a perishable nature.



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We can navigate successfully through this world only when we are controlled by the Holy Spirit:

“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).

When we submit to God, the Holy Spirit trumps the temporary, perishable desires that seek to control how we think, feel, and act. The best offense against a negative addiction is to have a positive addiction that is greater. Our home is heaven, and we live life seeking our Lord’s approval above all else.

Today, ask yourself:

Do I increasingly desire to invest my 3 Ts—time, talent, and treasure—in the kingdom of God?

KNOWING GOD: MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD OR SILVER



“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death” (Philippians 3:10, NIV).

“Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you. Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart. If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored: If you remove wickedness far from your tent and assign your nuggets to the dust, your gold of Ophir to the rocks in the ravines, then the Almighty will be your gold, the choicest silver for you” (Job 22:21–25, NIV).

Here it is in a nutshell: Knowing God through Christ is priority number one in the life of the Christian. As we get to know God and store his Word in our heart, the Word of God will become personally operative in our life.

Paul wanted to know Christ and the power of his resurrection above all.

Job realized that a relationship with God was more valuable than the finest gold. God *became* Job’s gold and silver, the two items that the world most values.



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Nothing can compare to knowing the King of Kings and experiencing his favor. All the significant characters in the Bible made this great discovery. Jeremiah stated:

“This is what the Lord says: ‘Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,’ declares the Lord” (Jeremiah 9:23–24, NIV).

A single characteristic identifies all of the Bible greats: *They knew God.*

This should also be our first priority. From that relationship will flow all that is important in life, now and forever. Everything is sourced in almighty God. *“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).*

Yes; let us receive instruction from his mouth, and store up his words in our heart.

Today, ask yourself:

Is knowing God my top priority? In what ways am I storing up his words in my heart?

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THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD



"...So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11 NIV)

No wonder the Scripture says, *"Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord"* (Deuteronomy 8:3, NIV).

God's Word is powerful. Active. It accomplishes. Wherever it is sent, it prospers.

To fulfill God's purposes, we need more than material things. We need to absorb God's Word. As we do so, we learn more about the mind of God and open ourselves to receive revelations he wants us to know and enjoy.

Jesus says, *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life"* (John 6:63, NKJV).

By his Word we are renewed inwardly. His Word is like discovering the treasure of treasures. *"For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord"* (Proverbs 8:35, NKJV).



This treasure is much better than the mirage reportedly pursued by the conquistador, Ponce de Leon, who searched for the fabled fountain of youth. Paul said, *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day"* (2 Corinthians 4:16, NIV).

The Psalmist said, *"For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light"* (Psalm 36:9, NIV).

Only the Word of God can renew us. All other pursuits are in vain if they are being used to substitute the place the Word of God merits in our life.

Peter confirms this, saying, *"We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts"* (2 Peter 1:19, NIV).

Job said that he treasured God's Word more than his necessary food. David said God's Word was more valuable to him than thousands of pieces of gold and silver. Jeremiah said when he found God's Words, he ate them, and they became his heart's delight! I think there is a message here for you and me to take to heart.

Today, ask yourself:

What place does the Word of God have in my life? If another person looked at my relationship with the Word of God, what would they observe?

SOAK, SOW, FLOW: THE CORE CONCEPT FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING



“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:16 ESV)

Jesus Christ said, *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life”* (John 6:63, ESV).

A sponge soaked in water becomes soft and pliable. When we *soak* our mind, thoughts, and heart in the Word of God, we are focusing on life itself—the life of Christ that empowers and drives us to accomplish God’s purpose for us.

Certain passages speak to us in such a way that they become Spiritual M&Ms (verses we want to **m**emorize and **m**editate on). Once our heart is soaked with these verses, we can recite and pray them to our 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). I call this sowing to the Spirit.



From the Spirit we receive eternal life in our mortal body, a type of *flow back* from the Spirit. *“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you”* (Romans 8:11, NIV).

“Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life” (Galatians 6:8, NIV).

As these verses move from our head to our heart, they serve not only as Spiritual M&Ms, but they also become “Button Pushers.” They nudge us to ask, “What steps do I need to take to experience the reality of these verses in my life?”

When God’s Word operates in our life, the Spirit suppresses the desires of the flesh and lures of the world that would divert us from God’s purposes for us. We can then be effective instruments, like the pen in the hand of skillful writer, so God can continue writing his story through us to our lost and dying world.

Soak, Sow, and Flow is the CORE CONCEPT for enjoying a life now that will echo into eternity. May we be faithful in practicing it.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I taking the necessary steps to SOAK, SOW, and FLOW so the Word of God can dwell richly in my heart and operate effectively in my actions?

DNA MARKERS OF A STRATEGIC KINGDOM INVESTOR



“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)

The DNA markers of those who practice the concepts of KingdomNomics differ radically from those who abide by the “wisdom” promoted by the world system.

KingdomNomics thinkers focus their thoughts on the person of Jesus Christ.

KingdomNomics thinkers understand that they have been given a “loaf of time” that is being shortened by a slice each day.

KingdomNomics thinkers accept that they have been designed by God for a purpose to be fulfilled in the time they have left in this world.

KingdomNomics thinkers view their 3 Ts—time, talent, and treasure—as items at risk of being consumed by perishable goals in this temporary world, leaving them with nothing in the world to come.

KingdomNomics thinkers discover that, through honoring God, they can convert the perishable into imperishable goals with lasting values.



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KingdomNomics thinkers value their relationship with God through Jesus Christ as priceless gold.

KingdomNomics thinkers practice the core concept of the Christian life: SOAK, SOW, and FLOW. They see Christ living in and through them. *“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again”* (2 Corinthians 5:14-15, NIV).

KingdomNomics thinkers believe that God works through the grace-giving principles outlined in 2 Corinthians 9:6-15: *“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 9:8, NIV).

KingdomNomics thinkers are strategic kingdom investors who focus on giving while they are living. They follow the example of those who have gone before them:

Moses *“regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward”* (Hebrews 11:26, NIV).

The wise men *“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).

Zacchaeus *“stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount”* (Luke 19:8, NIV).

The world focuses on the here and now, with no thought of tomorrow. But the things the world considers important—power, position, wealth, and status—are perishable.

KingdomNomics thinkers *“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).

Today, ask yourself:

If someone were to examine me today, would they recognize the DNA MARKERS of a strategic kingdom investor in me?

CAPTURE THE VISION



“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10 NIV)

Have you noticed that when you meet someone new, the conversation often focuses on things you feel passionate about and what each person does for a living?

That’s similar to the way KingdomNomics works. We learn from Scripture that each of us is a work of God. *“He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works” (Psalm 33:15, NKJV)*. Isn’t it exciting to realize that God made you for a purpose?

As our relationship with God develops, he reveals more of himself and his plans for us. As we flow with the Holy Spirit, he empowers us to accomplish his purposes. Transformed KingdomNomics thinkers come to appreciate that we are living in a “perishing environment”; we have a limited period of time to prepare for entering the eternal world. Our natural desire to spend our time, talent, and treasure on the values of this world are trumped by our desire to focus on unseen eternal values.

Why did Jesus Christ come into this world?

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (1 Timothy 1:15, NKJV). Jesus also said, *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Matthew 24:35, NKJV)*. God’s Word will endure forever. *“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever” (Isaiah 40:8, NIV)*.



