

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*

**(John 14:26, NKJV)**

- God has placed us here on earth at this time with a purpose
- This purpose cannot be accomplished without Him

Learning how to host the presence of God is key to living life out of our true nature and enjoying the fullness and promises of God

*“But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”* **(1 Corinthians 2:9–10, NKJV)**

The Holy Spirit searches for things that have never been seen or heard by human eyes and ears

The bottom line is that Jesus has given us everything that belongs to Him

- And the Father gave Him everything!

*“He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”*

**(John 16:14–15, NKJV)**

The truth is we are hosting the very presence of God

- Not just for miracles
- He desires to bring the atmosphere of heaven through a person
- This forces a shift in the atmosphere over a home, business, or city

The idea of hosting the presence of God may sound strange to many of us

- He owns everything, including our bodies
- He certainly doesn't need our permission to go somewhere or do anything
- But He made the earth for humanity and put it under our charge
- He will not violate the way He set things up
- He will not force Himself on us
- He longs for relationship and partnership
- He is a person, not a machine
- He longs for fellowship – He loves to love!

Adam and Eve were designed to rule like God

- God's rule is always a rule of protection and empowerment
- Adam and Eve and their descendants were to represent God on earth to the rest of creation
- Their place of rule was an overflow of their place before God's face as an intimate being – cool of the day
- The earth belonged to God, but now humankind became His delegated ones to rule in His place

God's Kingdom is about delegated authority – **Matthew 8:8-13**

Jesus' primary purpose was to restore our relationship with God along with the authority we had given away in the Garden

- Mankind had given his authority to the tempter

The only legal way we could get it back was for God (Jesus) to be born into this planet earth – **Romans 5:12-21, Galatians 4:4-7**

- A good King does not break His own laws

The truth is that even on his best day the devil can only play into God's hand

- It's important to note that the devil didn't take Jesus' life
- Jesus laid His life down – **John 10:18, 1 John 3:16**
- On numerous occasions, the religious leaders tried to kill Jesus and He slipped away
- It wasn't the right time for Him to die
- When the time was right, He gave Himself like a sheep to the slaughter
- Had the devil known God's plan he wouldn't have played into it

*“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. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for **our** glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”*

**(Corinthians 2:6–8, NKJV)**

Four things to take note of in these verses

- The rulers of the age are passing away – Abolished
- God’s wisdom is a mystery, hidden until He chooses to unveil it
- The purpose of the mystery being revealed is for the glory of God manifested and made known through the Church – **Ephesians 3**
- The key to realizing the potential of this mystery is the crucifixion (and resurrection) of Christ

The heart of God is for partnership with His created likeness

- We are designed to rule as God rules
- In generosity and kindness, not self-serving, but always for the higher good of others

*“But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.”*

**(Matthew 23:11, NKJV)**

We are to rule over creation and darkness, that we might plunder the powers of darkness and establish the rule of Jesus everywhere we go

- This was always God’s desire
- When sin entered our domain at the fall of man, darkness infected the Kingdom
- Disease, sickness, afflicting spirits, poverty, natural disasters, demonic influence, etc.

While our rule is still over creation we are to focus on exposing and undoing the works of the devil

– **Luke 10:18-19, Ephesians 5:11**

- That is the ministry of Jesus that we inherited through His commission

*“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8, NKJV)*

Jesus came to restore and expand the original commission

*“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:28, NKJV)*

- Adam’s immediate responsibility was to tend the Garden
- His ultimate responsibility was to bring the same order to the rest of the planet

**Be fruitful:** lead a productive life where the fruitfulness of our labors helps to contribute to the overall well-being of what God has made

**Multiply:** have children, who have children, who have children, all living under the beauty of His rule, illustrating the wonder of a perfect Father

**Fill the earth:** spread throughout the world, bringing the influence of His Lordship through your lifestyle and service

**Subdue it:** this implies there was already darkness and chaos outside of the Garden of Eden. Subdue is a military term that means to conquer

This was to be done by Adam and Eve, and their descendants, until the boundaries of the Garden of Eden covered the whole planet, placing it under the influence of God's perfect rule through His delegated ones

We see that in the Lord's (*Disciple's*) Prayer, as well as the Great Commission God still longs for His world to shape and influence this one

*“Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”* (Matthew 6:10, NKJV)

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”* (Matthew 28:19, NKJV)

We see that God's heart has not changed regarding our assignment

In many ways, when Jesus was resurrected He brought the keys of authority that man abandoned when we obeyed the serpent rather than God

- When Jesus announced that “*all authority*” was now His, He was basically saying, “Now let’s get back to plan A!”

