

Faith Christian Center Connect

Volume 7

July 2008

The third thing is found in Matthew 6 also.

Matthew 6:33 (KJV) ³³*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

The world is looking for something; something or someone to believe in. People spend lots of time, energy, and money trying to bring restoration, wholeness, healing, joy, and good things into their life. We are designed for optimum performance in the Kingdom of God. The things of the world only distract us.

1 John 2:15 - 17 (KJV) ¹⁵*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* ¹⁶*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* ¹⁷*And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: **but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.***

Like a starving dog on a T-bone, seek FIRST the Kingdom of God. Get out of the world mindset, and walk with the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:16 (KJV) ¹⁶*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

The fourth thing is found in Luke 12.

Luke 12:32 (KJV) ³²*Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*

God is not a tease! He wants you to experience the Kingdom of God. Oh praise him! God is not trying to find a reason to not let you experience the Kingdom; He is looking **for a reason** to let you experience the Kingdom! That's why it is called Good News!

WOW! What a God! Jesus our Great High Priest who has been touched by the feelings of our infirmities, who ever lives to make intercession for us, has given you the Kingdom.

Embrace this time, and walk by faith. God loves you, and Jesus has a plan for your life!

Blessings upon blessings,
Pastor Chris Kirkendall

The Kingdom of God: God's plan for the saved and the hope of the lost.



The Kingdom of God. What an awesome idea. Of course it is God's idea, and guess what; it works! Jesus came to earth to demonstrate for us the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is God's rule and reign upon the earth.

For example, peace in our heart is God's design, so in the midst of conflict and stress, Jesus Christ through the word of God and his anointing bring peace. The same is true for love, gentleness, kindness, prosperity, and healing; all the things that bring wholeness to man-kind.

When we live in the spiritual side of life, we walk in the Kingdom of God. In the Kingdom of God there is an expectation of miracles, and a better hope for tomorrow based on God's word.

Walking in the Kingdom unlocks God's provision for our life.

1 Corinthians 2:12 (KJV) ¹²*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

Yes, you read it right. God wants to freely give us what we need! Somebody shout hallelujah! See, when we reach out to God with a genuine heart, like Abba Father, he gives good gifts to us. God wants us to succeed and not come behind in any gift.

The devil, your enemy wants you to settle in life. God wants you connected to the local church and have an attitude of faith so you can move into an abundant life and live the Zoë life that God intended.

At a Glance

Sunday

Adult Sunday School 9:15am
Youth Sunday School 9:15am
Sunday Service 10:30am

Monday

Session 3 ISOM On Break

Wednesday

Wednesday Service 7:00pm

Four things about the Kingdom you should know.

The first thing you should know about the Kingdom of God is found in Matthew 4.

Matthew 4:17 (KJV) ¹⁷*From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.***

Repent is a word used to say, "Make a U turn". God's word is filled with wisdom and love. What matters most in life is what the Bible says. There are things in life that are challenging. Things like relationships, gas prices, marriages, and a host of things. It doesn't matter what the situation looks like, or what others have said, just simply stop thinking about those things, do a U turn and focus on what the word says. This is repentance toward the Kingdom.

The second thing is found in Matthew 6.

Matthew 6:10 (KJV) ¹⁰***Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.***

We are taught to pray for God's Kingdom to come. It is important that we pray for the Kingdom of God to come. Why? Because in the Kingdom is all things GOOD! Restoration, wholeness, healing, joy, oh hallelujah, it is the will of God. That is why the devil gets us distracted and bothered by circumstances, so that we will get discouraged and not pray for the Kingdom. Stay in faith and pray for the Kingdom of God to come!

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Doing The Same Old Thing: In A Brand New Way!

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Just a Note

Faith Christian Center Worship Department

My mind, this month, decided to develop a classic case of writer's block. I'm not sure if you're familiar with that term, but it is when a writer cannot come up with a set of cohesive ideas to illustrate his message effectively. It's like a mental head cold really. I was hoping for it to go away with time- it didn't. I'll blame it on my Anatomy & Physiology class. J Nevertheless, I can't believe that it is already July. The year is half way over- it has flown by; and in August, our family will be welcoming a new addition. I'm excited. Thinking about that, got me thinking about what I wanted to write about this month.



I absolutely love this picture. Since I don't have children of mine own yet, I always like to observe how parents are with their kids. For me, this picture just captured one of those "moments" that I find awesome, and here's why:

The child is having the time of his life. No care in the world. He probably ran full throttle to his dad, and laughed as he threw himself into his dad's arms. No worries about potential danger. No thought of anything except how strong and how confident he was in his dad. The thought of his dad dropping him never entered his mind. He was sure that his dad has "Superman sized" strength to catch him. As soon as that little boy flung himself into his dad's arms- He lost all control of what was about to happen; but he knew that in the first place. This picture represents absolute trust.

