

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD (b)

If you are joining us for the first time, you find us going through a teaching series titled **THE ATMOSPHERE FOR KINGDOM MANIFESTATIONS**. So far, we have discovered that in order for the church to create the atmosphere for the kingdom to manifest, the church needs to appreciate what the kingdom is and why it is crucial for the kingdom to be evident to all men.

Just like anything in life, when you don't understand what you are dealing with and its value, you will not seek to understand what needs to be done in order to make it happen. Life changes when kingdom people choose to live like kingdom people.

Last week we started exploring how life is meant to look like for a person living in the Kingdom – the aim for talking about life in the kingdom, is to inspire you to pursue kingdom life. Let's continue exploring **LIFE IN THE KINGDOM (b)**

1. Access to the forgiveness of sin

2. Access to God the Father

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.

- One would ask, what is the big deal with having access to God the Father? I think that question is very important and when you start exploring it, you will discover that having a father is not a small matter in life.
- I am of the opinion that every child needs a father. There is a difference between a child that grows up with a father and one that grows up without one.
- This issue of having a father, goes beyond having a biological father – it refers to having a person in your life that plays a fathering role.
- One of the greatest tragedies of humanity is the tragedy of fatherlessness – it was never God's design for children to be fatherless.
- The absence of a father potentially has serious and long-lasting consequences. One of the issues that has caused the high rate of crime in South Africa is fatherlessness.

South Africa has one of the highest rates of fatherlessness in the world. According to the 2017 Statistics SA General Household Survey, a shocking 61.8% of children under the age of 18 live without their father. Of this number, 10.1% of the children's fathers are deceased, while 51.7% of children's fathers are alive, but not living with the child. STATS SA (2017)

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- The world has no hope in getting things right on this front except when the kingdom of God manifests.
- Studies in the United States of America have shown an incontestable link between fatherlessness and delinquency¹:
 - 63% of people who commit suicide come from fatherless homes
 - 70% of juveniles in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes
 - 80% of rapists motivated by displaced anger come from fatherless homes
 - 85% of children with behavioral problems come from fatherless homes
 - 90% of homeless children come from fatherless homes.
- It is for this reason that Kingdom is the only place where fatherlessness can be resolved. The Kingdom of God gives us access to the ultimate Father – God the Father. God is the ultimate father and every father can only become a true father to his children when he has access to God the father.

John 14:5 Thomas said to Him, Lord, we do not know where You go, and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus said to him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by Me. 7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. And from now on you know Him and have seen Him.

- John the Baptist cried out “repent for the kingdom of God is at hand”, referring to the coming of Jesus and here Jesus is showing us that through Him, we have access to the Father.
- Someone needs to realize that every kingdom citizen has direct, continuous and uninterrupted access to God the Father.
- Can you imagine a child growing up with uninterrupted access to the love of a father? This is a dream for many kids. A lot of kids would rather have access to their father instead of having extravagant toys.
- The problem we have in christiandom is a skewed view of God the Father – we have been exposed and taught about a different type of Father. We have been exposed to an angry father, an overbearing father, a tyranny, an unforgiving father.

¹ F. Freeks (Stellenbosch Theological Journal, 2017)

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- One night, I was lying on my bed getting ready to sleep and as in my habit, I started meditating on what was on the heart of God for His people. As I was mediating, God dropped this statement in my spirit man: “Tell my people that I am not like their natural Fathers”
- It does not matter how reliable your natural father can be, at some point he will disappoint you – he is a natural being who is prone to errors and weaknesses.
- The Kingdom of God resolves this matter by giving you access to a reliable Father.

2.1 God the Father is a reliable source

- God is the ultimate source our lives. He knew us before we were conceived and formed in the womb.
- This deals with the issue of where did you come from and where are you, it deals with the big issue of identity.

John 1: 12 But as many as received Him, He gave to them authority to become the children of God, to those who believe on His name.

- You might have been abandoned by your natural father; life might have messed up with your identity but you need to know that you were intricately made by God – nothing about you was a mistake.

Psalms 139: 13 For You formed my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are Your works, and I know this very well.

1 Corinthians 8:6 Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

- God the Father finds pleasure in supplying to all your needs. Many people short change themselves in trying to pursue provision and yet Father God is able to abundantly supply.
- Jesus used this reality to explain the goodness of God when He said, “If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:11).

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, with whom there is no change or shifting shadow.

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2.2 God the Father has unconditional love for you

- I cannot even attempt to explain this aspect of God – God is love. His love for you is unconditional, with no strings attached.
- When parents look into the face of their newborn baby, they know they will love the child no matter what. That's exactly how God feels about us.
- God's unconditional love gives you security, confidence and hope for the future.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

- When you know that God loves you unreservedly, it does not matter what the world throws at you, you will not lose yourself.
- God's validation for you is not determined by your performance – when God validated Jesus, it was before He had performed any miracles.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Psalm 86:15 "But you, my Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy; you are very patient and full of faithful love."

- His unconditional love allows us to make mistakes, do wrong and still be able to have access to Him.
- The unconditional love of God for you can only be comprehended by revelation

Ephesians 3:18-19 NLT And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God