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Our souls and God’s Word will survive the time bubble. All else perishes. What an impact that should have on us!

“And the Lord answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it” (Habakkuk 2:2, ESV). I believe that this verse instructs us to capture the vision and run with the mission to fulfill the Great Commission. Let us use the gifts and talents God has given us to point people to the person of Jesus Christ.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I using the gifts God has given me to help point the way to salvation in Jesus Christ?

EXPERIENCING GOD'S FAVOR



"Those who find me find life and receive favor from the Lord." (Proverbs 8:35 NIV)

I find this verse highly motivating. This verse alone makes me want to know God; value his Word; practice the principles of SOAK, SOW, and FLOW; be transformed, and capture the vision God has for me.

Psalm 36:9 is another major "Button Pusher" verse for me. The psalmist writes, *"For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light."*



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I want to experience the life the Holy Spirit can and will impart to me as I practice the principles of SOAK, SOW, and FLOW. I also want to place myself in a position, subject to God's sovereignty, to experience his favor on my life. What a Spiritual M&M to munch on!

Ephesians 5:14 serves as a wake-up call: *"This is why it is said: 'Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'" When Christ shines on our lives, things happen.*

When we bring our lives in harmony with his will, God favors us. *"For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, nor did their own arm save them; but it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, because You favored them" (Psalm 44:3, NKJV).*

God's favor is indispensable for living a successful Christian life. However, we sometimes make the same mistake that Jonah noted: *"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs" (Jonah 2:8, NIV84).* We must avoid clinging to false idols that would keep Christ from shining on our pathway. Nothing is worth forfeiting the favor of God!

We want to "give while we live," for we have seen how giving with the right attitude pleases God. As we give of ourselves, it places us in a position where he can swing into action. In addition, he may favor us by showing us "hot deals from heaven" we can invest in that will echo into eternity.

All I can say to this biblical truth is, "Wow!" May this be increasingly evident in my life.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I incorporating these biblical principles in my life, so I can experience God's favor in my life?

GOD IS MY GOLD



“Yes, the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver.” (Job 22:25 NKJV)

Now we see it! All the DNA markers of the strategic kingdom investor come from God himself. Our relationship with Christ is more precious than anything else.

As we navigate through life, we want to experience the resurrection power of Christ. He alone is the reward of this life we seek to experience to the fullest. In Philippians 3:10, the apostle Paul writes, *“...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death...”*



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And in 2 Corinthians 1:20, Paul writes, *“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”*

Our relationship with God is the key to life, both in this world and in the one to come. Abram was exposed to this revelation:

“After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward’” (Genesis 15:1, NKJV).

No wonder Abraham had a mindset of *“being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised”* (Romans 4:21, NIV). Abraham’s vision of God and his faith allowed God to work mightily in his life.

If we have the favor of our Creator, what else could we ever need? His protection and the reward of his presence are beyond compare!

Our relationship with God is a LIVING RELATIONSHIP. All the other things we consider of great value are perishable.

Christ alone can deliver us.

Christ alone can preserve us from evil.

Christ alone can grant us eternal life.

“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son” (1 John 5:11, NKJV).

Truly, God is our gold as we bow to him and implore him to use us for his glory and for the expansion of his kingdom.

Today, ask yourself:

Do I appreciate the fact that God is my shield and my exceedingly great reward?

GOD'S CELL PHONE #33:3



“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”
(Jeremiah 33:3, ESV)

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14:18, NIV)

These are fantastic promises that God makes to us. As we call on him, he promises to answer us and to show us great and hidden things, particularly the secrets of the kingdom including his great plan of salvation for mankind. All of these things are a process of the Spirit of God's revelation to us.

Jesus himself says that he will come to us and not leave us as orphans. We are fortunate to know this truth. It gives us great comfort as we deal with the ever-changing environment of this world that is in the process of passing away.

The Word of God becomes increasingly precious to us as we absorb its living and working power, transforming us more into the likeness of Christ in our outlook regarding this perishing world. As a KingdomNomics thinker, we have several responsibilities regarding the Word of God; we need to READ IT, EAT IT, and LIVE IT, so HE WILL VISIT and PERFORM HIS GOOD WORD TOWARD US.



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Cortes, the Spanish conquistador, said, “We Spanish know a sickness of the heart that only gold can cure.”

In KingdomNomics, we would say, “We all have a sickness of the heart that only the Word of God can cure.”

“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” (James 1:21, NIV)

The power of the cross worked in the life of Paul. His objective was, *“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”* (Philippians 3:10, NIV) *“For in him we live and move and have our being.”*

As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’” (Acts 17:28, NIV)

Everything we have been, are, or ever will be is sourced in him.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I calling on God regularly? Am I “eating the Word” like Jeremiah? *“When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty.”* (Jeremiah 15:16, NIV)

OUR RACE



“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.” (1 Corinthians 9:24–25, NKJV)

Whether we realize it or not we are all in a race—a race against time. From an eternal perspective, it is a very short time. *“He remembered that they were but flesh, a passing breeze that does not return.”* (Psalm 78:39, NIV) That is a very short time!

The problem is we have to figure out what life is all about in that period of time, and make provision for the life in eternity. Whether we like it or not, we are all going to face eternity.

In KingdomNomics, we constantly remind ourselves that everything we can see and touch is in the process of perishing. The above passage is a reminder that we are in this race against time, and it is important to make sure we are running for the right goals and purposes. The world is running after perishing things, including wealth, status, position, power, and fame.



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Paul emphasizes the point that Christians are running for an imperishable crown, making sure we are building our lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ. This is why he said, *“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)

Jesus Christ said, *“Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”* (John 6:27, ESV)

Even gold and silver, the ultimate measure of value from the world’s point of view, will perish. *“They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will be treated as a thing unclean. Their silver and gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord’s wrath. It will not satisfy their hunger or fill their stomachs, for it has caused them to stumble into sin.”* (Ezekiel 7:19, NIV)

In KingdomNomics we remind ourselves, *“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”* (1 Peter 1:18–19, NIV)

These FACTS should have a direct impact on how we think, feel, and act in this world. After all, what we do in this world will echo into eternity.

Today, ask yourself:

To what extent are the biblical truths mentioned above impacting how I am spending my 3 Ts—Time, Talent, and Treasure? Am I living for the perishable or the imperishable crown?

GIVING WHILE WE ARE LIVING



“And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.’ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.”
(Luke 19:5–6, ESV)

We learn a lot from the encounter that Zacchaeus had with Jesus Christ. Here was a “money guy” who was hated by his own people because he was a tax collector for the hated Roman government. He was a self-starter, and he really did not care what the crowd thought, otherwise he would not have been a tax collector.

He wanted to see Jesus Christ, and he knew he had to get ahead of the crowd. No one ever achieved anything of value just by following the crowd. He was short and needed the aid of a tree perch to see Christ. When he heard the voice of Christ piercing the noise of the crowd, he responded.

Note the urgency of this encounter. Jesus told him to “hurry and come down.” Zacchaeus hurried and came down at the command of the Lord.



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This is what we must do when we have the opportunity to obey the command of the Lord. This opportunity would never occur again in Zacchaeus’ life. He had the sense to respond immediately. The encounter changed not only where Zacchaeus would spend eternity but also impacted how he would live in eternity. His actions would echo into eternity.

