



Empowering People to Change the World

# **Reboot Your Thinking!**

## **The Kingdom of God Has Come!**

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The Kingdom Revolution, part 3 “Kingdom Thinking”  
Matthew 3:1-12

**Matthew 3:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea<sup>2</sup> and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”***

- **Repent**—metanoia—change your thinking. There is now a new way to think, to dream; you need a mental transformation.
- You need a whole new worldview, a new outlook to your life!
- Most of our problems are in our heads—misconceptions, scripting about God and ourselves.
- Many of us have labeled ourselves as Baptists, Charismatics, Catholics, Methodists or I’m a mechanic, a lawyer, a computer programmer, etc.
- I want us to start afresh with a new perspective.
- Some of us need a “restart”, a “reboot” of our thinking! We are talking about the Kingdom of God.

**We must Reboot our religious thinking into a Kingdom Mindset:  
4 New ways of thinking that impact our Neurotransmitters.**

**Neurotransmitter:** a chemical substance that is released at the end of a nerve fiber by the arrival of a nerve impulse and, by diffusing across the synapse or junction, causes the transfer of the impulse to another nerve fiber, a muscle fiber, or some other structure. There are 7 major neurotransmitters (serotonin, dopamine, GABA, endorphin, etc.)

## 4 New ways of thinking that impact our Neurotransmitters

- **1) New Birth**

Born into the Kingdom of God. You were born into a new kingdom. You were born on this earth, you are an American, but you have now become a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.

- **2) Dual Citizenship**

Do you know you have Dual Citizenship? You are on this earth, but not of this earth.

- **3) New Culture**

You know the culture of America, but you are now being trained into a new culture, the culture of the Kingdom of God.

- **4) Kingdom Assignment**

We are now bringing heaven to earth! A Kingdom of God Citizen brings the culture of the Kingdom of Heaven into the kingdoms of this earth.

- John, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- Jesus says the same thing, in chapter 4, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- **Matthew 4:17 *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"***
- John is saying it; Jesus is saying, "Change your thinking to a Kingdom of God perspective; a Kingdom of God worldview; a Kingdom of God way of thinking."

- Reorient your thinking: like when an immigrant comes to the U.S. and wants to become a citizen, they take classes and learn about our nation, our Constitution, our vision for this nation.

**This Book is the Constitution of the Kingdom of God. Get up and repeat after me:**

**1) "Jesus is my Sovereign and my King. I have been reborn."**

- 2) **"I'm no longer a Religious Person, but a Citizen of the Kingdom!"**
- 3) **"I am not longer a Captive Citizen of Darkness, but a Free Citizen of the Light."**
- 4) **"I have dual Citizenship: I am a heavenly man/woman living on the earth."**
- 5) **"I am on the earth as a Co-Regent, a Co-Ruler with Christ."**

### **A definition of the Kingdom of God: King—Dom. The King's Domain.**

A kingdom is the governing influence of a king over His territory, impacting it with His mind, His will, His purpose, His intention; producing a citizenry of people who express His culture and reflect His nature.

### **Matthew 3: 3-6**

***<sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' " <sup>4</sup> John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.***

- I want you to rethink the wilderness: your own shame, mistakes, sin and betrayal. All of us have gone through and are even going through wilderness.
- This is an Old Testament Prophet in the New Testament. John is the last of the Old Testament prophets and he is a bridge prophet from the Old to the New.

- A voice crying in the wilderness! This is always where the Kingdom of God begins.
- For example, in the “Wholeheart Advance Georgia” 20 men got baptized!
- The testimonies, the most powerful I’ve ever heard. Whole Heart Advance Colorado coming up on Sept 12-15, 2019.
- o God does His most powerful work through taking us through wilderness in our lives.
- o Moses found his calling in the wilderness.
- o David found his whole heart in the wilderness.
- o Paul found his heart in the wilderness.
- o Peter found his true heart in the wilderness.
- o Jesus had to go to the wilderness (more on that next week.)
- The wilderness experience either makes you bitter or better!

### **Matthew 3:7-10**

**<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?”**

**<sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.**

- Religion is not the Kingdom of God! Judaism is not the Kingdom of God. Christianity is not the kingdom of God.
- The #1 substitute to true kingdom of God revolution is legalistic, ritualistic, controlling religion.
- John is outing the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, and Lawyers

- “Do not say ‘I was born a Jew’ so I’m in!”

