



Empowering People to Change the World

The Four Essential Foundations For Kingdom Living

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***God can move mountains in my life
I will build up my faith with God's Holy Word
I will come alive in the power of the Holy Spirit With Jesus, nothing
will be impossible***

- Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God over 100 times.
- It was the theme of the ministry of Jesus.
- The main purpose of Jesus' ministry was not to get us into heaven, but to bring heaven to the earth.
 - That is why we were commanded to pray: ***“Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.”***
- Jesus modeled to us what a Kingdom Revolution on earth should look like. He WAS the Kingdom.
- In our passage today, Jesus laid down the foundations of a Kingdom Revolution of earth. Being fully man and fully God, Jesus needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit just like we do in order to live the complete perfect sinless Kingdom Life.
- The Gospel of Matthew is all about the Kingdom of God. The phrase the Kingdom of God or Kingdom of heaven is used 32 times in the book of Matthew, more than any of the other gospel writers.
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.

A Kingdom of God Revolution is the governing influence of The King (God) over His territory (earth), through His Citizens (us), who are

expressing the culture and reflecting the nature of the King (heaven) into all spheres of earthly society (7 mountains).

Matthew 3:11-17

What we see in our passage are 4 Kingdom Essential in the life of Jesus.

- 4 Cornerstones or Foundations laid down the by the Father in heaven upon His Son on earth through the Enabling Power of the Holy Spirit.
- There is nothing clearer in scripture of the foundations of Kingdom Living than right here.
- God the Father laid these foundations into His Son before He had done any miracles, started any ministry, preached any sermon or changed anyone's life.
- For effective Kingdom Life, we also must embrace these 4 essentials.
- Cornerstones are what we build our buildings from. These are like 4 cornerstones for building our life upon.

Graphic Diagram of 4 corners and the square with "Kingdom Essentials" in the middle (graphic)

Matthew 3:11-12

¹¹ "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. ¹² 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."

Foundation Cornerstone 1: Power from the Holy Spirit

- Jesus came to first receive it Himself but then to “baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”
 - Not just for the forgiveness of sins but the baptism with the Holy Spirit.
 - Jesus is the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit. It is the first thing we see in Matthew of what Jesus does to us!
 - This baptism of the Holy Spirit is for everyone! Not just for getting saved from sin but saved from ourselves. We desperately need power for living the Kingdom Life.
 - We cannot do it. We must have the Governor of the Kingdom on Earth, the Holy Spirit ruling over our lives.
 - Write this down: I was Born to Burn!! Say it to your neighbor “I was born to burn.”

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 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.” 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.

- 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

⁸ 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?

Matthew 3:13-16a

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is

proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.¹⁶ 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.

Foundation Cornerstone 2: Perspective of Open Heavens

- The heavens opened over Jesus after He was baptized. The same is true in your life. For some of you who were baptized last week, you now have God’s blessings, God’s love, God’s plan opening up before you.
- Yet so few really come to experience the open heavens over their lives.
- It is a new perspective! A new outlook! A new worldview!
- **Jeremiah 29:11-14 (The Message)** says,
“I’ll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out— plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.
¹² ***“When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I’ll listen.*** ¹³⁻¹⁴ ***“When you come looking for me, you’ll find me. “Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I’ll make sure you won’t be disappointed.”***

- **This Book, the Constitution of the Kingdom, the Bible is all about God’s abundance.**

Matthew 3:16b

At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

Foundation Cornerstone 3: Presence of the Holy Spirit

- The dove is the universal symbol of meekness and purity.

- Two animals are mentioned when we compare the same scene as written by John. In **John 1:29** John says, ***“Behold the Lamb of God who take away the sin of the world.”*** In our passage we read the Holy Spirit “like a dove.”
- If you want the presence like a dove, you have to have the nature of the lamb.
- The presence came upon Jesus and it never left Him. It was the presence of the Holy Spirit that enabled Jesus to:

- o Know who to pray for.
- o Know who to ask for healing.
- o Know when to cast out a demon.
- o Know when to enter a city.
- o Know where to go next in his ministry.
- o Know who to pick to be His disciples.
- o This presence came through constant prayer which Jesus modeled to us.

Matthew 3:17

¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Foundation Cornerstone 4: Personhood of Being Beloved

- Jesus settled the question of Who He was and Whose He was at His baptism. He would need His personhood, His nature deeply engrained because he was about to go into the greatest temptation of His life.
 - We all must settle who we are at the heart level. It is the struggle of every man and woman’s life.
- o This world’s values defines you by your achievements, success, outward beauty, intelligence and whether you have what it takes.
 - o We are wired for connection. And it is in not measuring up on any of these that we feel ashamed.

- o For Women, it is your looks and your outward beauty and often motherhood.
- o For Men, it is your strength and power.
- o And when we do not measure up, we pose, pretend and posture.
- o We cover up. Exactly what Satan and demons love. For it is in covering up that we conceal the beauty and power within.
- o This is the False Self—it is not really you.
- o You have a new heart and a new identity. ***“You are My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”***
 - This is the True Self. Knowing that we are loved, accepted “in the beloved.”
 - This is your New Identity through a New Heart.

Beloved means you are prized, much loved, cherished, treasured, highly regarded, admired, esteemed, revered, venerated.

- You have been given a New Identity!
- Many of you have never known or experienced your belovedness. You have never felt the feeling of being adored, cherished and treasured.
- Many of you see yourself through the eyes of others who have placed your value in your achievements and success.
- But Jesus views you so differently.
Ezekiel 11:19
Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a

heart of flesh.

- When you were born again, when you accepted Jesus into your life by faith; the grace of God gave you the Spirit of God and the Spirit of God transformed your heart.
- God did “open heart surgery” on you when you gave your heart to Him.
- God replaced your stony hard heart with a heart of flesh, a heart that was tender to Him.
- You have a “new spirit” living within you! That Holy Spirit has transformed your heart.

Jeremiah 31:31

“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

- Not by the law, not by the letter, not by religion! That is the old heart, the old way, the old dispensation.
- Iraneus: *A Man fully Alive is the glory of God! Living in awareness of our belovedness is the axis around which the Christian life revolves. Being the beloved is our identity, the core of our existence. It is not merely a lofty thought, an inspiring idea, or one name among many. It is the name by which God knows us and the way He relates to us.* Brennen Manning

- Who am I? This is the great question of the ages. The answer is right here: you are beloved; you are loved.
- This is the essential foundation of the Kingdom of God, of everything in life.
- The indispensable condition for developing the awareness of our belovedness is time alone with God—meditation in the Scriptures, silence, quieting down.

Foundation Cornerstone 1: Power from the Holy Spirit

Foundation Cornerstone 2: Perspective of Open Heavens

Foundation Cornerstone 3: Presence of the Holy Spirit

Foundation Cornerstone 4: Personhood of Being Beloved

Let's move into Communion together and remember that the Table of the Lord is a beautiful picture of our belovedness.