What else do we learn from this encounter? The life of Zacchaeus was CHANGED! His world view, his view of wealth, and his view of his fellow man were all changed. He was a man of decision. The Spirit enlightened his heart, moving him to follow through right away with the new insight given to him by the Lord.

He made provision on the spot to give away a large portion of his wealth, in effect, becoming a strategic kingdom investor. To Zacchaeus, money was to be used for the advancement of the kingdom of God.

Another lesson we learn here is to “do our giving while we are living.” Zacchaeus had the joy of giving while he was living. One advantage of following this practice is to see the benefit of giving to other people in genuine need.

What a great example for us to follow today with our time, talent, and treasure.

Today, ask yourself:

As the Lord reveals to me what he wants me to do, am I taking immediate steps to make sure I am doing it in accordance with his will?

PEACE: A RARE COMMODITY



“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.” (2 Thessalonians 3:16, NIV)

PeaCe is a rare commodity in our tumultuous world. Most people would give almost anything in order to experience peace. So many times people look in the wrong places for peace. The Scripture addresses peace in many places.

The above passage gives us a good start. We learn that Jesus Christ is the source of peace for the believer. In fact, we are instructed, *“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:15–16, NKJV)*



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Experiencing God’s peace is a CHOICE. We are to let the peace of God rule in our hearts. This is accomplished by being thankful and storing up the Word of God in our hearts so our minds can dwell on him and not on our problems. Our minds are key. Whatever controls our minds controls us.

“If people’s thinking is controlled by the sinful self, there is death. But if their thinking is controlled by the Spirit, there is life and peace.” (Romans 8:6, NCV)

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.” (Isaiah 26:3, NKJV)

We ought to ask the Spirit of Christ to control how we think, feel, and act.

Asking the Spirit to control our minds is a discipline. It takes practice to focus on the source of peace and not the particular matter that is troublesome to us at any given time. Scripture tells us how to tap into the peace God, *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6–7, NKJV)*

Finally, we want to make sure we are not just hearers of the Word, but also doers. *“Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working*

in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20–21, NKJV)

Peace flows with the life that is in harmony with the will of God.

As we practice these formulas to God’s peace, we will find that where worry and anxiety abounded, the peace of Christ will more abound more as we fix our minds on him and trust in him to navigate us through our problems.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I forfeiting experiencing the peace of God because I focus too much on the problems at hand rather than focusing my mind on the source of peace, the Lord Jesus Christ?

DELIGHT YOURSELF—IN GOD’S WORD



“When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty.” (Jeremiah 15:16, NIV) “Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4, NIV)

The Word of God is at the heart of KingdomNomics. KingdomNomics makes no sense unless it is understood within the context of God’s Word.

Both Jeremiah and the Psalmist show us how to position ourselves in relationship to God so God can make himself known to us and actively participate in our lives. Yes, feeding on the Word is critical for this to happen.

Jeremiah gives us the “mechanics” for experiencing God in our life. When he found God’s Words, he “ate” them. In other words, he internalized the Word of God by **MEMORIZING and MEDITATING** on it to the point God’s Word became his heart’s delight. We call these passages **SPIRITUAL M&Ms**, passages of Scripture to memorize and to meditate on and that we want to implant deeply in the depths of our souls. The Psalmist confirms this principle when he says that if we will delight in the Lord he will give us the desires of our hearts.



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As we delight in the Lord and his Word, his desires will become our desires so our prayer life will come more into harmony with his will. When this happens, we see more answered prayers because we are praying more in conformance to his will.

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” (1 John 5:14–15, NIV)

At the risk of being repetitive, we say regarding the Word of God, **READ IT, EAT IT, LIVE IT, and GOD WILL VISIT YOU TO PERFORM HIS GOOD WORD TOWARD YOU.**

Today, ask yourself:

*Am I delighting myself in the Word of God? Practice the **SOAK, SOW, and FLOW** principles of KingdomNomics, and then see what happens!*

THE SOWING AND REAPING PRINCIPLE



“Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.” (Galatians 6:8, NIV)

The sowing and reaping principle is a key spiritual concept we need to incorporate in our lives. In the secular world we understand the more we invest in a good investment, the greater returns we can expect. The same is true in a spiritual sense.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” (2 Corinthians 9:6, NIV)

The returns for investing properly in the kingdom of God are going to be HUGE! It makes sense for us to be wise and invest as much as we can when we have the opportunity to do so. Once any of our 3 Ts are invested or given, they cannot be taken away from us by anything or anyone. They are kept in heaven for us along with our salvation.

“And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.” (1 Peter 1:4, NIV)



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Because our investments in the kingdom of God are eternal, we want to make sure we practice the KingdomNomics principle of SOAK, SOW, and FLOW. We need to have the Spirit impart his life to our mortal bodies, which he will do if we sow to the Spirit.

“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.” (Romans 8:11, NIV)

Then the Spirit of Christ can bear fruit through us, enabling us to live more like Christ and enabling us to put to death the misdeeds of the body.

“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 8:13, NIV)

These are great Scriptures to memorize and meditate on, making them “SPIRITUAL M&Ms.” They are also “BUTTON PUSHERS,” urging us to take the steps necessary to make them personally operative in our lives.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I sowing to my flesh, or am I sowing to the Spirit so I can reap eternal life today?

THE “CONVERTERLATOR” CONCEPT



“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)

We had better listen carefully to any words Jesus Christ uttered. They are just as applicable today as they were when he walked the earth. We have seen how he brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. He also brought to light the perishable and the imperishable.

Everything we can see and touch is perishing: *“For this world in its present form is passing away.” (1 Corinthians 7:31b, NIV)*

Paul said, *“And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.” (1 Corinthians 9:25, NKJV)* The KingdomNomics practitioner is incentivized by the imperishable values held dearly by almighty God.



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Jesus tells us to use worldly wealth to gain friends for eternity, so that when worldly wealth is gone we will be welcomed into eternal mansions. Whatever currency we have in this world, including silver and gold, is in the process of perishing. None of these perishable items of earthly value will have any value in eternity. Therefore, Jesus Christ tells us to “convert it into the imperishable” by using it to win souls to Christ.

In KingdomNomics we have developed what we call the **“CONVERTERLATOR CONCEPT.”** This is the concept by which something that is perishing can be converted into something of imperishable eternal value. This is done through the CONVERTERLATOR!

Just think—proper investments of time, talent, and treasure made in the kingdom of God will last forever. They will echo into eternity. The verse quoted above, Luke 16:9, is what I call a “CONVERTERLATOR VERSE.” Worldly wealth used in helping to fulfill the GREAT COMMISSION will be imperishable in the world to come since it was used to win souls that will live forever in heaven.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I giving any thought of how I can convert my perishable time, talent, and treasure in this world into the imperishable that will last forever? Our time, talent, and treasure in this world are losing value every day.

THE SPIRIT FACTOR



“However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’—the things God has prepared for those who love him—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 2:9–11, NIV)

If we hope to be effective in practicing the principles in KingdomNomics, we must experience a continuing and growing relationship with the person of Jesus Christ. This can only happen when the Spirit of God performs his functions within the heart of the believer.

