



**KINGDOM
C O M E
LIFE GROUP CURRICULUM**

Kingdom Come!

Victory Fellowship Life Group Curriculum

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Week 1: Kingdom Prayer

Memory Verse

Matthew 6:10

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

1. Read Matthew 6:9-13.
2. Discuss what prayer is. Discuss how prayer has made a difference in your life.
 - a. Put very simply, prayer is you talking to God and God talking to you.
 - b. Have the members of the group discuss and reflect on how prayer has made a difference in their life. Share testimonies of answered prayer.
3. Read and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey and discuss ways we can use the Lord's prayer recorded in Matthew 6:9-13 as a pattern for prayer.

“Matt. 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

What an incredible ending to an incredible prayer. The Lord incorporates the various aspects of His prayer model in a form of worship. We are being taught to reinforce our petitions by giving thanks to God in worship. We start off by acknowledging His kingdom. This kingdom is a sovereign kingdom being led by our sovereign King. As we abide in Him and He abides in us, we ask what we desire and He answers us. As we return to worship and declare before the Lord, “Yours is the kingdom”, we are acknowledging His sovereignty and are exercising our faith as we worship the Lord. Next, we begin to worship as we say, “Yours is the power”. As David said, “power belongs to God”. As we acknowledge and glorify His power, His supernatural power begins to encompass our prayer. Worship becomes supernatural, the power of God is being displayed on earth. We continue as we begin to honor the glory of the Lord. The glory is the manifest presence of God. Oftentimes, our prayer is confirmed by the very presence of the Glory of the Lord. Matthew Henry taught about this portion of the Lord's prayer. Have a look at his thoughts.

‘It is our duty to plead with God in prayer, to fill our mouth with arguments not to move God, but to affect ourselves; to encourage the faith, to excite our fervency, and to evidence both. Now the best pleas in prayer are those that are taken from God himself, and from that which he has made known of himself. We must wrestle with God in his own strength, both as to the nature of our pleas and the urging of them. The plea here has special reference to the first three petitions; “Father in heaven, thy kingdom come, for thine is the kingdom; thy will be done, for thine is the power; hallowed be thy name, for thine is the glory.” And as to our

own particular errands, these are encouraging: “Thine is the kingdom; thou hast the government of the world, and the protection of the saints, thy willing subjects in it;” God gives and saves like a king. “Thine is the power, to maintain and support that kingdom, and to make good all thine engagements to thy people.” Thine is the glory, as the end of all that which is given to, and done for, the saints, in answer to their prayers; for their praise waits for him. This is matter of comfort and holy confidence in prayer.’

Have you followed Henry’s advice lately? You know, the part about affecting yourself encouraging your faith, and exciting fervency. This is what prayer is ultimately about. In it, we make contact with our Maker; our heart is enflamed, our soul is purified, and our resolve is strengthened. So today would be a good day to pray the Lord’s prayer again, after all; His is the kingdom, His is the power, and His is the glory. Amen!”

4. Read and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding what it might look like for God’s Kingdom to come to earth as Jesus prays in verse 10.

“Jonathan Edwards said, Heaven is a World of Love. Love is actually the very atmosphere of heaven because God Himself is love. Real love is more than a feeling or an emotion, real love is a person. The love of God is the third person of the trinity, the blessed Holy Spirit. In light of this truth, think about the Lord’s Prayer, especially today’s verse, “Let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”. This prayer is actually calling for an invasion of the love of God into our society; wow! How amazing would it be to see the love of God, the Holy Spirit, being poured upon our world. This is actually what spiritual awakenings are, the outpouring of the Spirit upon society. Lord, pour out your love on our hurting world, pour out your love on us, your people, that we could love the unlovely with the love of Jesus. Check out this quote from Edwards about this atmosphere of love in heaven.

‘They all love God with a supreme love. There is no enemy of God in heaven, but all love him as his children. They all are united with one mind to breathe forth their whole souls in love to their eternal Father, and to Jesus Christ, their common Head. Christ loves all his saints in heaven. His love flows out to his whole church there, and to every individual member of it; and they all with one heart and one soul, without “any schism in the body, love their common Redeemer. Every heart is wedded to this spiritual husband. All rejoice in him, the angels concurring. And the angels and saints all love one another. All that glorious society are sincerely united. There is no secret or open enemy among them; not one heart but is full of love, nor one person who is not beloved. As they are all lovely, so all see each other’s loveliness with answerable delight and complacence. Everyone there loves every other inhabitant of heaven whom he sees, and so he is mutually beloved by everyone.’