He transferred His authority here to His Disciples, as well as those who believe their testimony and took His rightful place at the right hand of the Father

- Ruling and interceding for you and I

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” (John 14:12, NKJV)*

There is a call of God on the life of each believer to follow in Jesus’ example

- The gifts and responsibilities are vast
- Every follower of Jesus is unique

Our gifts, personalities, backgrounds, and cultures all work to create a beautiful mosaic called the Church, the Body of Christ

- It will take the entire Church working together to accomplish the assignment we have been given
- Our God assignment reveals our reason for being alive

One thing we are all called to do regardless of our diversity is to pray for God's will to be done here on earth as in heaven

– (Matthew 6:9–13, NKJV)

Breaking it down in the following way will help to reveal the nature of our assignment

**Cultural Identity** *“Our Father who is in heaven.”*

Calling Him our Father is an affirmation of our identity as a family of sons and daughters and His place in our lives as the Almighty One

**Worship** *“Father...Hallowed be Your name.”*

- Father is a holy and revered name of God
- This is the key revelation Jesus brought to earth

**The Commissioned Prayer** *“Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”*

- This is our co-laboring assignment to reveal His heart to the nations

**Specific Application of the Commissioned Prayer** *“Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”*

**Worship** *“For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”*



By design, Heaven is to influence earth

- We know that the devil came to kill, steal, and destroy
- The effects of his influence are measured by death, loss, and destruction
- Jesus came to give life – **John 10:10**
- In doing so, He came to destroy the works of the devil – **1 John 3:8**
- We cannot attribute death, loss, and destruction to God
- Good God – Bad devil

Freedom will only be experienced in the measure to which we see God as being good

- Jesus rebuked a storm
- If that storm was the will of God then Jesus was fighting the will of God
- A kingdom divided cannot stand – **Mark 3:24**

Jesus brought the atmosphere of heaven to earth and taught us to do the same

*“But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”* (**Matthew 12:28, NKJV**)

- Here we see that Jesus brought life to one who was blind, mute, and demon-possessed
- Jesus drove out the demons by the Holy Spirit
- Giving that person an encounter with the Kingdom of God
- That encounter brought liberty and freedom

The effects of Heaven on earth are practical, gradual, and increasing wherever faith is exercised

Jesus often performed a miracle and then announced that His Kingdom was present or near

- A manifestation that brought an end to the devil's work
- Followed by the abundant life that only Jesus can give
- In essence, fulfilling His prayer – *“on earth as it is in heaven”*
- There is no sickness there, so there should be no sickness here
- There is no sin or torment in heaven, and there should be none here

We should never again question what God's will is in a given situation if it involves sin, sickness, or torment

- It may be challenging, but it is not complicated

## **Three ways His Kingdom is manifest**

### **Power – Purity – Culture**

#### ***Power over the powers of darkness***

- Jesus met every dark situation of lack, sin, torment, and disease with a redemptive solution
- He never made an excuse for the problem nor let it remain
- He always settled the issue by demonstrating what the Father's Will looked like

Jesus never withheld a miracle because of weak faith

- Don't tell someone they didn't get their miracle because their faith is small
- Jesus never did that
- Faith is not examined by turning inward to look for a problem
- Faith is found by fixing our eyes on Jesus!  
– **Hebrews 12:1-2**

*“If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.”*  
**(John 10:37–38, NKJV)**

- Without miracles there is no access to the life of faith He desires of us
- When people see the touch of heaven come to earth it is redemptive but also requires a life change
- Miracles are to bring us to repentance

***Power over personal flaws and weaknesses***

*“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”* **(Galatians 5:16, NKJV)**

*“And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”* **(Galatians 5:24, NKJV)**

- The power of God is for personal freedom, that our character would be consistent with His power

## ***Power for endurance in difficulty***

The hardest part of living in a culture of miracles and the manifestation of His Kingdom is waiting to see it manifest

- The battle is in the mind
- Many have suffered greatly for the Gospel
- They have been beaten, shot at, imprisoned, betrayed, and more
- Their miracle didn't come quickly or maybe not at all
- The Holy Spirit gives us the power to endure without blaming God

*“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—”*

*“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.”*

**(2 Corinthians 4:7–9, 16 (NKJV))**

## **Purity**

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

**(Matthew 5:16, NKJV)**

The effect of Heaven is seen in my character

- It is seen when I'm quick to repent when I am wrong
- It is seen in my willingness to clean up any mess I have caused
- Sometimes we miss the chance to represent Him well in our conduct
- We are then privileged to represent Him well through our repentance

Personal Holiness is a Big Deal

- So is the corporate expression
- This is seen in how we value and cherish other people
- We have the privilege of celebrating others, treating them as Jesus treated His own

*“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”*

**(Ephesians 4:32, NKJV)**

*“Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!”*

**(James 5:9, NKJV)**

*“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”* **(James 5:16, NKJV)**

We cannot confess Christ but live like the devil and call it grace

The purity of Christ is illustrated in how we value one another  
When people see our lives and glorify the Father in Heaven, we have succeeded

In the same way, the natural body cares for itself, so the Body of Christ must do this to illustrate the continuity of His nature, which is holiness

*“because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”*

**(1 Peter 1:16, NKJV)**

## **Culture**

Culture is basically the values, principles, beliefs, and attitudes that influence how life is lived in a specific location

The goal is that people should be able to taste and see what it would be like to have Heaven’s culture shape the value system of the world we live in

- It seems like a huge task – and it is
- Start with our homes and the local church and go from there
- Everything in Heaven thrives because of the presence of God
- There is nothing in Heaven that exists apart from His presence

The measure of Heaven to earth is seen in the importance we place on His presence, His values, and His lifestyle