In the above passage, concentrate on the words “prepared,” “revealed,” “searches,” and “knows.” These are all functions performed by the Spirit of God for the people who love God.



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God has prepared things for those who love him. *“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10, NIV)*

We discover what these good works are as we cultivate our relationship with him. Secondly, it is the Spirit who reveals the things of God to us, according to this and other passages of Scripture. Our relationship with God is one of God continually revealing himself as we practice the concepts of SOAK, SOW, and FLOW. *“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” (John 14:21, NIV)*

Thirdly, this passage of Scripture states that the Spirit searches all things, including the deep things of God. Therefore, he is the only one who knows the thoughts of God. Unless the Spirit reveals them to us, we will never find out about them.

This is why Paul said, *“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.” (Ephesians 1:17, NIV)*

Without revelation from the Spirit of God, we cannot bring our lives into proper conformance to the will of God.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I asking God for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so I can know God better and be empowered to live the Christian life?

SEALS, REVEALS, AND DEALS



“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13–14, NIV)

Previous, we learned about the Spirit’s functions of *preparing, revealing, searching,* and *knowing.*



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Other functions of the Spirit of God include his *sealing* us at the moment we believe and trust in the gospel of Jesus Christ for our salvation. This is the guarantee of our inheritance in heaven that is being kept for us imperishable, incorruptible, and unfading.

This assurance of salvation sets us free to be of service to the King in the time we have remaining in this temporary world. This gives us time to invest our time, talent, and treasure in the imperishable values of the world to come instead of just spending our 3 Ts on what is perishing in this world.

After the Spirit seals us, he begins the process of revealing the things of God to us, as we just learned in 1 Corinthians 2:9-11. The sealing and revealing process is done for a purpose.

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.” (Titus 2:11–14, NIV)

God wants us to live a life of holiness in addition to having an expectation of the imminent return of Jesus Christ, who redeemed us for the purpose of being zealous to do the good works he prepared beforehand for us to do.

Our God is a God of provision, who gives us the power to do what he has called us to do. *“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:23–24, NIV)

Then God deals with us by working in us and through our circumstances. *“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”* (Philippians 2:13, NIV)

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory...” (Ephesians 3:20-21a, NIV)

May we learn how to tap into the power of God to serve his purposes in this world.

Today, ask yourself:

Is my agenda in line with the agenda of God as outlined above, or am I going my own way? What steps can I take to bring my life more in line with his will?

THE SPIRIT OPERATES



“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16, NIV)

There is a war inside of each of us. Though the old flesh always wants to reassert itself, the power of the Spirit can overcome it if we ask in faith for him to control how we think, feel, act, and talk.

“The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.” (Romans 8:6, NIV84)

The *mind* is key. The battle first takes place in our head. Whoever controls our mind, controls us. It is crucial we set our minds on what the Spirit desires.

“Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.” (Romans 8:5, NIV)

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” (Colossians 3:2, NIV84)

Paul further wrote, *“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:5, NIV)*

We can reject those thoughts that conflict with the will of God. By the power of the Spirit we can overcome the temptations of the flesh: *“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 8:13, NIV)*

Furthermore, we learn that *“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:24–25, NIV)*

This is the power of the cross working in our lives. *“May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” (Galatians 6:14, NIV)*

By an act of our will, we must choose to be controlled by the Spirit. We initiate that by asking the Spirit to control our mind. We choose to set our mind on the things above, the things the Spirit desires and not on the things of the flesh. By the power of the Spirit we can put to death the misdeeds of the flesh, and bring our thought life into captive obedience to Christ.

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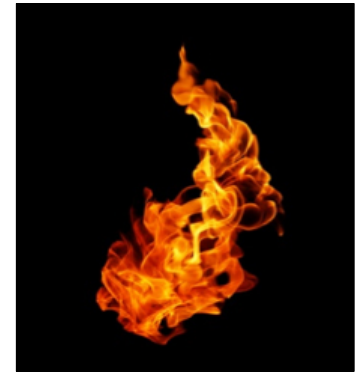


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May God help us to understand and incorporate these truths in our prayer life, through SOAK, SOW, and FLOW, seeing the reality of these concepts in our daily lives.

A Prayer for Today:

I ask you, Lord, to take control of how I think, feel, act, and talk. Help me to set my mind on the things above, the things of the Spirit, not the flesh. Help me to bring every thought into captive obedience to Christ today. I ask you to control my mind. In Jesus' name I pray.

WALKING IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE



“When we were baptized, we were buried with Christ and shared his death. So, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the wonderful power of the Father, we also can live a new life.”
(Romans 6:4, NCV)

Living a new kind of life is now possible for the believer who understands and practices these wonderful concepts. We have seen how the Spirit of Christ seals us, how we must choose to be controlled by him in our thought life, and how we can put to death the misdeeds of the body by the Spirit of Christ.

The reality of Paul’s insight—*“I was put to death on the cross with Christ, and I do not live anymore—it is Christ who lives in me. I still live in my body, but I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself to save me.”* (Galatians 2:20, NCV)—becomes more of our everyday life experiences. The Spirit of Christ overpowers the old self so we can walk in newness of life.

In fact, our lives become hidden in Christ: *“For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”* (Colossians 3:3, NIV)

We want to see more of our life hidden in Christ. After all, to become like Christ is now one of our primary objectives in life. *“My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you...”* (Galatians 4:19, NIV)



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“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” (1 John 3:2, NIV)

In the book of Acts, it was apparent that something had happened in the lives of the believers. At one point it is stated, *“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”* (Acts 4:13, NIV)

This is a tough question: When people look at us today as believers, can they tell we are a people who have been with Jesus?

Today, ask yourself:

Are there signs in my life that I am a person who is walking in the newness of life?

GIVING EQUALS INVESTMENT



“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
(Matthew 6:20–21, NIV)

THE TWO BIG REASONS TO GIVE!

A. Giving is your investment in eternity. It is your eternal investment account. The Christian life is all about giving, and we are not just talking about money. Giving includes giving one’s self, time, talent, and treasure.

Only two things will last for all of eternity: God’s Word will endure forever, and the souls of people will live forever in one of two places. Everything else perishes. Everything you and I can see and touch is going to perish.

Our relationship with Jesus Christ will determine **WHERE** we live in eternity. How we spend our time, talent, and treasure will determine **HOW** we live in eternity.



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B. Giving is the MAJOR GATEWAY for God to work big time in the life of the believer now!

To enjoy the benefits of God working in our lives now, we want to do our giving while we are living. We know this because God loves a cheerful giver. *“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”* (2 Corinthians 9:8, NKJV)

We are not talking the so-called prosperity gospel here. Those that promote that philosophy are indeed having a negative impact on the body of Christ. Legend says all of the apostles, with the exception of John, died a martyr’s death. John died in exile on the Isle of Patmos. He certainly wasn’t rich materially.

We do not see the prosperity gospel in the life of Paul when we read about the litany of beatings, jail time, hardships, and shipwrecks, etc. Throughout history, many Christians have faced horrible persecutions and deaths, and in many parts the world today, the same persecutions are taking place.

However, cheerful givers and investors of their 3 Ts in the imperishable values of the kingdom place themselves in a position where God can literally release the benefits of all spiritual and earthly grace in their lives subject to his sovereignty. This is why giving while we are living is

critical if we want to increase the odds of God working in our lives and circumstances so we can be a blessing to other people.