Heaven sounds like an amazing place. The church can also become an amazing place if we make room for His Spirit, His love, in our hearts. Yielding to Him personally, staying

planted in our local church, reaching out to the broken; this is the place where God's kingdom of love invades the earth."

Week 2: Kingdom Health

Memory Verse

Luke 10:9

And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

1. Read Mark 5:25-34 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding the miraculous power of Jesus to heal.

“Mark 5:30 And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?”

Miracles seemed to be in the air when Jesus came to town. Many times the people would line the streets with the injured and diseased when Jesus came through their town or village. Many would just touch the edge of His robe and experience the miracle power of the Lord. The blind, the deaf and mute, the paralyzed, and the lepers were healed by coming into contact with Jesus. Today, the same power is available through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The anointing that was on Jesus in His earthly ministry is now on His followers. Staying filled with the Spirit is critical if we want to see God’s miracle power heal the hurting in our world today. Here are some thoughts from the Fire Bible on the availability of the power of God.

‘The Gospels often speak of the sick touching Jesus or of Jesus touching the sick. It was the contact and presence of Jesus that mattered. Because of his intimate relationship with God his Father and his complete dependence on the Holy Spirit, Jesus’ entire being was saturated with God’s miraculous power. This power is available to heal us because Christ sympathizes with our weaknesses and is our source of life and grace. Our responsibility in receiving healing is simply to stay in a close relationship with Christ, to ask him to meet our needs and to rely on him to do what is best for us. The same power that Jesus showed is also available to work miracles through his followers. As long as we remain in a deep personal relationship with God and rely on the power of the Holy Spirit, we too can be used by God to bring physical healing to suffering individuals.’

I love this story and especially love what Jesus said to the woman after she was healed. He told her that more than physical healing had happened that day. The impartation she received when she touched Jesus had made her whole. Not only can we be healed by the power of God but we can receive spiritual wholeness by just one touch. Go ahead and reach out to him, just one touch of His glory and you will never be the same.”

2. Read Matthew 15:29-31 and Hebrews 13:8. Discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding the will of God concerning healing today.

“Sickness often leaves us in a hopeless state. Even with the modern medical care we have today being sick can be quite miserable. The doctors can diagnose and treat but only the Lord can heal and bring about recovery. In today’s passage we see many hopeless, suffering individuals healed by the faith of the Son of God. He is still healing today and His faith is readily available to us. Where can I experience this supernatural faith? It comes when we draw near to the Lord. He may not be here physically but He is here in the written word and in the person of the Holy Spirit. You get close to Him and His faith will activate in you. It’s in that place that healing and recovery will come. Here are some powerful words from Matthew Henry on this passage

‘Here were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, brought to Christ. See what work sin has made! It has turned the world into a hospital: what various diseases are human bodies subject to! See what work the Savior makes! He conquers those hosts of enemies to mankind... He sent his word, and healed them. All diseases are at the command of Christ, to go and come as he bids them. This is an instance of Christ’s power, which may comfort us in all our weaknesses; and of his pity, which may comfort us in all our miseries. They wondered, and well they might. Christ’s works should be our wonder. It is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous. The spiritual cures that Christ works are wonderful. When blind souls are made to see by faith, the dumb to speak in prayer, the lame to walk in holy obedience, it is to be wondered at.’

So go ahead and push in a little closer to Jesus. You can even reach out and touch Him by faith. Your misery will soon begin to leave and your time of recovery will begin. Jesus is still healing every kind of sickness and physical condition. Why not you; why not today?”

Week 3: Kingdom Freedom

Memory Verse

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

1. Read Hebrews 10:11-14 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding the forgiveness of sin and the resulting freedom found in the Kingdom of God.

“What a statement, “One sacrifice for sins forever”. What are the implications of that powerful statement? How does it affect our lives today? First, every sin I ever committed has been dealt with by the offering of Jesus on the cross. There is nothing left for me to do but accept His sacrifice. It doesn’t require any religious observances from me. All I must do is humble myself and receive His gracious gift once and forever. Secondly, this sacrificial death has permanently opened a new life for me beginning now. It is not just a free pass to live forever, it is an invitation to enter into a new supernatural life. Jesus has opened heaven for us, it is open now for “whosoever will”. Andrew Murray teaches about this in his book *Holiest of All*. Check this out.

