

*“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

*“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 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
- By design heaven is to influence earth – Kingdom come!

*““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)**

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

### **Power – Purity – Culture**

#### **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

A single act does not create a culture

When core values become instinctive reactions to problems or opportunities, they become the culture

## **Four Foundational Truths to help us Manifest the Culture of Heaven Here on earth**

### **God is Good**

- God is as good as He is holy
- God is credited with many horrible things because of the thought that He is God and in control of everything
- God is indeed in charge
- He could force His purposes and will on everyone, yet He chooses not to
- Therefore, He is in charge but not in control
- He has given us something called free will
- So, some things can happen that He doesn't approve of

*“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

**(2 Peter 3:9, NKJV)**

- It is God's will that none should perish
- Yet, all men are not saved

If we want to know what the Father looks like all we need to do is look to Jesus

*“Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*

**(John 14:9, NKJV)**

## Nothing is Impossible

We know that God alone lives in the realm where nothing is impossible – He is God! – He is infinite!

- Everything else is finite

The exception to this rule is that He made it possible for those who believe Him to experience the same reality He does

*“So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”*

**(Matthew 17:20, NKJV)**

- Without embracing this value we live a life intimidated and somewhat controlled by the evil circumstances in life
- Without carrying the ability to address these things in Jesus name we assume that whatever happens was meant to be
- It is good to believe that God can heal
- That’s a great place to start
- Faith is one of the ways that God releases His healing grace
- It would be good to find ways to strengthen our faith
- That starts with exercising the measure we have been given

*“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,”* **(Jude 20, NKJV)**

## Jesus' Blood Paid For Everything

*“So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”*

**(John 19:30, NKJV)**

- Hanging on the cross Jesus made one final statement
- His job was completed
- Everything that needed to be done for our eternal destiny was done at that moment
- There is nothing that we will ever need that hasn't been provided for at the cross

*“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”* **(Ephesians 2:13, NKJV)**

You could say it will take the ages to come to barely scratch the surface of all that the blood of Jesus has afforded us

*“that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”*

**(Ephesians 2:7, NKJV)**

## Each Person is Significant

It is easy to place significance on an individual who has accomplished much

- And that would be true but not the whole truth
- Every person is significant in God's eyes
- And therefore must become so in our eyes

*“My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.” (James 2:1, NKJV)*

- There are times when we come in contact with someone who is perhaps even behaving in an inhuman way

We need to realize that when every person was born, someone looked at that baby with love and saw them as beautiful

- Rarely are people born in such a place of disrepair
- If they are, they are still valuable to God

Sometimes we do better at recognizing the value of someone else but struggle with our own lives

- Some of us create habits of self-criticism and self-judgment
- We are to love others as we love ourselves
- If we have little realization of our value in God's eyes, it will show in how we love others

In the King's dominion, everyone is celebrated for who they are without stumbling over who they are not

## **God is Good – Dream Big!**

Jesus stated four times in three chapters that we could ask for whatever we wanted and it would be done for us

– **John 14:13; 15:7,16; 16:23-24**

- Remember that God reserves the right to say no to any prayer that undermines our purpose

## **Nothing is Impossible – Take Risks**

If the Spirit of God is in us He expects us to invade the impossible in His name

The Holy Spirit is the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead

*“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”*

**(Acts 10:38, NKJV)**

## **Jesus Blood Paid for Everything – I Owe Him My Complete Trust**

We owe Jesus our trust when things do not look good or according to what I felt was promised to me

Our lives are comprised of acts of faith, as well as abiding trust

In fact, our *faith* is developed in our lives when things look different than what I planned or prayed for and I make a decision to *trust* Him anyway

- Nurturing this kind of trust is what produces Christ-like character in us
- Love and Faith are absolutes in the life of the believer
- We know that the *“greatest of these is love”*  
– (1 Corinthians 13:13)
- And, *“without faith it is impossible to please Him”*  
– (Hebrews 11:6)
- Our absolute trust in Him is because we truly believe that Jesus really did cover anything we will ever need