The KingdomNomics thinker will take the steps necessary to have this concept operational in life now: *“This is why it is said: ‘Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’”* (Ephesians 5:14, NIV)

When Christ shines on us, things happen! **His favor shines on us, so we can be a blessing to the people of our time!**

I, for one, want to place myself in a position where God can feel free to work in my life. *“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.”* (2 Chronicles 16:9, ESV)

Today, ask yourself:

Am I really aware how important the concept of giving or investing is regarding eternal values? Am I aware GIVING is the MAJOR GATEWAY for placing myself in a position where God can feel free to shower me with the benefits of his grace, so I can be a blessing to other people in this world?

Pray:

Today, Father, I pray you will mold me into being a vessel of blessing to the people you bring across my path in life. In Jesus’ name, I ask this.

BE GENUINE



“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22, NIV)

The other day I had the opportunity to observe a mockingbird. Mockingbirds are known for their ability to mimic the sounds of not only other birds, but also the sounds of insects.

The call of a mockingbird can be deceiving. Scripture warns us not to be deceived spiritually, but to *“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?” (2 Corinthians 13:5, NIV)*



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Jesus spoke harshly of the Pharisees, referring to them as hypocrites, people who pretended to be something they were not. There are people who wear the label “Christian,” but their “walk” is inconsistent with their “talk.”

Scripture says, *“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.” (Galatians 6:7–8, NIV)*

Those who sincerely practice the principles of KingdomNomics protect themselves against the dangers of being a mocker of God. *“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” (Hebrews 4:13, NIV)*

In order to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we must avoid, at all cost, pretending to be something we are not. We want our lives to echo properly into eternity.

If we are careful to heed what the Scripture says, then we have the prospect of seeing God tangibly work in our lives while we are still in this world.

“Great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds. Your eyes are open to the ways of all mankind; you reward each person according to their conduct and as their deeds deserve.” (Jeremiah 32:19, NIV)

We want to be sure we are not “mockingbird Christians” who only hear the Word and do not practice the Word in our everyday life.

A Prayer for Today:

Lord, help me to be a genuine reflection of what you want me to be in the world today, and forever. I ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

GUARDING OUR HEARTS AT ALL COSTS



“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” (Proverbs 4:23, NIV)

When we come to Christ, we give him our hearts in worship. This lays the foundation for all that follows in life. *“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” (Romans 10:9–10, NIV)*

As soon as we trust in Jesus Christ, alone, as our Lord and Savior, we are sealed by the Spirit of God, and we are justified and made acceptable to Almighty God. Now that we are secure in him, we are in a position to do the works he has prepared for us to do.

We are counseled to *“Let the message of Christ dwell among [us] richly as [we] teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in [our] hearts.” (Colossians 3:16, NIV)*

In KingdomNomics, we do this through practicing the principles embodied in SOAK, SOW, and FLOW. If our hearts are filled with his Word, it will help expel the things that would lead us astray, such as wrong attitudes, desires to sin, and the lures of the world.

The way we think, act, and talk all reflect what is in our hearts. What we nurture in our hearts will to a very large extent govern our behavior. This is why the Scripture calls us to guard our hearts above all else since it is essentially the source of everything we do.

We want to be filled with Christ and his Word. Remember, the Word of God is living and powerful. It works in those who receive it as the Word of God, not as the word of man, and trust in it.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I filling my heart with the Word of God as I am instructed to do in the Scriptures? Can you fill your heart and guard it with one or more of the Scriptures mentioned in today’s commentary?



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GOD'S WORD— LIKE A HAMMER!



“But if I say, ‘I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name,’ his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.” (Jeremiah 20:9, NIV)

Jeremiah is the prophet who found the Word of God and ate it, and it became the delight of his heart. In this passage, Jeremiah is saying God’s Word is like a fire, a fire in both his heart and his bones that must be released or spoken in accordance with the mission God gave him.

God’s Word is also like a hammer. *“Is not my word like fire,’ declares the Lord, ‘and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?’” (Jeremiah 23:29, NIV)*

God’s Word breaks the rock of “SELF” into pieces, so God can work his purposes out in our life, making it possible for us to use our 3 Ts—time, talent, and treasure—for kingdom purposes.

Christians today have the same “fire,” in that we are commanded to go into all the world to share the gospel that brings forth both life and immortality for our generation. The stakes are high, and the time is short.



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Scripture notes how we are a very special people, *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9, NIV)*

It is a God-given privilege to be a member of this great family of the redeemed, members of the church of the firstborn. We must perform these special functions that God has given us to do.

Not only are we to proclaim the praises of him to the world, but we are also called to praise and confess his name: *“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (Hebrews 13:15–16, NIV)*

With our lips we express gratitude and praise to God in addition to openly confessing him before man.

Today, ask yourself:

Have I found a way to become actively involved with the ARMY OF THE REDEEMED in bringing the gospel of life and immortality to light in my generation? Surely, I have something I can do to participate. I ask you, Lord, to direct my steps.

OUR HOPE!



“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our “lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” (Philippians 3:20-21, NIV)

It is amazing to think we are only passing through a temporary world, knowing the real world awaits us when our “time bubble” breaks, thrusting us into the eternal paradigm. We have the assurance that our citizenship is in heaven and that is where we are heading. In the meantime, we have the prospect of Jesus Christ returning at any moment.

This is truly a blessed hope! How encouraging to know that we will be freed from the foolishness of the wisdom and rulers of this age.



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I can hardly wait, in God’s timing, to receive a glorified body like the glorified body of Jesus Christ. This body will be beyond anything you and I can think or imagine. *“Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.” (Matthew 13:43, NIV)*

In the flesh we cannot even look at the sun without special glasses that protect our eyes.

In the meantime, we are to be busy in the part of God’s vineyard where he has placed us. We want to make sure we use our 3 Ts wisely with an eternal perspective in mind.

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.” (Titus 2:11–15, NIV)

We know there is more to life than the best that this world can offer. It is all going to perish. Truly we are in a desert wasteland from a spiritual standpoint. David expressed the same, *“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?” (Psalm 42:1–2, NIV)*

It will not be very long, “*He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*” (Revelation 22:20, NIV)

Today, ask yourself:

Am I living life anticipating that Jesus Christ could return at any time? What must I do to bring my life into conformance with his will today?

KINGDOM VIEW OF MONEY



“The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.” (Psalm 19:9-11, ESV)

The Bible warns us about the deceitfulness of riches. I have come to the conclusion that money is like a rattlesnake. It has to be handled carefully.

It is paramount we understand and take to heart what the Scripture says about money. If we are not careful, it can become the god of our life. In fact, we are counseled to desire God and his Word more than riches.

Here are some passages that tell us the same thing.

In Proverbs we learn, *“Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold.”* (Proverbs 8:10, NIV)



Job tells us, *“...and assign your nuggets to the dust, your gold of Ophir to the rocks in the ravines, then the Almighty will be your gold, the choicest silver for you.”* (Job 22:24–25, NIV)

In comparison to having God be our gold and silver, gold and silver should be relegated to the dust of the ground.

Here again, we see our relationship with the Lord is more valuable than any amount of money.

