



KINGDOMNOMICS

REFLECTIONS OF A KINGDOM BOY

(PART 5)

TREASURE

TALENT

TIME

PHIL WIEGAND

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KingdomNomics:

Reflections of a Kingdom Boy

(Part Five)

by Phil Wiegand

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THE PATH TO PERSONAL PEACE

PART 1

“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:9, NIV)

What an example to follow! How many people could make that statement about themselves? Just put into practice what you have seen and heard from Jesus, and you will experience peace.

Peace is a rare commodity. People spend billions to find peace through drugs, alcohol, pleasure, and other experiences.

Paul shows us the only way to true peace. Peace is sourced in the person of Jesus Christ. Peace comes from God:

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

(John 14:27, NIV)

Paul, who experienced much tribulation, shows us how to tap into the source of this peace. Only people who have a personal relationship with Christ can experience what he is telling us.



So what can we learn, receive, and see in the life of Paul? What can behavior do we see in him that we should attempt to practice in our own lives?

First and foremost, Jesus Christ was the focal point of his life:

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21, NIV) Everything in Paul’s life centered on the person of Christ. We need to ask ourselves: *What is the focus of my life?*

Second, through prayer Paul experienced the workings of the Holy Spirit as he focused his thought life on God:

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV) He had communion with the Holy Spirit. Remember, it is the Spirit who searches all things, even the deep things of God. He is the one who imparts divine power and life to our mortal bodies.

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

(Romans 8:11, NKJV)

Third, the Spirit supplies and makes provision for us:

“For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:19, NKJV) This statement was written when Paul was in prison. The Holy Spirit will supply the peace we are looking for in this turbulent world.

Fourth, Paul summarizes these truths:

“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)

This “formula” is better than any pill this world can offer. These verses prove the Word of God is truly living and powerful, working in those who practice it.

I am personally working to SOAK, SOW, and FLOW with these passages of Scripture. These are great Spiritual M&Ms!

Today, ask yourself:

Am I looking to worldly provision for inner peace, or am I following the path to peace Paul outlines in the Scripture?

THE PATH TO PERSONAL PEACE

PART 2

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:3–5, NKJV)

It is necessary to have the Spirit of God working in us because we are fighting principalities, authorities, powers, cosmic forces, and spiritual wickedness that seek to destroy us.

A battle rages for the control of our mind. We know that whoever or whatever controls our mind controls us. Paul and other Bible greats give us the answer so we can begin to experience *“...triumph in Christ... and the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.”* (2 Corinthians 2:14, NKJV)

It takes mental discipline and practice to experience inner peace.

First, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to control our mind to focus it properly:

“So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.” (Romans 8:6, NLT)



Note also, *“You will keep the mind that is dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.”* (Isaiah 26:3, HCSB)

Second, we need to bring every thought into captive obedience to Christ, as noted in today’s key verse.

Third, we see must memorize and meditate on the Word of God: *“Receive, please, instruction from His mouth, and lay up His words in your heart.”* (Job 22:22, NKJV)

Without the Word our mind does not have the “food” and “life” it needs for sowing to the Spirit.

“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)

“This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.” (Psalm 119:50, ESV)

Fourth, we need the Lord to direct our heart toward him. Our flesh always gravitates toward focusing on the problem besetting us. But focusing on the problem provides no life; it only produces anxiety. Therefore, we need to ask God:

“May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.”

(2 Thessalonians 3:5, ESV)

No wonder Job said he treasured God’s Word more than edible food!

David, another great man who faced a lot of tribulation, said he valued God’s Word more than thousands of pieces of gold and silver.

Jeremiah ate God’s Word so it could become his heart’s delight in the midst of tribulation.

All of us would do well to emulate these Bible greats.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I attempting to store God’s Word in my heart so the Spirit can give life and peace to my mortal body when I need it?

BE A CONVERTERLATOR

“Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.” (Luke 16:9, NLT)

In KingdomNomics one of the things we have emphasized is that we are engaged in leveraging the perishable into the imperishable. We are agents of change—transformers who are experiencing an earthly life now that will also echo into eternity. We have developed a “new word” with its various renditions to describe what we are doing: CONVERTERLATORS. We are CONVERTERLATORS, people who are converting the perishable into the imperishable.

If you are a CONVERTERLATOR, you are an agent engaged in “CONVERTERLATING” for bringing about change. The Apostle Paul, who was a CONVERTERLATOR, is a great example for us to follow in using any and all means available for advancing the kingdom of God.

Luke 16:9 is a CONVERTERLATOR verse. It is an example of God instructing us to be wise in the use of our perishing three Ts: time, talent, and treasure. We should be using them to win friends for eternity, so that when our earthly, perishable items are gone, we will be welcomed into our new eternal home.

This is another reason why we must continually interface with the Bible, which gives us the best instruction as to what to do with our time, talent, and treasure. It is one thing to know the principles of KingdomNomics, but we need to follow the instructions to become doers of the Word and not hearers only.



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Today, ask yourself:

Am I engaged in the process of CONVERTERLATING and being an agent of change by using my time, talent, and treasure for the advancement of God’s kingdom?

DO NOT BE A CONSUMERLATOR

“Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia.” (2 Timothy 4:10, NLT)

Demas deserted Paul because he loved the temporary perishing things of this life more than the eternal aspects of life promoted by the gospel. Being actively involved as a CONVERTERLATOR is one of the best protections against falling into the plight of Demas. This brings another new word to be aware of as we navigate our way through this world: CONSUMERLATOR.

A CONSUMERLATOR is an agent or modality that is engaged in stealing, killing, and destroying our opportunities to CONVERTERLATE our perishable time, talents, and treasures into the imperishable values that will last for eternity. Demas was a CONSUMERLATOR because he was apparently unwilling to defer experiencing some temporary pleasures of this world in order to accumulate treasure in heaven.

We are facing eternity. As Christians we will have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ.



“For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.”
(2 Corinthians 5:10, NLT)

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. If the work survives, that

builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.”

(1 Corinthians 3:11–15, NLT)

It is critical we learn how to make the Word of God personally operative in our lives so we can make the right choices while we are in this world. The Word of God shows how we can avoid being overcome by the CONSUMERLATOR. Most importantly, it tells us how to avoid the eternally devastating result of having our life end up in a pile of ashes before the judgment seat of Christ.

Be a CONVERTERLATOR and avoid the CONSUMERLATORS!

Today, ask yourself:

Am I implementing the best offense against the CONSUMERLATORS who steal, kill, and destroy the opportunities I have to CONVERTERLATE my time, talents, and treasures into the imperishable values of heaven?

THE BATTLE: CONVERTERLATOR VS. CONSUMERLATOR

“There were two hundred leaders from Issachar. They knew what Israel should do, and they knew the right time to do it.” (1 Chronicles 12:32, NCV)

“Listen, I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. So be as clever as snakes and as innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16, NCV)

We find ourselves in a world filled with all kinds of conflict. Conflict rages in both the seen and unseen realms. Secular forces battle spiritual forces all the time, but we often are only able to see the partial results of the battle. Individually, we all face battles of various kinds, including physical, material, spiritual, emotional, and mental stresses. Human casualties are abundant.