**Matthew 3:11-12**

***<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”<sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”***

- The Power of the Kingdom of God—Baptism with the Holy Spirit!!

**Andrew Murray writes, “Now, we have here a solemn discovery of what the great want is in the church, of Christ. God has called the church of Christ to live in the power of the Holy Spirit, and the church is living for the most part in the power of human flesh, and of will and energy and effort apart from the Spirit of God. I doubt not that that is the case with many individual believers; and oh, if God will use me to give you a message from Him, my one message will be this: “If the church will return to acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is her strength and her help, and if the church will return to give up everything, and wait upon God to be filled with the Spirit, her days of beauty and gladness will return, and we shall see the glory of God revealed among us.” This is my message to every individual believer: “Nothing will help you unless you come to understand that you must live every day under the power of the Holy Ghost.”**

- Most of us are trying to live the Christian life in our own power but the answer to everything in following Christ is learn the ART of living in the Kingdom of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus baptizes us with fire and the Holy Spirit.

- This is the POWER of the Kingdom of God.
  - Write this down: I was Born to Burn!! Say it to your neighbor “I was born to burn.”
  - In verse 12 the baptism with the Holy Spirit defines and divides the Body of Christ—Jesus intended it that way.
- o The Kingdom of God is coming with fire that will define those who truly want to follow Christ.
- o The winnowing fork is a better translation than winnowing fan.
- This verse describes **wind winnowing**, the period's standard process for separating the **wheat** from the **chaff**. The word translated as **winnowing fork** in the WEB is a tool similar to a **pitchfork** that would be used to lift harvested **wheat** up into the air into the wind. The wind would then blow away the lighter chaff allowing the edible grains to fall to the **threshing floor**, a large flat surface. The unneeded chaff would then be burned. As with the axe already placed against the tree in the preceding verse, the winnowing fork is already in hand, emphasizing the nearness of judgement.
  - Winnowing forks, generally made of wood, were common at the time, and several dating from this period have been found. Modern scholars mostly agree that the term "**winnowing fork**" is the most accurate but older versions have fan, shovel, broom, and other translations.
- In this verse John the Baptist is still assumed to be addressing the Pharisees and Sadducees. The eschatological imagery is quite clear. The wheat represents those who are truly repentant, the chaff those like the Pharisees and Sadducees who are not. The messiah will clear the world, and those that are worthy would be brought into his "barn" while those that were unworthy will burn in unquenchable fire. France notes that unquenchable is in no way a synonym for eternal and that no doctrine of eternal damnation for the wicked should be read into this passage.

### **Matthew 3:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> *Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.*

<sup>14</sup> *But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you,*

*and do you come to me?”* <sup>15</sup> *Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John*

*consented.* <sup>16</sup> *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of*

*God descending like a dove and alighting on him.* <sup>17</sup> *And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”*

**Even Jesus, as son of man, had to be Spirit anointed.**

Jesus needed power and received it in His baptism. He had never done a miracle, cast out a demon, preached a sermon or healed a sick person until he was anointed with the Spirit.

**Even the Disciples who had been with Jesus needed to be Spirit Anointed.**

### **Acts 1:3-7 Kingdom Revolution and the Power of the Holy Spirit**

<sup>3</sup> *After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.* <sup>4</sup> *On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this*

*command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.”* <sup>5</sup> *For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

<sup>6</sup> *Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”* <sup>7</sup> *He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.”*

- Even after three years of ministry together, even after being personally mentored by Jesus daily, still these men were not ready for the task of walking out their calling as men, as disciples, as worshippers and warriors, until they encountered the Holy Spirit.



- They are being thrust into a new world of persecution, demonic attacks and obstacles like they had never known before. They would need power for the work ahead. Pentecost would be their calling out as men into a mission.

### **Acts 1:8**

***<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”***

- It is the power of the Spirit that anoints, empowers and lifts us into our calling as worshippers and warriors. Until we are filled with the Spirit we can never know our calling or our gifting.
- Until we are filled with the Spirit we will never have the power (dunamis in Greek, the same root word for dynamite) to live with whole-hearted, passionate devotion.

**Have you been Baptized with the Holy Spirit? Have you been baptized in power?**