“After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.’” (Genesis 15:1, NKJV)

God is literally to be our gold and silver, and to be cherished much more.

In KingdomNomics we know this is true; gold and silver, along with everything else in this world, is perishing. There is no intrinsic eternal value in gold and silver or any other form of wealth.

Therefore, we want to be sure to follow Peter’s counsel, *“So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. You won’t spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God.”* (1 Peter 4:1–2, NLT)

By arming ourselves with this attitude, we will aim to live a life of investing our perishable 3 Ts—time, talent, and treasure—in the imperishable values of heaven.

Today, ask yourself:

1. *Am I sensitive to the dangers of money?*
2. *Where does the Word of God stand in relation to the other things I consider important in my life?*
3. *How much do I value the instruction and wisdom from the Word of God?*

A COMFORTING TRUTH



“Now this is what the Lord says. He created you, people of Jacob; he formed you, people of Israel. He says, ‘Don’t be afraid, because I have saved you. I have called you by name, and you are mine.’” (Isaiah 43:1, NCV)

How comforting to realize that God knows us by name. He has created us, formed us, and even fashioned our hearts individually. *“He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.”* (Psalm 33:15, NKJV)

Each of us is unique and special, created for fulfilling a specific purpose.



Our priority must be to discover what we have been designed for, so we can find God’s purpose for us. Then we can be busy doing the works he has prepared for us. *“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”* (Ephesians 2:10, NLT)

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When we are used for our designed purpose, we can live the abundant life.

We must listen for the voice of the Shepherd, *“The one who guards the door opens it for him. And the sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.”* (John 10:3, NCV)

By delving into the Word of God, we listen for what he has to say to us individually. His Spirit will prompt us and lead us in into the works he wants us to do.

Most comforting is the thought of his return for us. *“My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”* (John 14:2–3, NIV)

When he returns for us, we want to be busy doing the work we were designed for in his vineyard. We know he will be pleased with us, if we are focused living a life that will echo into eternity.

Today, ask yourself:

Do I know how special I am to God, believing that he created me, formed me, fashioned my heart, and knows my name? Am I looking forward to his return so I can be with him?

THE BREATH OF LIFE

“Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7, NIV)

We live in a world filled with people who have no fear of God reflected in the way they live. As we can see from the above verse, our very life—every breath and every heartbeat—are sourced in God.

“In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.” (Job 12:10, NIV)

“The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” (Job 33:4, NIV)

“And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.” (Acts 17:25, NIV)



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We are talking about the power of life that belongs to God. It makes sense that created people should pay deference to their Creator.

There is a general saying that one should not bite the hand that feeds you. It does not make sense to offend the one who can literally shut our breath of life off at any given moment.

However, the world continues not to listen even though the Lord is turning up the volume with the increasing turmoil we are witnessing. He seems to be asking, “Do you hear me now? Do you hear me now?”

In the time of Daniel, King Belshazzar (the last king of Babylon) failed to learn from his father, Nebuchadnezzar, who finally honored God after being broken.

“At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.” (Daniel 4:34, NIV)

During a drunken party, Belshazzar profaned the vessels brought from the temple in Jerusalem.

Daniel the prophet said, *“Instead, 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.” (Daniel 5:23, NIV) That night Belshazzar was murdered.

We have to be careful not to grieve the Holy Spirit. Our body is the temple of God. *“For in him we live and move and have our being.”* As some of your own poets have said, *“We are his offspring.”* (Acts 17:28, NIV)

By practicing the concepts of KingdomNomics, we honor and serve the King of Kings.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I living a life that honors my Creator? Am I investing my life in what will count for eternity?

KNOWING GOD



“Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.” (Hosea 6:3, NLT)

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6, NKJV)

These verses contain the keys to enjoying a life now, and a life that will echo into eternity. We have seen how he holds our breath in his hand, and that every heartbeat is sourced in God.

We have seen how he has designed each of us for a specific purpose, having fashioned each heart individually.



He created us, formed us, and knows us by name. Therefore, it is critical to press on to know him to the extent he will reveal himself to us.

KingdomNomics thinkers want to know God at all costs, and will press on to know him. As surely as we know that the sun will rise tomorrow, we know that God responds to those who pursue him.

We also recite the truth that God rewards those who diligently seek him. These Scripture passages create a sense of expectation in us to look for the finger of God working in our circumstances.

These are core verses—Spiritual M & Ms to soak our heart in. We want them to be our experience in this world. We want to grow with the growth that comes from God, *“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.”* (1 Peter 2:2, NIV)

Today, ask yourself:

Do I desire the sincere milk of the Word? Am I choosing Scripture verses as Spiritual M & Ms (Memorize and Meditate) and soaking my heart in them in order to get to know God better?

GOD'S PRECIOUS INVESTMENT

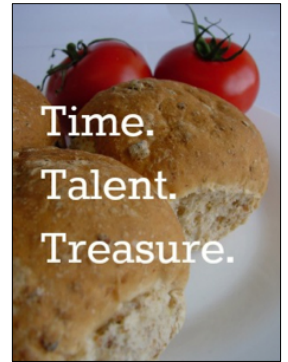


"I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance." (Ephesians 1:18, NLT)

As believers in Christ, we are God's precious inheritance. He has purchased us with the precious blood of Christ, and looks forward to spending eternity with us.

"But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:13, NLT)

God has invested a lot in you and me. He has given us time, talent, and treasure in varying degrees. We will have to give an accounting for the use of these gifts; however, we should view our time in this world as the greatest opportunity to serve in advancing his kingdom.



He has given us the assurance of salvation: *"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life." (John 5:24, NLT)*

Such statements of assurance give us a positive outlook and confidence for the future. "Opportunity" is the word that pops into my mind. May God flood our hearts with the light of positive opportunity to be of service to him, and to enjoy rewards that he has for those who take advantage of his offer. Our relationship with him is "incentive driven" and not "fear driven."

Christ lives in us. All we have to do is to get the "self life" out of the way and to allow him to live his life through us. *"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20, NLT)*

This can be our reality if we will daily present ourselves to him for his service.

Today, ask yourself:

Do I understand I am completely accepted by God as his child? Am I trusting Christ to live his life through me?

YOUR POWER SOURCE



"God has spoken plainly, and I have heard it many times: Power, O God, belongs to you." (Psalm 62:11, NLT)

"Each time he said, 'My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.' So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me." (2 Corinthians 12:9, NLT)

It is amazing what lengths people will go to in order to gain access to those they perceive as "powerful people."

The Psalmist had it right. Power belongs to God. He is the one who can bring about the change we need in our lives and in the circumstances we encounter in this turbulent world.

In so many ways we are weak, powerless, and vulnerable. However, we have been born to a living hope. Subject to the sovereign will of God, we are kept by the power of God:

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In God's great mercy he has caused us to be born again into a living hope, because Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Now we hope for the blessings God has for his children. These blessings, which cannot be destroyed or be spoiled or lose their beauty, are kept in heaven for you. God's power protects you through your faith until salvation is shown to you at the end of time." (1 Peter 1:3-5, NCV)

Paul had a chronic physical condition that burdened him, and he prayed to have it removed. A message came from the Lord saying that God's grace was all Paul he needed to sustain himself. He was told that God's power works best in weakness. Paul said he would boast about his weaknesses so the power of Christ could work through him.