But the Word of God gives us the hope, power, guidance, and instruments needed to fight these secular and spiritual battles.



“The LORD says, ‘I will make you wise and show you where to go. I will guide you and watch over you.’” (Psalm 32:8, NCV)

God tells us how he will make us like the sons of Issachar. They had an understanding of their times and knew what Israel should do. This wisdom was a gift from the Lord.

Only the Word of God can give us the proper perspective of the battles going on in this world. It guides us in what we should be doing in our current day and age.

Jesus said to be wise as serpents, since we are in a world full of ravenous wolves. The world system seeks to destroy, but it will ultimately be destroyed, according to Scripture. Until then, the Bible gives us the counsel needed to conduct ourselves in this difficult world. It gives us the understanding of our times.

We have the option to become skilled CONVERTERLATORS. If we are successful in this endeavor, then we have a great opportunity to be victors rather than victims. Failure to become a skilled CONVERTERLATOR causes us to run the risk of being devoured by the CONSUMERLATOR and suffer eternal loss.

Further, we will miss out on experiencing the major gateway by which God can and will move majestically in our lives while we are still in this world! Who wants to miss that opportunity?

Today, ask yourself:

Do I realize that secular and spiritual battles are raging around me? Am I beginning to understand the importance of becoming an effective CONVERTERLATOR in my world?

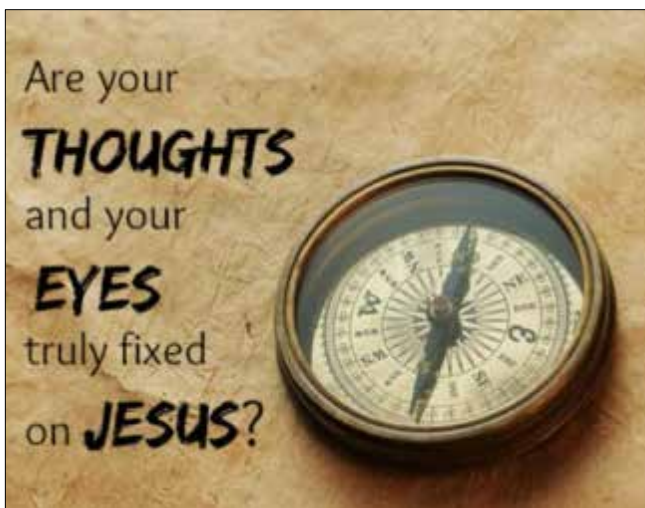
THE COMPASS OF LIFE

“He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered.”
(Proverbs 28:26, NKJV)

“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
(Judges 21:25, NKJV)

Our point of reference is critical in becoming a CONVERTERLATOR. The above verses summarize what is wrong in our world: People refuse to acknowledge God and instead trust in their own hearts. To do so is to make oneself a fool. People do whatever they think is right in their own eyes. They think that no one, including God, is going to tell them what to do. We see the evidence of this foolishness on the evening news.

Many Christians drift away from their mission. They fail to do what the Psalmist did: *“I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.”* (Psalm 16:8, NKJV)



Many have fallen into the trap of the CONSUMERLATOR and follow the world and its wisdom. *“However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.”* (1 Corinthians 2:6, NKJV)

Or because of the peer pressure of the crowd, they lose sight of the Lord. *“And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.”* (Luke 19:3, NKJV)

So what is the proper point of reference for us to look for guidance?

Our point of reference is the person of Jesus Christ: *“Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest.”* (Hebrews 3:1, NIV)

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
(Hebrews 12:1–2, NIV)

The key concepts for us are to “fix our *thoughts* on Jesus” and “fix our *eyes* on Jesus.” Practice doing this and the needle of our life compass will point to the true reference point—Jesus!

Today, ask yourself:

How am I making sure not to drift from my mission in my own life? Where are my thoughts and eyes truly fixed?

GOING, GOING, GONE!

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." (Mark 13:31, NIV)

This is an incredible statement! Everything is ultimately going to pass away. Our time, talents, and treasures will expire when we do. They will do us no good in eternity. We must use them while we are on this side of eternity. We are like the shopper who has won a contest and is allowed to buy as many groceries as she can within a short period of time. When the time expires, the shopping spree ends.

However, according to the Bible, we know that the Word of God will never pass away and that the soul of each person is going to exist forever in either heaven or hell. The soul going to heaven will spend eternity based on how his time, talents, and treasures were spent on earth.

This is why KingdomNomics is concerned with the brevity of life. The Bible comments extensively on life and how short it is. *"He remembered that they were but flesh, a passing breeze that does not return."* (Psalm 78:39, NIV)



"Surely the lowborn are but a breath, the highborn are but a lie. If weighed on a balance, they are nothing; together they are only a breath." (Psalm 62:9, NIV)

"Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." (James 4:14, NIV)

"You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure." (Psalm 39:5, NIV)

We need to have understanding of these concepts so we can be busy CONVERTERLATING the perishable into the imperishable before the opportunity to do so vanishes. We want to be a yield-active, fruit-producing, and fruit-bearing CONVERTERLATORS while we can.

Today, ask yourself:

What steps am I personally taking to be a yield-active CONVERTERLATOR?

HAMMER, SAW, OR SCREWDRIVER?

“God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.” (Ephesians 2:10, NCV)

To be effective CONVERTERLATORS, we need to know how we have been individually designed and the purpose for which we have been designed. There are all kinds of tools for building a house, including hammers, saws, and screwdrivers, just to name a few. Each one of these has been designed for a specific purpose. It is not effective to try to use a saw as a hammer or a screwdriver as a saw.

First, we must realize that we are God’s workmanship. He has made us.

“Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.” (Isaiah 64:8, NIV)

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

Our purpose for this world is to do good works—specific works that God planned for us a long time ago!

Second, we discover just what kind of CONVERTERLATOR MODALITY we are. Then will be able to determine the kind of work God wants us to do.



Third, God presents us with opportunities for us to engage in as we seek to CONVERTERLATE the perishable items of this world into the imperishable values of the kingdom.

“Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.” (Titus 2:13–15, NKJV)

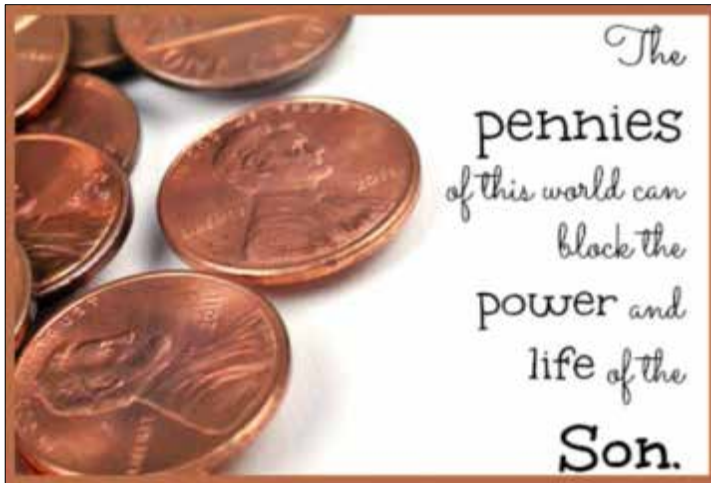
Today, ask yourself:

Have I discovered the spiritual gifts God has given me? Am I CONVERTERLATING them into helping advance his kingdom?

