

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD – *Matthew 6:33*

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KJV is used.

The Kingdom of God is the authority, rule and reign of God, and the realm or domain over which God rules. *Matthew 6:33, Ephesians 1:20-23, Hebrews 1:3, Philippians 2:9-11, Matthew 28:18, Psalm 103:19, Psalm 22:28, Matthew 18:3,4, Romans 14:17, Matthew 4:17.*

When we are born again and turn to Christ as Lord and Saviour, God delivers us from the power of darkness and transfers us and into the Kingdom of His Son. *Colossians 1:13, Lk 22:29.*

The Word of God says, in *James 4:7*, **“Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”** When we submit ourselves to God, we come under His authority and rule.

In this way we position ourselves in the Kingdom of God. The devil hates the authority of God and His Kingdom. When we declare “Jesus is my Lord and King,” and resist the devil, he flees from us.

The following is an example of the Kingdom of God advancing against the Kingdom of darkness.

There is, at the present time, a **worldwide revival of prayer and fasting.** Many believers in Christ are praying for the salvation of the unborn, **from the wickedness of abortion. God is working through the prayers of the saints.**

On March 13th, 2012, in the Supreme Court of New Zealand, Right to Life challenged the Abortion Supervisory Committee, for neglect of responsibility, in allowing many abortions that some people considered to be illegal.

On **March 24th, 2012**, the Daily Telegraph Newspaper of London, UK, reported that 250 abortion clinics in the UK had been investigated, and that 1 in 5 were allegedly acting unlawfully and conducting abortions that were allegedly not permitted by law.

It is no coincidence, this UK report comes as **the five judges of the Supreme Court of NZ, are deliberating on their judgment.** The investigation in the UK has been underway for one to two years and the police are taking action.

By prayer, fasting and faith action, the Kingdom of God is increasing.

When Jesus began to preach, *Matthew 4:17*, He said, **“Repent for the Kingdom of heaven, (or God), is at hand.”**

Matthew chapters 5,6,7 are about the Kingdom of God. They explain the principles of the Kingdom.

For example: *Matthew 5:3* says **the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the humble.** This is repeated in *Matthew 18:3,4.*

Matthew 6:5-15 describes **how prayer is a foundation of God's Kingdom in the earth.**

Matthew 6:16-18 explains the importance of **Fasting.**

Matthew 6:33, instructs **us to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.**

Matthew 7:24-27 says **that obedience to the sayings of Jesus is the way to build a secure house in his Kingdom.**

I became a believer in Jesus as my Saviour at eleven years old in the Orakei Anglican Church, Sunday School. Through the teenage years I drifted from the Lord due to ungodly peer influences. One day Jesus stood in front of me and said, “If you keep going the way you are going, your relationship with Me will come to an end.”

After three days of thinking through the issues, I lay face down on the floor, and give my life completely to the Lord Jesus.

This was full surrender. I chose to come under the Kingdom rule of the Lord Jesus Christ.

After that, my life went steadily upwards in the Lord.

Jesus said, **“I put on you a Kingdom as My Father has put a Kingdom upon Me.”** *Luke 22:29.*

Jesus challenges us. “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord’, and do not do the things I tell you?” *Luke 6:46.*

“Not everyone who says, ‘Lord,’ ‘Lord’ will enter the Kingdom of heaven, (or God), but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.” *Matthew 7:21.*

Jesus could make this challenge because of the focus of His own life.

He said, “My food is to **do the will of Him** who sent Me and to finish His work.” *John 4:34.*

He said, “I seek not My own will, but **the will of My Father** who sent Me.” *John 5:30.*

He said, “I came down from heaven, not to do My own will, but **the will of Him** that sent Me.” *John 6:38.*

Just before he was arrested and went to the Cross, Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, “Abba, Father, all things are possible to You; take this cup away from Me: nevertheless not what I will, **BUT WHAT YOU WILL.**” *Mark 14:36.*

Jesus lived in **complete surrender to God's will.**
 He lived in **the will of God by the leading of the Holy Spirit.**
 He lived in **the rule and reign and Kingdom of God.**
 He lived in **the authority and power of God.**

When we stay with our farmer friend and walk over his farm, he can ask us to open a gate for cattle to move from one paddock to another.