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Is there a lesson for us here?

"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong." (1 Corinthians 1:27, NIV84)

May the power of Christ rest on you and me. Weakness may help make us better candidates for God to use.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I acknowledging my weakness and dependency on God? Is his grace sufficient for me?

THE GOAL: CHRIST FORMED IN YOU



"Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives." (Galatians 4:19, NLT)

Paul went to great pains to say that the ultimate goal is to have the person of Jesus Christ formed in us. We need to realize what it means for Christ to live in and through us—to invite the Spirit of Christ to work as he reveals himself to us.

This is a lifelong process; I have yet to realize major aspects of this objective. However, I know that God wants to become more fully developed in my life and in the lives of other believers. So let's learn together what is involved.



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One of the first truths to realize, believe, and trust in is this fact:

"For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority." (Colossians 2:9–10, NLT)

Jesus Christ is inside the believer. We are complete in him. He is the one who is the source of life that is now lived through us.

"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20, NLT)

"So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus." (Romans 6:11, NLT)

Christ can live through us as we reckon our old self DEAD to sin. The old self is still there, but we are no longer obliged to let it rule over us:

"Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live." (Romans 8:12–13, NLT)

Try placing your name in these verses to make them personally applicable to you. Where it says "I" "self" "me" "you" etc. substitute your name. That will make a tremendous difference in how you read these and other verses.

If we hope for these Scripture passages to become part of our daily experience, we need to accept, by faith, the truths stated in them.

Today, ask yourself:

Do I believe that my old self was crucified with Christ on the cross? What step will I take today to trust Christ to live his life in me?

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**THE TRANSFORMATION:
CHRIST FORMED IN YOU**

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 13:14 and Ephesians 1:17

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14, NLT)

“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.” (Ephesians 1:17, NIV)

Practicing the concepts of KingdomNomics is an outgrowth of our relationship with Jesus Christ. He progressively transforms our attitudes, thinking, feelings and actions as his Word invades the depths of our being.

When we receive Christ, he takes up residence inside us and begins molding us into his likeness. This is not a work we do; it is a work of the Holy Spirit.



Paul prayed that God would give us a Spirit of wisdom and revelation to know these basic truths. Again we see the word “revelation.” We progress in our Christian walk only to the extent that Christ reveals himself to us, and to the extent we are willing to submit to him living out his life in us.

When we have fellowship with the Holy Spirit, we can expect to see the reality of Christ living in our life. This gift of God is prompted by our loving God in response to what he has done for us.

“But God has shown us these things through the Spirit. The Spirit searches out all things, even the deep secrets of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:10, NCV)

“Now we did not receive the spirit of the world, but we received the Spirit that is from God so that we can know all that God has given us.” (1 Corinthians 2:12, NCV)

Only through communion with the Spirit will God reveal what he wants us to know.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I in synch with the Spirit of God so I can receive whatever revelation he chooses to reveal to me?

Pray:

Lord, give me a willing spirit to allow you to perform what you desire to do in my life.

From www.KingdomNomics.com

THE PRIORITY: CHRIST FORMED IN YOU



“Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.”
(2 Thessalonians 3:5, NKJV)

We spend time with the people we love, and we spend time doing the things we love. Such endeavors frequently require patience. This is certainly the case in our relationship with God. The process of getting to know him takes time and patience.



A lot of things cry for our attention. However, most of these distractions are temporal; they are in the process of perishing. KingdomNomics thinkers focus on the eternal:

“...We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18, NKJV)

We want to make sure our heart is directed into the love of God—into his values and his purposes.

“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. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.” (Colossians 3:1–4, NKJV)

Focus on the words “seek,” “set,” “died,” “your life hidden,” and “Christ who is our life.”

As we *seek* the things above and *set* our minds on those things, there is an increasing “gravitational pull” toward Christ himself as we “pull away” from the world, realizing our lives ultimately will be swallowed by the immortal *life of Christ*.

In fact, as we practice KingdomNomics in the power of the Spirit, more and more of our life will be *hidden* in Christ. We look forward to that time when we will appear with him in glory.

We need to remember the Father and Christ, *“in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”* (Colossians 2:3, NIV)

Here is the source of wisdom and the treasures of life. If only we, and the rest of the world, would spend time with the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Today, ask yourself:

If someone were examine my life today, what would they say I have my mind set on, and what am I seeking as the first priority of my life?

Where does this command of Jesus fit into my life: “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33, NIV)

THE PERSPECTIVE: CHRIST FORMED IN YOU



“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17, NIV)

The kingdom of God is inside us. It is the person of Jesus Christ. Attributes include righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Eating and drinking are “external factors”—perishing activities that feed a perishing physical body. They are among the things we can see. The internal workings of the Spirit are eternal, unseen except as they are reflected in our behavior. These attributes are part of the divine character God wants to work out in us.

Paul prayed, *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13, NIV)*

This “overflowing” is God working in us in response to our placing our trust and faith in him. By the power of the Spirit we can overflow with hope.

Our circumstances are always changing. My mother once said, “The picture changes.” For most of us the picture of our circumstances changes daily. One day it is sunny. Other days it rains. Only the Holy Spirit can produce the hope that anchors our soul.



My mother also said, “This too will pass.” Nothing is permanent in this temporary world.

We have to realize just what kind of a world we are presently living in:

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

“That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16, NLT)

We are being renewed inwardly by the Holy Spirit. This is one of the major reasons we need to be in constant communion with the Holy Spirit. He gives us the spiritual empowerment, life, and hope that enables us to live in this environment held under the sway of the evil one. If we practice the principles of KingdomNomics—SOAK, SOW, AND FLOW—we will experience continuous renewal in the Holy Spirit.

Today, ask yourself:

What is one thing I can do today to cultivate a Godly perspective with regard to what is happening in the world around me?

THE POWER: CHRIST FORMED IN YOU



“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”
(Ephesians 5:18, NIV)

We have a choice to make. Who is going to control how we think, feel, and act? Christ or the old self?

We have seen that the Spirit of God gives us the power to walk in the newness of life since we are raised with Christ from the dead. We have seen how the Spirit works in the life of the believer to transform us from the inside out.

“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16, NIV)



If the Spirit controls us we will overcome the power of sin in our life. *“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 8:13, NIV)

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Both of these verses say we have the power of choice here. What will it be? It is up to us.

As a child I was taken to an amusement park from time to time. Usually, we ride on the bumper cars that had large rubber rings around them to protect the drivers. The “fun” was trying to bump the other cars. Sometimes people would hit us too hard. That would produce a fleshly reaction of anger that would make us want to hit back as hard as possible.

Life is like this. We are always being “bumped” by circumstances and other people. Sometimes these bumps can be rather nasty, producing a less-than-Christian response. At those moments we have a decision to make: Will we let the old flesh control our reaction, or will Christ control us?

We make the choice by the act of our will. If we fail to make the right choice, we need to confess the sin and ask the Holy Spirit to again assume control. *“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)

The old self does rear its ugly head from time to time, so we want to be careful to keep a “short sin list” by confessing our sin when we become aware of it.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I choosing to be controlled by the Holy Spirit so my life can be brought into conformance with the will of God? Is my behavior becoming more Christ like?