THE BIG WEAPON OF THE CONSUMERLATOR

"So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"
(Luke 16:11, NIV)

The CONSUMERLATOR will use many weapons to blunt our efforts as effective CONVERTERLATORS of our time, talents, and treasures. One of the most effective weapons the CONSUMERLATOR uses is worldly wealth. Remember, the CONSUMERLATOR wants us to spend all of our time and efforts on earthly matters that are in the process of perishing. The person who buys strictly into what the world system has to offer is going to end up with nothing in eternity.



The mature CONVERTERLATOR has made the great discovery: *"Then the Almighty will be your gold, the choicest silver for you."*
(Job 22:25, NIV)

"Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you." (Job 22:21, NKJV)

"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)

The personal relationship with God is more important than anything else the world has to offer. In fact, *"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs."* (Jonah 2:8, NIV84)

One day I placed the word *GOLD* beside *GOD*. If you delete the "L" from *GOLD* you have the word *GOD*. The "L" represents whatever we are living for in this world. The purpose of life for so many people is to accumulate as much wealth as possible.

The CONVERTERLATOR comes to the conclusion he must move the "L" from *GOLD* and move it under *GOD* to be placed in service to him. By doing this, one is able to take gold, which is going to perish like everything else, and use it for accumulating treasure in heaven. You can take it with you! However, you have to send it ahead by CONVERTERLATING it into kingdom activities, like helping to fulfill the Great Commission.

It is so easy to be blinded by earthly wealth. If you hold a penny close enough to your eye, you can block out the sun. In the same way, the pennies of this world (the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for more) can block the power of the Son.

Only through the prism of the cross of Jesus Christ can we have the proper perspective to worldly wealth and how it should be used.

Today, ask yourself:

Have I moved the “L,” what I am living for, to be placed in service to God and his kingdom? Am I CONVERTERLATING it into kingdom activities?

CONSUMERLATOR WEAPONRY

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12, NIV84)

“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13, NIV84)

“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17, NIV84)

A Christian cannot be an effective CONVERTERLATOR without the Word of God. Along with the Holy Spirit, the Word is a modality for bringing the necessary transformation in our hearts, attitudes, and mindsets. It is the means for nourishing and fueling the very roots of our being. The Word also is usually the major means we learn about the will of God and how to implement the strategies he reveals to us through his Word. He communicates with us through his Word.

Unlike other written documents, the Word is living and powerful; it works like a powerful medicine in the one who has the right relationship with it. That is why in KingdomNomics we say *read it, eat it, live it, and God will perform his good Word toward you.*



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The generation of CONVERTERLATOR power is only sourced in the Holy Spirit of God. The yield-active, fruit-bearing CONVERTERLATOR lives by the Holy Spirit. When he lives life under the Spirit's control, he is able to put to death the misdeeds of the body. This enables him to triumph over the CONSUMERLATOR'S temptations of the flesh and overcome the lures of the world that attempt to mitigate our CONVERTERLATING efforts to convert the perishing into the imperishable.

“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)

The process for making this a reality in the life of the CONVERTERLATOR is done through soak, sow, and flow, which is discussed in KingdomNomics. This is the divine dynamic for making the Word of God personally operative in our everyday lives.

The CONVERTERLATOR weaponry enables us to be on offense so we can take new ground and remain standing. A young soldier dying in the American Civil War said, "Write home, and tell them I died facing the enemy." We always want to be facing the enemy and advancing for the kingdom.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I using the Word of God as a weapon to be a yield-acting, fruit-bearing CONVERTERLATOR? How can I increase my effectiveness?

SEALS, REVEALS, AND DEALS

“That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.’ But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God’s deep secrets.” (1 Corinthians 2:9–10, NLT)

The Holy Spirit does all of the above. He seals us at the pivotal point of spiritual birth: *“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,”* (Ephesians 1:13, ESV)



As we cultivate our relationship with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit reveals more and more to us as we mature. Scripture teaches us the source of true life so we can be the yield-active CONVERTERLATORS.

“And he said to them, ‘Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’ ” (Luke 12:15, ESV)

“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)

The Holy Spirit gives life or enabling power to our physical bodies: *“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”* (Romans 8:11, ESV)

Therefore, we are to choose to live life under God’s control so we can overcome our sinful nature: *“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)

Because of this empowerment, we are to count ourselves dead to the power of sin and alive in Christ Jesus, presenting ourselves to him for his service.

Our relationship with God is about all of these truths being worked out in our lives through the various circumstances we encounter. We learn to depend on his power in order to access his divine nature through the exceedingly great promises he has given to us.

“Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and

goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.” (2 Peter 1:1–4, NIV)

Today, ask yourself:

Am I accessing God’s divine nature, depending on God’s power, and learning his precious promises to us?

CONVERTERLATING BY INVESTING TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

“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)

As in salvation, the transforming power of God does all of the work in the CONVERTERLATING process. It is initiated by God, continued by God, and finished by God. We are the mere instruments, vessels, or modalities for the working power of God to perform in us and through us.

God creates in the yield-active CONVERTERLATOR the God-given desire to give and invest our time, talents, and treasures in kingdom expansion. This God-given desire then develops into a God-driven action to do the investing.

As CONVERTERLATORS we have made the great discovery that our CONVERTERLATING the perishable into the imperishable results in “padding our eternal 401(k).” This is huge motivation for us.



As CONVERTERLATORS, we are to discover that CONVERTERLATING activity in our lives is the major gateway for God to work in our circumstances. CONVERTERLATING enables us to see the goodness of God’s Word, and it enables us to get a taste of the power of the coming age.

Creating the desire to CONVERTERLATE and trumping the desire to CONSUMERLATE on the perishing things of this world can be addicting!

We once again realize the critical importance of following the principles in KingdomNomics regarding the Word of God: Read it, eat it, live it, and God will perform his good Word toward you. Our “secular greed” is then increasingly replaced with a “spiritual greed.” Investing in kingdom advancement becomes more important to us than what this temporary, fleeting, and perishing world says is so important.

My 100-year-old aunt taught me a saying she learned in her early years in grade school: “A habit is like a cable. We weave it one strand each day until it becomes so strong it cannot be broken.” I have taken the liberty to change word *habit* to *faith*. “Faith is like a cable. We weave it one strand each day until it becomes so strong, it cannot be broken.”

CONVERTERLATING not only becomes a habit, but it also becomes a modality process for increasing our faith relationship with God.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I weaving my faith into such a strong strand that it cannot be broken?

THE ACROSTIC “G-I-V-E-R”

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

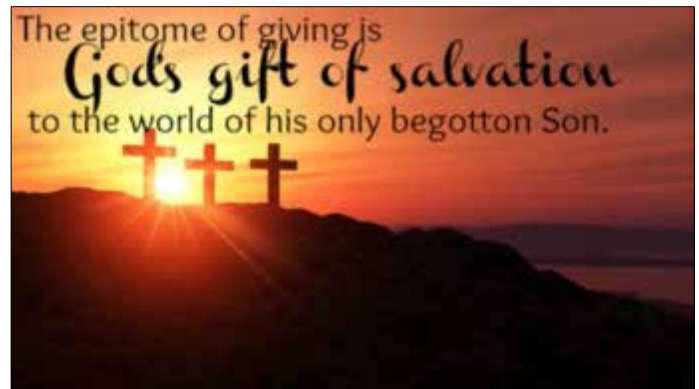
“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.” (Revelation 22:12, NIV)

The Christian life is all about giving. The epitome of giving is God’s gift of salvation to the world of his only begotten Son: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16, NIV)

GOD GAVE!