We may be challenged, "What right have you to open that gate and move Bill's stock?"

However when we **obey the will of a person in authority, we carry that person's authority,** and are not worried by the challenge.

When we walk in the Spirit in obedience to Jesus, **we are acting with His authority, and establishing His Rule and Kingdom through what we do.** *Matthew 8:8,9.*

When we witness to the lost, we are obeying Jesus and carry His authority. *Acts 1:8.* The Holy Spirit works through our witnessing and establishes the Kingdom of God. *John 16:8-11, Acts 8:4-8.*

Because Jesus lived in chosen surrender to the will of God, we have salvation through His death on the Cross, His Resurrection, Ascension and Enthroning at the Father's right hand. *Hebrews 1:3, Hebrews 10:12, Ephesians 1:7, 1Peter 2:24, Romans 4:25.*

Jesus did not want to go to the Cross. *Mark 14:26.* Jesus did not have to go to the Cross. *Matthew 26:53,54.*

Jesus chose to surrender to the will of God, so that by the power and love of God working through His death on the Cross and Resurrection, we might, through faith in Him, be forgiven and saved from eternal hell fire and inherit the Kingdom of God.

Jesus' surrender and obedience to God the Father, established the Kingdom of God on the earth.

The Cross is the centre of Salvation for all who repent and believe the Gospel. *1Peter 2:24, 2Corinthians 5:21, 1Corinthians 15:1-5.*

Jesus paid the price to cleanse us and wash us from our sins so that we may be put right with God. *Revelation 1:5, Romans 5:1, Romans 3:24.*

Jesus said, "It is not what we eat that defiles us, **a person is defiled by the sin that comes out of their heart.**" *Mark 7:14-23.*

Jesus lists sins that can come out of a person's heart.

These sins defile us before God and keep us from the Kingdom of God and his Salvation in Christ. *Mark 7:21-23.*

Evil thoughts like revenge. *Romans 12:19,17.*

Adultery is sex with another man's wife or another woman's husband. *1Corinthians 6:9.*

Fornication is sex before marriage. *Galatians 5:19,* and also includes incest as in *1Corinthians 5:1.*

Murder to hate another is murder. *1John 3:15.*

Theft is taking what belongs to another. *Ephesians 4:28.*

Covetousness is strongly wanting what belongs to another. *Exodus 20:17.*

Wickedness is disobedience to God. *Matthew 25:26.*

Lies is deceiving others. *John 8:44, Revelation 21:8.*

Lust is drugs, drunkenness, porn, unclean TV and videos. *1Corinthians 6:10.*

Evil eye is to curse a person. In *Galatians 3:1,* "bewitched" in the Greek is "to smite with the eye". KJV

Blasphemy is to use God's Name wrongly. *Exodus 20:7.*

Pride is lifting self up above others or looking down on others. *Proverbs 6:16,17.*

Foolishness is saying that there is no God. *Psalms 14:1.*

Do not allow any of these sins to remain in your life. Through faith in Jesus and the Word of God we have been set free from their control. *1John 1:9, Romans 6:1-3,6,11,14, John 8:31-36, Ezekiel 36:25-27, Hebrews 13:20,21, Ephesians 1:7.*

Seven things Jesus told us to do to build the Kingdom of God. (there are others).

Repent and believe the Gospel. *Mark 1:15, Matthew 4:17, Acts 17:30.*

Jesus said, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." (people). *Matthew 4:19,21, 8:22, 9:9, Luke 9:1,6.*

Tell other people about Christ and the Gospel of Salvation. *Acts 1:8, Matthew 10:1,7,8.*

Have strong faith in God. *Mark 11:24, Matthew 21:22, John 16:23,24.* Believe His Word, speak it out, act on it, & trust God.

Pray always. Never give up. *Luke 18:1-8, Matthew 7:7, Matthew 21:21,22.*

Forgive others and bless them. *Matthew 18:21-35, Mark 11:25,26, Luke 6:27,28, Ephesians 4:32.*

Be filled with the Holy Spirit and the power to hear God and obey God. *Luke 24:48,49, Matthew 10:1, Luke 11:13, Acts 1:8.*