

## To Bring In the Kingdom of God (1)

### The Kingdom of God as the Spreading of the Divine Life for God's Eternal Administration

The direction of the Lord's move today is threefold: it is to **build up the Body of Christ** as the organism of the processed and dispensing Triune God in His Divine Trinity for His full expression, to **prepare the bride** as the counterpart for the Bridegroom for the eternal marriage of the redeeming God and His redeemed, and to **bring in the kingdom of God** as the spreading of the divine life for God's eternal administration in the fulfillment of God's eternal economy. Both God and Christ are aspiring to see the Body of Christ built up, the bride of Christ prepared, and the kingdom of God brought in.

We need to receive God's grace and mercy and come back to the pure word of God to find out what the kingdom of God is and what it means to bring in the kingdom. The kingdom is **for here** and now in this age; **on the one hand** we are waiting for the kingdom to come, and, **on the other**, we are living in its reality today in the church life in the Lord's recovery. The direction of the Lord's move today is to bring in the kingdom of God as **the spreading of the divine life for God's eternal administration**. The kingdom of God, according to Luke 17:21 and Mark 4:3, 8, and 26 is actually Christ Himself sown into His believers in the church age. The kingdom of God is not merely a nation or domain or government but Christ Himself; the kingdom of God is a living Person, Christ Himself being sown into His believers. The kingdom is invisible, spiritual, in the divine realm, and it is altogether wrapped up with the Lord Jesus, who Himself is the kingdom of God.

### The Kingdom is the Reality of the Church; the Kingdom Life issues in the Church Life

He is the Sower, He is the seed, and we are soil in which the kingdom has come to grow and develop. Through the hearing of the gospel we have received the kingdom of God as a seed in our spirit, and this seed gives us meaning and purpose. The kingdom was sown into us as a seed through the word of God to regenerate us, enlighten us, put God's life into us, and bring us into God's kingdom under **the rule** of God. The more we grow in the divine life, the more we are under God's rule and the more we enjoy all the riches of what God is. The more mature we are in the divine life, the more the rebellion within us is removed and the more we are one with God. The seed of life, the kingdom of God is in our heart and spirit, and together we are formed as the church of God, those who live in the reality of the kingdom today. The kingdom of God today is the church life in which the believers live, and it will develop into the coming kingdom as a reward **inherited by** the overcoming saints in the millennium.

We need to live in the reality of the kingdom of God today so that **we may inherit** the kingdom in its **manifestation** in the next age. We need to see the relationship between the kingdom and the church: the Bible first presents the kingdom, and then the church, for the presence of **the kingdom of God produces the church**. The kingdom of God is the realm of the divine life for God to move, work, rule, and govern so that life may accomplish its purpose. May there be such a realm of the kingdom as a reality in all the local churches today, and may we live the kingdom life in the church life today!

Regeneration is our entrance into the kingdom of God, and God's salvation is the supply for us to live the kingdom life. We need to participate in God's kingdom so that we may enjoy His salvation, and we need to enjoy Christ's organic salvation to live the kingdom life in the church today. The kingdom and the church are interrelated, and so are the kingdom and God's salvation. Even more: the reality of the kingdom of the heavens is the content of the church life. **Without the reality of the kingdom, the church is empty**. What is the reality of the kingdom of the heavens? It is Christ Himself as our life. Christ as life is the essence and substance for us to live a proper kingdom life so that we may be built up with other believers to bring in the real church life, which is a glorious expression of Christ! Amen!

## To Bring In the Kingdom of God (2) The Exercise of the Kingdom for the Building Up of the Church

The matter of the direction of the Lord's move is critical to us today; in His move today the Lord desires to build up His **Body**, prepare the **bride** of Christ, and bring in **the kingdom** of God. These matters may not be new to us but we may be quite familiar with them, but together they form a direction, the direction of the Lord's move today.

The kingdom of God is **not something external**: the kingdom is here right now, for the kingdom is our wonderful Lord Jesus who in a subjective way has sown Himself into our heart and is now growing and developing in us. We today as the church are the **development** and **enlargement** of the kingdom. We must allow the Lord to spread in us to be His kingdom in reality. The kingdom of God must be the reality of the church today; if there's no reality of the kingdom in the church life, the church life cannot be built up...

The church was produced through Christ's death and resurrection (see John 12:24), and the way for us to build the church is to experience Christ in His crucifixion and resurrection. The church exists and is built up only in the realm of **resurrection through crucifixion**; **this is the way to build up the church**. Because the self is the soul declaring independence from God, the self is the greatest problem and frustration to the building up of the Body; we need to be those are dependent on God and on the Body, rejecting ourselves and denying the self for the building up of the church.

### Denying the Self by being Dependent on God and on the Body of Christ in Experience

God didn't create the self or the flesh: He created a perfect body for man and He breathed the breath of life into man's nostrils, thus making man a living soul. But due to the fall of man, the body was transmuted to become the flesh full of passions, lusts, and sins; the soul was corrupted and perverted to become the self, the embodiment of Satan, the soul declaring independence from God; and the spirit was deadened, rendered functionless. We need to see that even our good intentions, opinions, and feelings for others may have Satan behind them, if we do not set our mind on the spirit. Whenever we do something or say something from ourselves, without being one with the Lord, we open the gates of Hades for Satan to bring in death into the church. For the building up of the church we need to exercise to use **the key** of denying the self so that the gates of Hades may be shut and the Body of Christ may be built up. May the Lord have mercy on us in the church life today that we may see the self for what it really is and cooperate with the Lord to **deny** the self for the building up of the church as the kingdom of God.

### The Lord has Regard for our **Dependence** on Him and not how much we Do for Him

To depend on God is to ask Him, *Lord, what do You want me to do? What do You want to do and say?* God created us with a soul to be always dependent on Him; just as **a wife should depend on her husband and take him as her covering**, so we should depend on the Lord in everything. However, many times we do things independent from the Lord, without checking with Him and without being one with Him; no matter what we do apart from the Lord, as long as it is independent of God, we are in the self. If we see and realize that the self is the soul declaring independence from God, and if we see how much **the self damages the church**, we will repent and desire to live a life dependent on the Lord.

May the Lord be merciful to us to show us how many times we do things apart from Him and how much we live in independence of Him. May we realize how much we live independent of the Lord and independent of the Body. May we repent, be before the Lord, and learn to deny the self by learning to depend on the Lord in everything – in both big and small things. (*Excerpt from the Ministry of the Word, The Direction of the Lord's Move*)