When one becomes a Christian CONVERTERLATOR and dedicated to converting the perishable into the imperishable values of the kingdom, he becomes a giver, increasingly living for the one who died for him and rose again from the dead.

“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 5:15, NIV)



When the CONVERTERLATING process begins, God is active in the life of the believer. The first Scripture verses today show us God in action and what the expected results will be.

G—GRACE GIVING, a God-given desire and God-driven desire to give.

I—I am crucified to the flesh and lures of the world to the point I have become a yield-active CONVERTERLATOR.

V—VICTORY over self to the extent that CONVERTERLATING is overcoming my CONSUMERLATOR nature.

E—ETERNAL objectives are the focused targets of my EYES.

R—REWARDS of an eternal nature are an important motivational force in my life.

The Word of God has spelled it out for us. We have the opportunity to choose whether to be a CONVERTERLATOR, interested in converting the perishable items of this world including time,

talents, and treasures into the imperishable values of the kingdom, or a CONSUMERLATOR, interested in indulging in the fleeting, perishable values of this world.

Each of us has to make the choice. Do I want to enjoy life now within the framework the Lord has explained so that my life can echo into eternity? Or do I choose to live a life dedicated to the temporary values of this perishing world that will vanish at the judgment seat of Christ?

Today, ask yourself:

Am I becoming a G-I-V-E-R as defined above? Which choice am I making: to live within the framework the Lord has explained or dedicated to the temporary values of this world?

CHRIST, THE CHIEF CONVERTERLATOR PERSONIFIED

“Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

(Colossians 1:12–14, NKJV)

God the Creator is always creating, moving, transforming, and bringing everything into conformance with his will. He does this through his pure, unadulterated power: *“God has spoken once, twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God.”* (Psalm 62:11, NKJV)

These verses exude POWER!

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” (Hebrews 1:1–4, NKJV)

CONVERTERLATORS are instruments carrying the power of God in order to CONVERTERLATE the perishing into the perishable. CONVERTERLATING is that power process at work in a tangible way. The divine power of God through the sacrifice of his only son, Jesus Christ, has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance. This is supernatural power! God’s power delivered us from the power of darkness. He conveyed us into the kingdom of his Son. Only God’s divine power could do this.

This however, is not the end of the good news regarding the CONVERTERLATING power of God. The CONVERTERLATING power of God was not a onetime thing—it is at work today!

“And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.” (Ephesians 1:19–21, NKJV)



These verses reveal that the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is at work today and is being exercised toward us according to the sovereignty of God!

“That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,” (Ephesians 3:16, NKJV)

This is the power that can make me into a yield-active, fruit-bearing, and fruit-producing CONVERTERLATOR!

No wonder the apostle Paul further stated, *“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”* (Ephesians 3:20, NKJV)

If we could only have such a relationship with our Lord so he could manifest himself in our lives and circumstances far beyond anything we could ask, think, or imagine!

As CONVERTERLATORS, we have to raise our expectations as to what God is capable of doing through his children who are filled with his Holy Spirit. Our lack of belief and expectation may be limiting the work of God through his people.

Today, ask yourself:

Is my expectation of what the power of God can do too little? Do I truly believe God can work far beyond anything I could ever ask, think, or imagine?

JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD

“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)

This passage is the wonderful message of salvation. It is a work of God himself who alone can do this. Other passages of Scripture confirm this truth:

“My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.” (1 John 2:1–2, NLT)

Note that Jesus alone is the sacrifice for our sins. Nothing else is needed; He is the full satisfaction for the payment of our sin. This truth is further stated in Hebrews:

“Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” (Hebrews 1:3, NKJV)

God’s acceptance of us is solely the work of Christ. God’s justification is a gift from him that we must receive by faith.

“Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.” (Romans 8:33, NKJV)

“Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.” (Colossians 1:12–13, NKJV)



Yes, God himself has qualified us, delivered us, and transported us into the kingdom of his Son. How thankful and grateful we should be!

Once we receive the gift of salvation by faith, we are free to serve him where he has placed us. But salvation is just the beginning. We must then become a CONVERTELATOR to make sure we are taking our position of play on the field of life to help fulfill the Great Commission.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I experiencing the freedom God wants me to experience, so I can fill the position he has for me on the field of life?

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BY THE SPIRIT

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.” (2 Corinthians 13:14, NKJV)

It is almost impossible to live life without encountering stress, fear, anxiety, and worry. But all of the above—the grace of Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit—are needed for us to be consistently successful in overcoming stress, fear, anxiety, and worry in our lives.

Thankfully, avenues of escape are provided through our relationship with Jesus Christ. We have previously shown one way of doing this:

“Do not be anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6–7, ESV).



Image Credit: © enterlinedesign via Foto.com

Understanding the role of the Holy Spirit gives us additional ammunition to overcome these common emotional obstacles.

We have access to the Lord by the Spirit who imparts life to our mortal body. This is why it is so necessary for us to be living in union with the Holy Spirit. We need to be filled with and controlled by him. Only by him do we have access to the “weaponry” needed to live victoriously in this world.

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:4–5, NKJV)

“The Spirit battles for the control of our mind: So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.” (Romans 8:6, NLT)

These verses tell us the Spirit will enable us to enjoy both life and peace as we allow him to control our minds. His revelations enable us to tear down the things that exalt themselves against God and lead us astray from the purposes God wants us to pursue.

The Spirit also gives us the power of Christ to overcome the lures of the world and the flesh.

“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 8:13, NLT)

No wonder Paul had this to say: *“For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death”* (Romans 8:2, ESV). The sins of stress, fear, anxiety, and worry can be overcome as we live in union with the Holy Spirit.

Today, ask yourself:

When I am stressed, fearful, worried, or anxious, do I ask the Holy Spirit to take away these deadly thoughts and emotions? Do I soak my heart in Scripture when fearful thoughts disrupt my life?

THE PATH TO PEACE

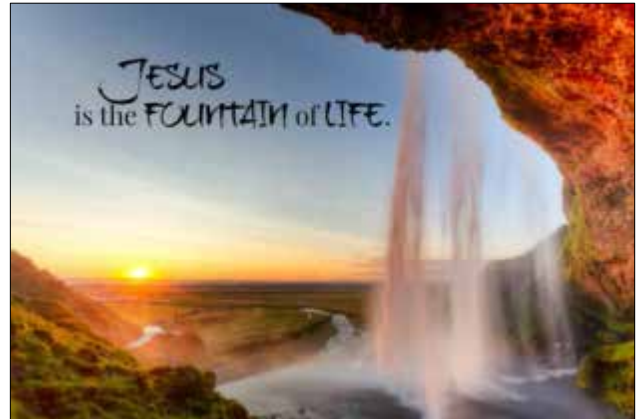
“And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15, NLT)

Jesus Christ is the source of our peace. He is the fountain of life. As believers, our relationship with him allows us to have access to this peace through SOAK, SOW, and FLOW, a process that is a basic principle in KingdomNomics.