SERVING THE KINGDOM



“...And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.” (Isaiah 58:10–11, NIV)

Living a fulfilled life is the desire of every living being. Many of us attempt to find life in the wrong way in the wrong places, and in following the wrong pursuits.

The best antidote for fighting depression, anxiety, fear, and other negative emotions that can cripple us is to discover what we have been designed for, and to use ourselves in conformance to our design. In some way we want to help meet the needs of other people, spiritually, mentally, physically, and emotionally.

We have been designed for eternity. God has a purpose for us, and we need to discover what that is as we cultivate our relationship with him. When we serve his purposes in conformance with his plan, we place ourselves in a position to experience God’s favor and blessing.



In today’s passage, we see God is interested in our helping to meet the needs of others. When we are involved in such exercises, we have less time to think about ourselves, and we find ourselves in the river of God’s blessing.

We have the promise of his guidance, and that he will satisfy our needs in the spiritual wilderness in which we find ourselves. *“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” (Proverbs 11:25, NIV)*

We will be refreshed by his guidance and strength. I love the picture of being a well-watered garden, a spring flowing waters that never fail.

This brings us to the point that we must be involved in something bigger than ourselves. Then we can be a beneficiary like Jacob:

“In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye, like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft. The Lord alone led him; no foreign god was with him.” (Deuteronomy 32:10–12, NIV)

God alone is our Provider. We are, then, very careful to make sure we take no foreign god with us on our journey through this world.

Today, ask yourself:

In what ways am I helping to refresh other people, so I can be refreshed myself?

PILGRIMS AND STRANGERS IN THIS WORLD

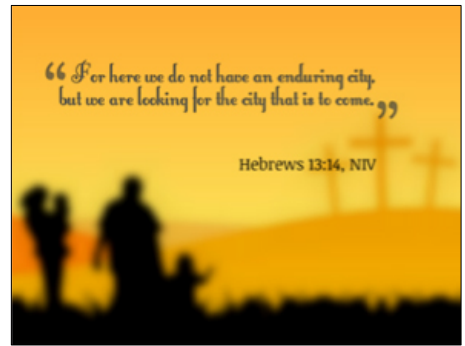


“Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.” (Psalm 84:5-7, NIV)

Because we live in a temporary, perishing world, we need to constantly remind ourselves we are on a pilgrimage here. We are blessed to realize our sufficiency is in God alone, and that all we need is sourced in him.

Most of us find ourselves in the Valley of Baca from time to time. That is a place of drought or need. It is then we find our provision in the Lord himself as we allow him to teach us. Many times these “valleys” can be places of blessing where we can experience revelation from God and sense his presence.

Of the heroes of faith it is said, *“All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.”* (Hebrews 11:13, NIV)



“For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.” (Hebrews 13:14, NIV)

With this viewpoint we can go from “strength to strength,” knowing our goal is to ultimately appear before our God at the end of our journey.

“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23, NIV)

Today, ask yourself:

Do I view myself as a pilgrim who is passing through this world? Am I listening to and applying the messages God is giving to me?

Pray:

Lord, help me to listen to your voice. Enable me to receive and apply your teaching. Continue to mold me and make me more Christ-like as I respond to life’s experiences.

SON-TANNED CHRISTIAN

“The same thing is true of the words I speak. They will not return to me empty. They make the things happen that I want to happen, and they succeed in doing what I send them to do.”

(Isaiah 55:11, NCV)

God wants to make things happen in our life. God wants his living and powerful Word to produce change in our attitude, thinking, feelings, and actions.

He wants to put to death the sin that lurks in our soul, so Christ can continue his ministry through us. He wants to use us to meet the spiritual, physical, and material needs of others.

God does not want his Word to return to him empty—that is failing to accomplish the purpose for which it has been sent. One of the questions he will ask us when we meet him face to face is, “To what extent did you allow God’s Word to prosper in your life, and to accomplish the purpose for which it was sent?” As I reflect on this truth, I find it to be very sobering.

We can tell when others have been spending time in the sun. If they position themselves correctly, spending the right amount of time in relationship to the sun, they will develop a nice suntan. If they start missing time in the sun, they begin to “peel,” showing that they have not been spending the time in the sun.



If we spend time practicing KingdomNomics principles, including the concepts of SOAK, SOW, and FLOW, people will notice change occurring in our life. It will become apparent we have been spending time abiding with the SON. They’ll notice that our life produces fruit of the Spirit and an aroma of Christ.

However, if we begin to miss our times with the Lord, failing to practice the SOAK, SOW, and FLOW concepts, the traits of the flesh emerge again and we lose our “Son tan.” We can be abrasive, unkind, impatient, and full of anxiety. We want to avoid losing our “Son tan” because these characteristics impair our effectiveness as servants of God.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I a “son-tanned” Christian? Am I spending enough time in the SON, so people can see a difference in my life?

THE NEWNESS OF LIFE



“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:18–19, NIV)

God’s Word is wonderful, telling us continually that he is in the renewal business. It is exciting being a Christian because we anticipate that God will always do something new and exciting in our life. Our responsibility is to place ourselves in a position so God can work through us. How do we do this?

First, we need to stop dwelling on the past. When we dwell on the past, it is like trying to drive a car always looking in the rear view mirror. There is nothing we can do about our past except to put aside the parts that pull us down, and to learn not to make the same mistakes in the future.

God is always moving. He is in the creation business. He is in the renewal business.

“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, ESV)

We are new creatures in Christ: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)*



If we walk in faith, he will provide “the way in the wilderness” and streams in the spiritual desert of this world. If we are sensitive to his leading we will recognize that he is in the process of doing a new thing in us and through us. When this happens, it exciting to know we are in the center of God’s will.

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead...” (Philippians 3:12–13, NIV)

Today, ask yourself:

Do I dwell on my past, or am I looking for the new things that God wants to do in my life?

THE SECRET TO FINDING GOD'S FAVOR



"Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it. Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For those who find me find life and receive favor from the Lord." (Proverbs 8:33–35, NIV)

People are looking for LIFE and FAVOR or advantages in their circumstances. However, most of the world is looking in the wrong places for these ingredients.

In this incredible passage of Scripture, we learn what it means to find life from God's perspective, and how to experience the promise of receiving favor from God.

Life and favor are sourced in God alone.

In order to receive God's favor, we need to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We are declared righteous when we trust in Jesus alone for our salvation:

"For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." (Romans 10:10, ESV)



"Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield." (Psalm 5:12, NIV)

The Psalmist recognizes that his success happened because of God's favor:

"Lord, when you favored me, you made my royal mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed." (Psalm 30:7, NIV)

It was only because of God's favor that the Hebrew people were able to take possession of the Promised Land:

"For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, nor did their own arm save them; but it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, because You favored them." (Psalm 44:3, NKJV)

In practicing the concepts of KingdomNomics, our prayer should be:

"May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands." (Psalm 90:17, NIV)

This is a tremendous incentive for us to spend time in the Word of God. For it is here we find the instruction and wisdom from above that will help make us the kind of person God can favor.

Do you know God is looking for people he can favor?

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him...” (2 Chronicles 16:9, ESV)

Today, ask yourself:

Am I allowing the Spirit of God to develop in me a blameless heart that is loyal to God and fully committed to him?

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.