Dad is also having the time of life. It brings him no greater joy than to see that expression on his little boy's face. He is confident that he has the ability, the strength, and the coordination to catch his son. The thought of dropping his little boy never entered his mind. Dad gladly repositioned himself, readjusted his arms because he knew that the little guy didn't have any control over the take off or landing. As the little boy hangs in the air for just a millisecond, the dad catches a glimpse of absolute trust.

I love this picture.

It makes me wonder if someone took a snapshot of my Christian walk- would it look like that?

Would it look like a care-free, radical worshipper of Christ flinging himself into the strong, mighty arms of God?

Would it look like an **absolute trust** and abandonment of my control (my will, my emotions, my desires)?

Or would this snapshot of my Christian walk be one of me **standing** at the opposite end of the beach shaking my head, while the mighty arms of the Lord were outstretched ready for me to run into them?

It makes me think.

What about you? What would the snapshot of your Christian walk- or even let's break it down to your worship walk with Christ- look like?

You see, because God, while He is holy and just, He is also merciful and full of compassion.

Look Up Psalms 86:15, 111:14. 145:8

He's there standing, waiting for you with arms outstretched- Every Sunday and Wednesday and EVERY day that you have here on Earth.

From the Message, Matthew 11:29-30: *"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."*

He's standing waiting for you to throw yourselves in his arms and let him take you to new heights in your faith, but the choice is yours!

That dad in the picture wouldn't have even dreamed of stepping 3 feet back- to watch his son face-plant in the sand. Why? Because it wouldn't be good for his son.

The Lord is the same way. He's not ever going to whisk you off your feet, throw you in the air, and watch you hit the ground. He'll never ask you do something that will harm you- He might ask you do something that you do want to do, but that's a different story.

Check out what it says in **James 1:17**: *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."*

Our God is truly amazing. He has revealed himself to me more than just someone to "keep me in line" (although I am grateful for that). He's a friend. A Counselor. A Father.

Galatians 4:6 (Amplified Bible)

"And because you really are His sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba (Father)! Father!"



A Father's Love

GOD has been so good to us and I have really been pondering that statement. There is nothing God would not do for his children. This makes me think of my own father. Last month in a church service the Holy Spirit was moving and people were at the altar praying and I was standing to the side of the altar and I felt two arms come from behind me and hold me like only a Daddy can do. I instantly thought of all the times I felt safe and secure in my daddy's arms. I thought about how as a child I could always go to daddy and he would make things better and take the pain away or just to have a few laughs. That night my dad just hugged me for a few moments and told me he was proud of me and asked me to come and get some green beans from his house. I laughed at him for a moment and then thought I have been blessed with an amazing earthly father, but also a heavenly father who puts his arms around me, comforts me, and loves me know matter what AND SO DO YOU!!! Jeremiah 31:3 says "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued to extend faithful love to you."

Sometimes relationships with a Father can be rocky or maybe there is not an "earthly" Father figure in your life, but Our God is faithful to love you through anything. There are no conditions to our Heavenly Father's love. We have a Father that comforts us and counsels us in his word. You have a Father that is EVERLASTING, REAL, ACTIVE, TOUGH, and PRICELESS. He is your Protector when you are scared, your healer when you are sick, and he can make your dreams possible. As a little girl, I looked at my daddy and thought he was big and indestructible and as I got older I realized my ABBA FATHER really is big and indestructible. Romans 8:39 says "Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of GOD that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Please take comfort in knowing your Father loves you no matter your situation. I would like to encourage you to stay plugged into the church (Sunday and Wednesday services) and see what GOD is doing. You really don't want to miss it!

I think sometimes we lose focus of who we are in Christ. We are servants. Yes. We are worshippers. Yes. More importantly, we are sons and daughters that have been adopted into the family of God, not by anything that we have done- but by the grace and love of our Heavenly Father. We have been chosen.

So, if you are one of those people who really hasn't taken a risk with God, or you're just kind of standing there looking at a big God with outstretched arms-unsure of what the future may hold if you really "let go"- I hope this inspired you to take a chance- because the Lord will never let you fall.

If you are one of those people who have experienced the thrill of being thrown into a whole new realm of faith by your Heavenly Father, I hope this newsletter encouraged you to keep going- there are higher heights to be discovered!

Running to Him,
Justin Kirkendall
Worship Pastor

God Bless,
Jamie Cullen