Paul shows us how this can be done:

“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. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:16–17, NKJV).

These verses encompass all of the steps in the SOAK, SOW, and FLOW principle.



First, the Word of God needs to be filling our lives. His Word gives life to us as we store it in our hearts by memorizing and meditating on it.

Second, we sow by reciting, praying, or singing in our hearts to the Spirit of God. Then the Spirit imparts his life to us.

Third, we flow with the Spirit by obeying what God wants us to do. We do all of this with a thankful heart. Gratitude is important in the eyes of God.

The next time you face a problem, focus on the person of Jesus Christ, instead of the problem, and follow the above steps with the Word of God you already have stored in your heart. Then you can make the discovery that the Word of God is truly living and powerful.

Experiencing peace is a choice for believers. If we look to Christ and trust in him, we can have peace. If we trust in self and focus on the problem, we will possibly experience fear, depression, and frustration.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I regularly storing the Word of God in my heart so I can sow to the Spirit of Christ?

GRATITUDE: THE MISSING INGREDIENT

“When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus, praising God in a loud voice. Then he bowed down at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. (And this man was a Samaritan.) Jesus said, ‘Weren’t ten men healed? Where are the other nine? Is this Samaritan the only one who came back to thank God?’” (Luke 17:15–18, NCV)

It appears that man is not grateful for all of the provision God has provided for living in this world. We often tend to be self-centered, focusing more on the negative rather than being thankful for what we do have.

It is counter cultural to express gratitude and to have a thankful spirit. Most of the world is interested in asserting rights and demanding, “what is rightfully mine.” Many people want things to be freely given to them or to obtain them with a minimum amount of work. Our political system is built on who will give me more for free, taking from some in order to give to others.

The above encounter of the ten lepers with Jesus Christ reflects the attitude of most people in the world today. Only one in ten bothered to return to the Lord to praise and give thanks for his healing.



Image Credit: © sonyakamoz via Fotolia

This encounter illustrates the fact that every breath and every heartbeat are sourced in almighty God. This is true of every good and perfect gift enjoyed by mankind. Scripture tells us God loves to be praised and thanked for all of his wonderful provisions. In fact, such expressions move God into action for those who do so.

The wise person will be sure to practice what the Psalmist said, *“Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion” (Psalm 103:1–4, NIV).*

Today, ask yourself:

Do I have a grateful heart? Do I praise God and express my gratitude to him for all his provisions?

“And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.” (Matthew 2:12, ESV)

Notice the wise men were told not to go back to Herod. In many ways, Herod symbolizes the world system. Nothing in the world system encourages us to be engaged in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The value system of the kingdom is in opposition to that of the world.

The world system says to serve self and place your own personal needs above everything else. The value system of the kingdom is described in the Sermon on the Mount in the beatitudes.



For the Christ follower, his focus in life becomes Christ-centered, not self-centered.

“He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.” (2 Corinthians 5:15, NLT)

Notice that the wise men departed to their country “by another way.” When we trust in Jesus Christ alone for our salvation, we begin to engage our world in a different way. As our mind is transformed, we develop a different worldview. Our new convictions begin to progressively change our behavior.

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2, ESV)

We see our world as being temporary and perishable. We now focus our attention on the imperishable values of the kingdom. This fact alone encourages us to get off the bench, get in the game, and play the most yield-active converterlating position we can find for helping to fulfill the Great Commission.

Today, ask yourself:

How much are my Christian convictions impacting my daily life? Do I have a kingdom worldview?

AVOIDING MISSION DRIFT

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” (Matthew 25:13, NIV)

We are counseled in Scripture to watch for many things. We are particularly told to be on the **W** look out for the return of the Lord, which can happen at anytime. Our time bubble can pop at anytime, thrusting us into the eternal paradigm.

We need to guard against mission drift. Converterlators are on mission and need to keep on mission. The following acrostic can help us keep on mission:

W—WORD

“Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts.” (2 Peter 1:19, NLT)

A—AIM

“So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.” (1 Peter 1:13, NLT)

T—TEMPTATION

“Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” (Mark 14:38, NLT)

C—COMMIT

“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.” (Psalm 37:5, ESV)

H—HELP

“The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.” (Psalm 28:7, ESV)

Following these steps will help protect us from mission drift and from the evil one.

“Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.” (Proverbs 30:5, ESV)

Today, ask yourself:

Am I taking steps regularly to keep on mission?



**Keep
W.A.T.C.H.**

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OPEN MY EYES

“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.” (Psalm 119:18, ESV)

To understand the Word of God, we need special revelation from God through the Holy Spirit. Revelation and transparency are the hallmarks in any relationship. Jesus promised that both he and the Father would make their home with us and reveal themselves to us if we obeyed their commandments.

For this to occur, we need to pray for the Lord to open our eyes and give us understanding.

“Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.”
(Luke 24:45, ESV)

This is necessary because, *“the natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned”* (1 Corinthians 2:14, ESV).

Through the Word, God reveals the secrets of the kingdom to us. We gain understanding of God’s eternal plan and our role in it. The Word holds priority in the life of the convert since he has made the great discovery: *“This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life”* (Psalm 119:50, NKJV).

Yes, life is in the Word of God!

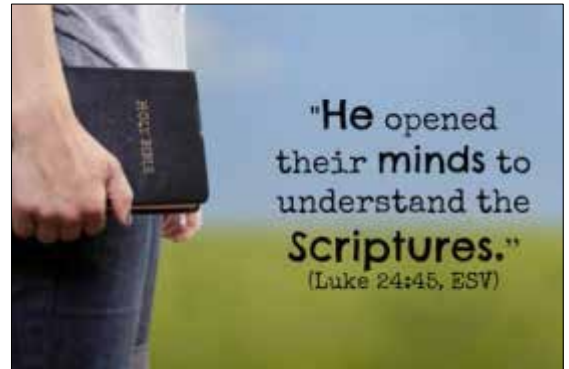
Jesus also shows how his Word sanctifies or cleanses us.

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:17, NIV)

Life, truth, and cleansing—what benefits! Time spent in the living Word is time well spent. The experience makes life fulfilling and abundant.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I asking God to open my eyes and give me more understanding of the Word when I read it?



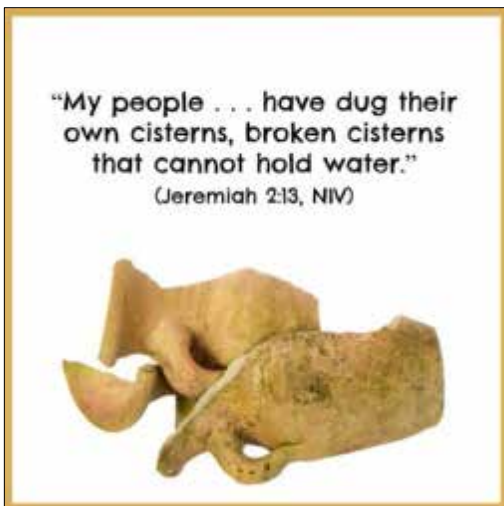
BROKEN CISTERNS

“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” (Jeremiah 2:13, NIV)

Many people in the secular world look for life in the wrong places. Believers always need to be on their guard to avoid making this same mistake. Notice this verse begins with “My people.” They are accused of making two big mistakes: forsaking the true source of life and looking to alternate sources for meeting their needs.