*“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”*  
(Romans 8:32, NKJV)

## **We Are Significant – Serve Well**

Few people have healthy self-esteem in their place before God as a son or daughter

- Many have fallen into a trap of unbelief about their identity in Him
- Some believe it is an act of humility

A common mistake people make is to get our identity through a title or how we function in a spiritual gift

- Whenever we build our identity around a title, we create a performance mentality in serving the Lord
- Our own emotional, mental, and spiritual stability become compromised with this picture
- We are stable only when we see ourselves as a child of God

When you know whose you are you can serve from a true place of humility because you don't question your identity

*“Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.” (John 13:3–5, NKJV)*

- We serve well when we see that our significance doesn't come from a position
- We see no task as being too low or beneath us
- Jesus is the ultimate example of this
- When we know where we come from and where we are going we can serve and honor others well
- This is true significance

These four cornerstones of thought help to create a culture in which the people of God succeed in purpose

Part of embracing the Culture of Heaven is realizing that God is not as nervous about our mistakes and inadequacies as we are

- He had quite an unusual way of training people for ministry

Think about the Demoniac of the Gaderenes

- He had so many demons that when Jesus cast them into the pigs, 2,000 pigs committed suicide

He wanted to follow Jesus

Jesus told him no, and sent him back to his hometown to tell them all that Jesus had done for him

- If anyone needed ministry training it was this guy
- He had only been delivered long enough to put on clothes  
– **Mark 5:15**
- Yet Jesus sends him to evangelize the whole region
- What a risk, but it worked
- When Jesus returned to that region every person came to see Him

As powerful an example as this is, it's Jesus' trust in His disciples that is even more astonishing

They were men He spent time with, only to discover, day after day, how completely disqualified they were for the powerful ministry He had in mind for them

- When you realize what qualifies a person to Jesus you realize they were perfectly chosen
- And so are you and I

Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs to minister in His authority

- When they returned they had tremendous stories to tell Jesus
- To say they were excited is an understatement

*“Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him, and said to them, “Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great.” (Luke 9:46–48, NKJV)*

- Notice Jesus never rebuked them for thinking themselves great
- Spending time with Jesus will cause you to dream of significance
- Having a desire to be great in the Kingdom was not their error
- Their perspective of greatness was the issue
- The least is the greatest
- The servant of all is the greatest
- The child is the greatest
- They got it!
- The great debate was finished

*“Now John answered and said, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us.” (Luke 9:49, NKJV)*

- They had been learning the issue of loyalty and devotion to the team
- In the Kingdom loyalty never requires disloyalty to another
- We are not in competition with each other!
- We are on the same team
- Our race is against time not one another

*“But Jesus said to him, “Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side.”” (Luke 9:50, NKJV)*

- This was a new way to look at people
- This shift in insight will help all of us deal with one another
- As well as a new way to deal with leaders in business, politics, education, etc.

Jesus then sent messengers ahead of Him to prepare provisions for Him and His disciples in a city of the Samaritans

- The city refused

*“And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?”*

*(Luke 9:54, NKJV)*

- It's easy to think that we are acting in righteous anger, when in fact, we are reacting to the pain of rejection

*“But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.” And they went to another village.” (Luke 9:55–56, NKJV)*

- What an amazing rebuke
- What was done by Elijah was done by the Spirit of God
- What they wanted to do was of a different spirit
- Jesus clarified by declaring His purpose in coming to earth

Jesus trusted His disciples, yet corrected them all along the way

- Jesus’ leadership is so graceful and good
- He always empowered them to be successful
- He didn’t just point out what was wrong
- He gave them His perspective on every attitude of the heart

Jesus addresses the disciple’s attitudes of arrogance, elitism, and the spirit of murder and then follows by appointing 70 others to the same task as the 12

*“After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.” (Luke 10:1, NKJV)*

- It's safe to say the Lord is not as nervous about our inadequacies as most of us
- He only wants more people to be reached
- He is moved by our willingness to be used
- He will work on our flawed character if we allow Him