

LESSON SIX HOW TO ACCESS THE HEAVENLY REALM

Once I had a dream or a vision, I am not sure, but I was following Jesus up a steep mountain. As we climbed higher, the path became narrower and more rocky and I was puffing to keep up. Jesus seemed to walk with such ease, yet I was struggling so much to keep Him in sight. As we climbed on, the path became even steeper and I dared not look left or right, but just try and keep my eyes fully focused on Jesus, lest I lost sight of Him.

Finally we actually reached the top and Jesus sat down on a large marble rock. Now I was able to catch up with Him and fell on my knees beside Him. He did not say a word and I was too awestruck to say anything, or even touch Him. I simply wanted to worship Him and as I bowed my head down onto the cold marble rock, I woke up.

I did not want to wake up! I wanted to stay with Him! Why did I have to wake up! I thought on. I was at the bottom of the mountain in the ministry He had given me. Would my path ahead be like climbing that mountain? I realised I would really have to keep my eyes fully focused on Him, if I were to make it to Him successfully. Yet there also seemed one promise ahead. When I hopefully make it to His side one day when my work is done, then hopefully I will not wake up. I will be at home with Him forever.

Yet! There seemed to be something more! There seemed to be something He was saying to me, for my life serving Him down here and He led me to the scriptures.

Now when he was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come. He answered and said, "The Kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, "See here! or "See there!" For indeed, the Kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17; 20-21

How can the Kingdom be within you? The scripture above speaks about the Kingdom being within you. The Kingdom of Heaven is brought to be within us by the Holy Spirit, whom we receive from God, when we receive the Holy Spirit. Romans eight speaks about the differences the Holy Spirit makes within you, compared with the human mind separate from the Holy Spirit, so to study Romans 8 is very important.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son and the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8; 1-4

This is speaking about two different realms from two different kingdoms, one of the world and one of the Spirit from the Heavenly Kingdom. There is no condemnation if we live from the heavenly realm. The verse goes on to say that this is possible through what Jesus did on the cross for us, to make it possible for us to therefore live fully in the Spirit, rather than in the flesh.

Romans now goes into more detail,

For those who live according to the flesh set the minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind

on the flesh is death, but to set their mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

You however are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his spirit who dwells in you.

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Romans 8; 5-14

These verses now describe the difference. Are we going to do the things of the flesh in our lives, or resist the wants of the flesh to rather live in righteousness to the call of the Holy Spirit within us?

The difference is enormous. The deeds of the flesh points to death, whereas the deeds of the Spirit lead to eternal life because we have become sons of God.

A lot of us are already baptised in the Holy Spirit, but there is more to it than simply just being baptised in the Holy Spirit. We need to yield daily to Christ through the leading of the Holy Spirit and open ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit to enable us to focus on Jesus and follow Jesus very closely. If we don't follow Jesus closely we will lose sight of Him and find ourselves getting lost.

Romans 8: 15-19 goes on to show us the results in living In The Spirit, In the Heavenly realm. We become sons of God.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.
Romans 8;15-19

When we choose to receive what Jesus has done for us on the cross, we become reborn to eternal life, to the Kingdom of Heaven, to then live in and from the Heavenly realm. The Heavenly realm given to us through the Holy Spirit whom we receive to live within us and we become sons of God. When we become sons of God, then we also become heirs of the inheritance of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. No wonder the scripture goes on to say that the suffering we may have to endure on this worldly realm is not comparable with the glory which shall be perfected in us.

Romans goes on to write,

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been

groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we are saved. Romans 8; 20-24

God chooses us by his own goodness and mercy,
He calls us through the Gospel,
He justifies us through faith,
He glorifies through good works.

So how do we enter the Kingdom?

1) Repent.

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." Matthew 4; 17

Repent of all sin, receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour and get baptised in water.

2) Be born again by being baptised in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus answered him. Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3;3

That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, you must be born again. The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear it's sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the spirit. John 3; 6-7

3) Serve the Lord,

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the Earth. Acts 1; 8

As you serve the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit, you will also need to live in the armour of God daily. Read Ephesians 6; 10 -18.

4) Develop your spiritual qualities

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self control, and self control with steadfastness and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. But if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For who ever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an inheritance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1; 5-11

Faith with virtue means (excellence of Christian energy). Virtue with knowledge speaks of (intelligence), and self control with steadfastness (patience and endurance) that leads to godliness, brotherly kindness and love.

5) Love God

It is also wonderful that anyone can enter in. It does not matter how rich or poor you may be, as these worldly things have nothing to do with the heavenly realm, it is rather that we love God and want to develop our spiritual qualities because we love Him.

*Listen my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?
James 2; 5*

Recently, I watched a video of a baby bear and I learnt something. The Zoo gave the bear toys to play with, but the bear got bored. Seeing this, the Zoo decided to let the bear loose on the grounds to see what it would do. The baby bear went round trying to find a friend. At first he got met with rejection from some of the animals, until he met up with an Alsatian dog. The dog was willing to play with the bear cub, but had been brought up by humans who had introduced the dog to play with sticks and balls etc, but the bear was not interested in sticks and balls, he just wanted a friend. After a while the Alsatian understood and they found fun simply playing with each other. The moral was love and friendship is more important than possessions.

From this I also saw that the fruit of the Spirit is the currency of Heaven, not money or possessions which is the currency of this world. Sometimes watching animals can teach one a lot.

After all money cannot buy love, peace or joy. Money cannot replace kindness, compassion humbleness, patience or any other fruit of the Spirit. That is why Scripture says "Seek the Kingdom of Heaven, not the things of the earth."

6) Endure to the end.

*And I saw the dead, great and small standing before the throne, and the books were opened. Then another book was opened, which was a book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.
Revelation 20; 12*

7) Stand fast in the Lord.

For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 3; 8

This short verse sums it up, if we are standing in the Lord and for the Lord in these times where persecution is rising daily against believers, WE WILL LIVE.