The people of Jeremiah’s time had forgotten that God is the only true living source of life. Jesus tells us to abide in him so that he can abide in us. By not reading, eating, and living the Word of God, we abandon the source of the living power and nourishment we need to live abundantly in this world.

The fallout from abandoning regular reading of the Word is like building broken cisterns that fail to hold water. We run the danger of looking elsewhere for other things to give us the life we are looking for to fulfill us.



Jonah learned this truth when he deliberately refused to obey God: *“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs”* (Jonah 2:8, NIV84). Grace includes the life of fulfillment that God has for us. By forsaking God and clinging to the false idols of this perishable world, we miss out on the best God has for us.

It is good to remember, *“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink’”* (John 7:37, NIV84).

He is the source of life and the fountain of living waters. He says, *“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life”* (John 6:63, NIV).

Today, ask yourself:

Am I looking to Jesus Christ as the source of my life?

THE POWER OF DEEP CONVICTIONS

"...Because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake." (1 Thessalonians 1:5, NIV)

A major problem in our world is that many people lack deep convictions to govern their attitudes and life actions. In the minds of many there are no absolutes, and it is okay for each person to do as they please.

Such an attitude does not sit well with God. As our creator he instructed us how we should conduct ourselves relationally, both with him and others. When these instructions are violated, the ultimate result for the violators – individually or as nations – is to be judged by God.

As present day *converterlators* and practitioners of KingdomNomics, we want to be sure to follow the examples of Abraham and Caleb, who had deep convictions about their relationship with God and faith in his capacity to do what he had promised.

People with deep convictions regarding God are a different people with a different spirit. Deep convictions regarding the living and powerful Word of God can transform us into effective members of the King's team.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I a person God can count on to help fulfill his Great Commission?



THE POWER TO LOVE IS SOURCED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

"...And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (Romans 5:5, NIV)

It is only through God's power that we can love others in the way he desires. This is confirmed by this verse:

"...For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." (2 Timothy 1:7, ESV)

The kind of love, power, and self-control we need to overcome the weaknesses of the flesh and the lures of the world must come from a power greater than ourselves. It is through the Spirit we are able to put the death the misdeeds of the flesh. It is through the Spirit that God works in us to do the things he wants us to do. By his Spirit we exercise the self-control we need to discipline ourselves. We do not have that power in and of ourselves.



The same is true when it comes to love. Fortunately, God has poured his love into our heart by the Holy Spirit. Now we are able to see why we must cultivate having communion with the Holy Spirit:

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

As we commune with the Holy Spirit, he can perfect the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ in us, and he can empower the love of God to flow through us to touch the lives of others. In this way we can be good advertisements for the kingdom of God.

I remember the great ad for razor blades that indicated we could "look sharp, feel sharp, and be sharp" if we used their brand of razor blades. How wonderful it would be if we could always look sharp, feel sharp, and be sharp as representatives of the King.

We have a shot at that possibility when we will walk under the control of the Holy Spirit, reflecting the love of Jesus Christ for others.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I a razor sharp advertisement for the kingdom?

WE HAVE WORK TO DO

“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.” (John 17:3–4, NIV)

This is eternal life: knowing God and Jesus Christ.

Jesus came into the world to give the world this message. Without him, there is no hope of personal salvation. Those who accept this truth will enjoy a life that will echo into eternity.

Notice he said he *brought glory to God by finishing the work God gave him to do*. This should be a major goal for each of us. We must discover what God designed us for and find the work God wants us to do.

Just as tools are used for different purposes, you have been designed for a specific purpose. We can be used to bring glory to God if we keep his Word and obey him in fulfilling the mission he has given to us.

Jesus tells us just what that is: *“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.” (John 17:17–18, NIV)*

I cannot overstate the importance of being immersed in the Word of God. I have to know the game plan God has for me to be an effective team player. As I am sanctified in the truth of his Word, I gain insight into his plans for the world and myself.

Part of that plan involves being sent into the world like Jesus was sent into the world by his Father. We are on mission—all of us. We are to make Jesus Christ known throughout the world. What a privilege it is to be part of a mission that will help determine the eternal destinies of multitudes of people.

May we develop a heartfelt passion for helping to fulfill the Great Commission!

Today, ask yourself:

How passionate am I about the things that are dear to the heart of God, such as helping to fulfill the Great Commission? How will I ask God to strengthen my resolve?



GOD'S WORD IS FOOD FOR THE SOUL

"Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."' (Matthew 4:4, NIV)

There you have it. If we are going to experience a true spiritual life renewal, we need to know and receive the Word of God, *"but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."* (2 Timothy 1:10, NKJV)

Without God's Word we are weak, ignorant vessels, losing our way in this complex world system dedicated to keep us from discovering and living the truth.

Why do you think Job said he treasured God's Word more than his necessary food? Why do you think Jeremiah said he ate God's Word when he found it? Why do you think David said God's Word was more valuable to him than thousands of pieces of gold and silver?

David said, *"This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life."* (Psalm 119:50, NKJV)

Jesus said, *"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)

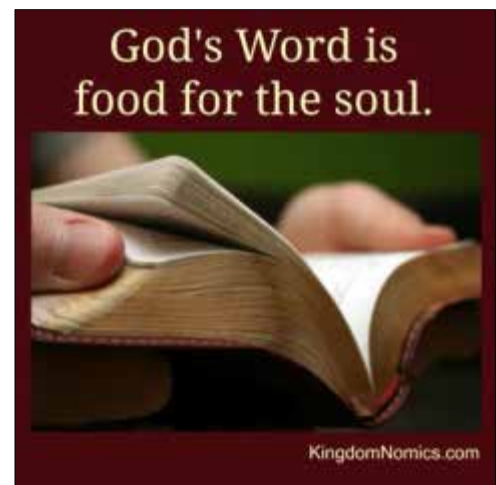
The critical message in these passages of Scripture is, "know and live God's Word." We cannot live without it. God's Word is food for our soul.

Peter tells us, *"And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."* (2 Peter 1:19, NKJV)

It is through the Word of God that our mind is renewed, enabling us to discern what the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God is for our life.

Today, ask yourself:

Do I understand that I need God's Word as much as physical food in order to live properly in this world?



WHAT A SAVIOR!

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’” (John 1:29, NIV)

I never get tired of hearing God’s wonderful plan of salvation. It is truly all a work of God. The Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, takes away the sin of the world. That includes my sin and your sin. He does it without our works, behavior, or anything else:

“For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” (Hebrews 10:4, NLT)

We are told, *“My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.” (1 John 2:1–2, NLT)*

“For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.” (Hebrews 10:14, NLT)

Jesus alone atones for our sins, and he alone provides for our eternal security. He has purchased our redemption. We have our wonderful relationship with the Father because the blood of Christ has provided the way for us, giving us entrance to have audience with our Father in heaven:



“And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus.” (Hebrews 10:19, NLT)

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

(Ephesians 1:13–14, NKJV)

Remember the words in this verse: *trusted, believed, sealed, guarantee, redemption*. All of them are backed up by God himself.

Jesus Christ has saved us from ourselves! In other words, we are not to trust in ourselves, our behavior, or any works we might do to earn salvation. He came to tell us, “Trust in me for your salvation. My shed blood is the only payment that God will accept for the payment of your sin.” Thank God he has done this for us!

Today, ask yourself:

Do I remember what Jesus has done for me, and daily express my gratitude to him for being my Advocate?

RELATIONSHIP: THE KEY COMPONENT TO A FRUITFUL LIFE

“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)

This is an incredible statement to be making to the believer in Jesus Christ. By his sacrifice Jesus Christ has made us dead to the power of sin.

We see this reality take place in our life when, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we put to death the misdeeds of the body. Sure, the old nature lurks around, always trying to re-assert itself (which it does, if the Spirit is not in control of us).

We are God’s offspring and are to be responsive to his working in us. We are talking about **relationship** here. Our task is to make sure we do nothing to short-circuit the power of God working in our life.

Paul reaffirms the relationship concept, writing, *“So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.” (Romans 7:4, NIV)*



“But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.” (Romans 7:6, NIV)

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

Christ living in us *is* relationship!

His power can flow through us if we choose to let him live his life through us. God wants relationship with us in our everyday life. He wants to continue his story through us if we will allow him to convert us into being the yield-active *converterlators* he wants us to be.

We want to be the agents of change—the people who are converting the perishable values of this world into the imperishable values of the next world. I have discovered that the more I allow myself to be used in this way, the greater my desire is to invest in eternal values—values that trump the desire to consume and invest in the perishable values of this world.

It is time for us to “suit up,” get off the bench, and be an active member of the King’s team, playing hard in the Super Bowl of Life. Remember, we are dealing with the eternal destinies of myriads of people in this lost and dying world.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I a “bench warmer” or an active member of the King’s team in the Super Bowl of Life? If I were to be tried in court today, would there be enough evidence to answer “yes” to that question?

GLORY BELONGS TO GOD

“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)

From a human perspective it is difficult for us to understand that God is the source of all life. Why? Because the world elevates many self-made individuals. Many of these people bask in the glory that is given to them by the world.

The verse in Psalms shows believers that we are not self-sufficient people who can claim any of our successes as being of our own making without help from above. When the Israelites took possession of the Promised Land, the Lord made it perfectly clear that it did not come by their own doing but only through Him.

The possession of the land was brought about by the right hand of the Lord, his arm, and the light of his countenance. He favored them! Therefore, all glory should go only to God.



This principle is proclaimed throughout Scripture.

The blessing of the Lord is responsible for what we have. It is the Lord who has given wealthy people the power to gain such wealth. In fact, we are warned not to forget the Lord when things seem to be going well. It is only by the Lord’s provision that any of us can enjoy life in this world.

If the Lord blesses us in our endeavors for him, we must always give any and all glory to him, not us. We should be playing to one audience only—God. For myself, the only words I want to hear someday are, “Well done, faithful servant. Now enter into the joy of your Lord.”

Today, ask yourself:

Am I giving God all the glory for any accomplishment achieved in my life and acknowledging that it is by his provision and favor I have been able to experience it?

FIX YOUR EYES ON CHRIST

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2 NIV)

Most of us have issues to face while we are living in this world. Problems, challenges, and changing circumstances just go with the territory. One of the most difficult lessons to learn for us as believers is to fix our eyes on Jesus Christ instead of only focusing on the problems facing us.

Constantly fixing our eyes on problems is debilitating. It leads to depression. In fact, we can make idols of our problems if that is all we think about. Jesus did not focus on the cross, its shame, or the humiliation from the soldiers and crowd. He focused on the joy, the forgiveness, and the eternal reward that would come from what he was doing.

We have the promise, *“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you” (Psalm 32:8 NIV).*



We serve the God who sees our needs and provides. He wants us to trust him and understand that he alone is our provider. From that standpoint, all of our challenges are opportunities for us to trust him. This truth can be difficult for us to learn and, for most of us, it takes time.

“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.” (Psalm 28:7 NIV)

“My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.” (Psalm 25:15 NIV)

The Psalmist is showing us the way to face problems. We should not focus on the problem, but instead we should, *“keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken” (Psalm 16:8 NIV).*

Today, ask yourself:

Am I focusing on my problems, or am I always keeping my eyes fixed on the Lord?

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE AND PRAISE

“Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; and to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God.” (Psalm 50:23 NKJV)

Do you like it when people express gratitude to you and perhaps even praise you for something you have done? It strengthens your relationship with that person.

God loves for us to express our gratitude and praise to him. To praise God and express our gratitude to him embellishes our relationship with him. And our relationship with him is all that matters.

If we conduct ourselves in the right manner, we place ourselves in the right position where we can experience the salvation of God, subject to his timing. Throughout all of the areas of our lives, we can work at expressing gratitude to God and praising him for allowing us to live in the beauties of his creation. Even when things may not be going our way, there is usually something we can express gratitude for in every day.



“I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.” (Psalm 69:30 NKJV)

If you have not been doing this, why not start now and see what happens?

Today, ask yourself:

Am I expressing my gratitude for my life to God every day?

SAVED TO DO GOOD WORKS

“Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” (Titus 2:14 NKJV)

Among other things, we have been saved to do good works.

Let’s be clear about this: good works do not save us, and we are not saved by the good works we do.

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:5-7 NKJV)



The Lord Jesus Christ himself has done the work of salvation for us. We are justified or made acceptable to God by receiving the gift of salvation that he has provided through Christ. We now trust in him alone for our salvation.

However, we are saved to do the good works he has appointed for us to do. He has set us free from the power of self and sin so we can do the work he has prepared us to do.

“This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.” (Titus 3:8 NKJV)

The wise person will first make sure to establish a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and then take the steps to become a *converterlator*, investing time, talent, and treasure to convert the perishable things in this world into the imperishable values that will last for all of eternity. Doing this successfully will result in living a life that echoes into eternity.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I conducting my life in such a way that it will echo into eternity?

ADORN THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

"...Not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior." (Titus 2:10 ESV)

TTrue faith is having a personal relationship with God through the person of Jesus Christ. Christianity is not a list of dos and don'ts or just an intellectual belief in the tenets of the Christian faith. We have been born again to a living hope, a relationship with the risen Savior who literally lives in and through the life of believers.

That being the case, Scripture exhorts us to be good examples of what we proclaim: *"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel"* (Philippians 1:27 ESV).

If we are to be effective, our daily conduct cannot contradict what we say we believe in.

We live in a difficult environment, and it is critical we work at staying away from every form of evil. In fact, we are told to live in such a way *"that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky"* (Philippians 2:15 NIV).

How many times have we heard the saying, "Everyone else is doing it, so it must be okay"? We cannot forget that God's view is the direct opposite of what the world says is okay. The world's opinion does not count. We are playing to one audience: God.

It is good for us to remember, *"Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?"* (1 Corinthians 1:20 NIV).

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: 'He catches the wise in their craftiness.'" (1 Corinthians 3:19 NIV)

The more we read the Word of God, the more we realize the truth of these statements. As we allow the transforming work of the Word to become reality in our lives, then we become people who adorn the doctrine of God.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I a good advertisement for the kingdom by adorning the doctrine of God with my life?



THE TABLET OF YOUR HEART

“Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.” (Proverbs 3:3–4 NKJV)

Have you ever thought about what is written on the tablet of your heart? In KingdomNomics we stress the importance of soaking the heart in the Word of God. The heart is like a sponge and soaks up whatever is around it. Whatever we soak our hearts in becomes our treasure. If the water is dirty, then the treasure is dirty. If the water is pure, then the treasure of the heart will be pure.

The Word confirms this: *“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45 NKJV).*



We must ask ourselves what is the abundance found in our hearts. Whatever it is, that is the treasure of our hearts and what will manifest itself in our lives. People will be able to tell what is on our hearts, what we are consumed by, and what is controlling our thought lives and behaviors.

This passage in Proverbs tells us not only to bind mercy and truth around our necks, but also to do that with all of the instruction we receive from the Word of God. In other words, we are to memorize and meditate on what God says to us in his Word. As we do so, we are then “writing these truths on the tablet of our hearts.” What is written on the tablet of our hearts becomes the abundance from which our mouths speak.

This is important to God. If we write God’s Word on the tablet of our hearts, it will impact our behavior and the way we talk. The result is gaining favor and high esteem in the sight of God. What more does any person need than the favor of God? Our relationship with him becomes our precious gold and silver.

Today, ask yourself:

What am I writing on the tablet of my heart? If someone were to look into my heart what would be the abundance found there?

HOW TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S FAVOR

"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)

Our relationship with God through Christ means LIFE, FAVOR, and REWARD! We all want to experience a full and meaningful life to enjoy in this world. Scripture tells us we can experience the favor of God if we establish the right kind of relationship with him. The favor of God is available to us and brings us rewards.

You would think the world would be pounding the path to the door of one who promises such things. For those of us who practice KingdomNomics (and who have become yield active *converterlators*, converting our perishable time, talents, and treasures to imperishable values), we have discovered this great secret of the kingdom. We have found life, favor, and reward already in this world. Furthermore, we are anticipating much more in the life to come.



Therefore, we pray God's favor to rest on us. Power belongs to God. He is the one who can change circumstances, open doors, protect us from harm, and deliver us from the evils of this world. He can establish the work of our hands.

We should continually ask for the favor of God to rest on us. Doing so is a checkpoint for us to make sure we are conforming to his will. He will favor and bless the ones who are cultivating their relationship with him.

If we are not consuming his Word and obeying him, then how can we ask for God's favor and blessing? If we do not seek his favor, we risk falling into the error of those who, *"Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain"* (Psalm 127:1 NIV).

We want the Lord to bless and establish the works of our hands so our lives will truly echo into eternity. He is the one who prompts us to work for the kingdom and who empowers us to work for him. May we be successful in finding and experiencing the favor of the Lord, both in this world and for all of eternity.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I asking for the favor of God on my daily activities? Am I asking God to grant me success in what he has directed me to do for him today?

CULTIVATING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.” (Revelation 3:20 NLT)

In KingdomNomics we focus on our relationship with God. This verse in Revelation tells us how Jesus Christ will come into our lives, much like having a friend over for dinner in order to develop a relationship with us.

“Jesus replied, ‘All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.’” (John 14:23 NLT)

When you think of someone making his home with you, it is as intimate as you can become with anyone. Not only is Jesus with us individually, but he also is with us when we are gathered together as believers.

“For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20 NLT)

One reason he wants us to have a relationship with him is for us have a proper relationship with others. *“But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin”* (1 John 1:7 NLT).



Relationships with others are important in order to be more effective in fulfilling the mission God has given us to reach the world. The blood of Jesus Christ removes the sin in our lives so we can be transparent with each other and remove the barriers that separate us.

Lastly, he tells us that he will never leave us or forsake us: *“Don’t love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, ‘I will never fail you. I will never abandon you’”* (Hebrews 13:5 NLT).

Jesus is the best friend you can have. There is absolutely no one else we know who can promise this. He has the power to keep anything from being able to separate us from him.

Today, ask yourself:

Am I really aware of the friendship I can have with Jesus Christ? Am I taking advantage of cultivating it while I have the opportunity to do so?

SHINE LIKE THE SUN

“For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:3 NIV)

I once heard a preacher say, “Whatever you have will blow off on the way up or burn up on the way down.” There is truth in that statement. When you die and go to heaven, the cares and things of this world will have no impact whatsoever. That should make a big impact on us!



The Psalmist realized this when he wrote, *“Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” (Psalm 73:25–26, NIV)*

Our inheritance is Jesus Christ. Someday we will be just like him. *“As for me, I will be vindicated and will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.” (Psalm 17:15, NIV)*

Not only will we be satisfied, but we also will be ecstatic!

“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)

What a prospect to anticipate when we leave the environs of this world. Our glorified bodies are going to be something to behold: *“Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.” (Matthew 13:43, NIV)*

We surely want to be motivated by the values revealed to us by the Lord. May all of us find ways to share Christ in our areas of influence, however small or large they may be. Remember this truth: *“Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.” (Daniel 12:3, NIV)*

Today, ask yourself:

Has the impact of the above scriptural truth made a difference in my attitude and behavior?

Facebook Update:

How are you impacting your circle of influence? Be sure to shine like the sun as you lead others to righteousness!

THE LORD'S ROI (RETURN ON INVESTMENT)

“...So I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.’” (Matthew 25:25–27, ESV)

In KingdomNomics, one of our main motivations, at the instruction of Jesus Christ, is to build up treasure for ourselves in heaven, so our lives will echo into eternity. Some people don’t care about building up treasure for themselves in heaven; they think they can coast their way to heaven after making a decision for Christ.

The above passage makes it clear there is another side of the coin that relates to the Lord’s ROI, or the Lord’s *Return On Investment*. He sacrificed his son, Jesus Christ, so you and I can have eternal life. He has made a huge investment in each of us. He has redeemed for himself a people who are zealous to do good works. He expects a return on his investment.

Each person has been designed for a specific purpose. Each person is gifted by God. When we pass into the next world, we will give an accounting for what we have done or not done with the “talents” God has given us.

In today’s passage, the servant recognized that God owned the talent God had given to him. However, instead of using it, he buried it and gave a lame excuse for not using it. In fact, he blamed God!

His master severely reprimands him for being a “slothful servant,” a label we want to avoid like the plague because of eternal consequences.

When I think about the incredible investment God has made in me by sending his son, Jesus, I ask myself: *What will I do with it?*

Will I be a victorious yield-active *Converterlator*, using my gifts for the advancement of God’s kingdom?

Or will I be a victim of the *Consumerlator*, who had victory over the use of my temporary time, talent, and treasure while I was in this world?



I want to make sure I am a **strategic kingdom investor**, looking to maximize the returns by properly investing my time, talent, and treasure for the advancement of God's kingdom.

Today, ask yourself:

Is God getting a return on his investment in me? What steps am I taking to make sure that is the case?

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.