‘What is true of Christ is true of His people. The law of His life is the law of theirs. Of the once for all and the forever of His work on earth and in heaven, their lives and spiritual experience will feel the power and bear the mark. See it in conversion. How many have struggled for years in doubt and fear, simply because they did not apprehend the once for all of Christ’s atonement. They could not understand how it was possible for a sinner once for all to believe and be saved. No sooner was it made plain to them that the punishment was borne, that the debt was paid, once for all, all became clear and they counted it their duty and joy at once to accept what was so finished and so sure. And they could see, too, how the once was forever—the power of the endless life bearing them on into the forever of God’s presence.’

Once and forever, these are some of the greatest words in the Bible. My sins are gone once and forever, and I can enter into this new and living way once and forever. When does it start? It starts the moment you believe.”

2. Read Matthew 9:1-8 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding the power of Jesus to make you whole.

I recently preached on the miracle Jesus performed on the paralytic that was let down through the roof. There is a lot about this story that is mind blowing but the most amazing to me is what Jesus said first, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven”. Jesus didn’t approach the problem like anyone else did because he saw what no one else could see. He saw not only the condition of this man’s body, He also saw the condition of his heart. He

needed forgiveness even more than he needed healing. The beauty of the miracle; healing and forgiveness are connected. This man's healing flowed out of the forgiveness of his sin. Here is how Charles Spurgeon describes it.

'Now, at this time, you may have many troubles; and perhaps you are eager to spread them before the Lord. The sick child, your dear husband, who is at home ill, that business which is flagging and likely to fail, that disease of yours which is weakening you, and makes you scarcely fit to be in the Lord's house tonight. Now, waive all those things, for heavy as they are, they are inconsiderable when compared with sin. There is no venom as poisonous as that of sin; this is the wormwood and the gall; this is the deadly fang of the serpent whose sting infects and inflames our whole being. If this evil be removed, then every ill has gone, therefore Christ begins with this, "Thy sins be forgiven thee". Breathe a prayer to Him now for the forgiveness of your sin: "Jesus, Master, forgive me! With a word Thou canst pardon all my sin; thou hast but to pronounce absolution, and all my iniquities will be put away at once and forever. As my Lord, wilt Thou not put them away tonight?'

Sin is always our biggest problem. Sin is why Jesus came, sin is what nailed Jesus to the cross. I love the beauty and power of the gospel, not only did Jesus carry my sins in His body to the cross, He also bore my sicknesses. This is how Isaiah described it, Is. 53:4,5 "Yet he himself bore our sicknesses, and he carried our pains; but we in turn regarded him stricken struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him and we are healed by his wounds".

Bring your sins to Jesus, not only will He forgive, He will make you whole."

Week 4: Kingdom Family

Memory Verse

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Read Hebrews 10:24-25 and Mark 3:14 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey and the blessing of your spiritual community or Kingdom Family.

Mark 3:14 And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach.

“One of the beautiful dynamics of our Christian faith is the community we have been called into. Jesus Himself began this dynamic community in the early days of His ministry. It all started when He called the twelve disciples to simply be with Him. What could be greater than that, separated from the world to be with Jesus. When the church began, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the early church followed the lead of Jesus, they also began to live together in this beautiful community of Jesus. It is in this community that we find out what life is all about. Let me share with you some of the blessings that we find living in the community of Jesus.

1. It is the place of incredible influence.

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

Just take a minute and think about the implications of this verse. This ragtag group of Jesus followers are going to impact the whole world in every generation. Divided we can't really do that much, together all things become possible. We can impact our world together through the power that is released through our union.

2. The power of God is discovered and released through the community of Jesus.

Acts 2:1-2 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

The power of Pentecost is discovered and released through the unity of the local church. It is not a coincidence that the power flowed as they came together in prayer.

3. The community of Jesus is the place of healing and recovery

John 11:44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, "Loose him, and let him go."

I love this, it was in the community of believers that Lazarus was set free. Jesus raised him from the dead, His followers took off the grave clothes.

4. The local church is the place of gifting and impartation.

1Cor. 12:12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

There is a special anointing that the Lord places in each local church. There is an anointing on the house. During the time of David, he pitched a tabernacle on Mount Zion. This tabernacle became a type of the New Testament local church. In it there was a special anointing that the Lord had placed on David. Others, like Asaph and the sons of Korah ministered under that anointing of the house. Their songs were like the Psalms of David and carried the anointing of the house. There is something unique in our house. Those that embrace this community begin to experience the anointing that is in this house.

5. The community of Jesus also provides a place of accountability and discipleship.

Matt. 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Correction is never fun, but it is necessary. The Lord corrects those He loves and changes them. The local church provides the place of safety and love where this discipline can happen.

6. It is the love of God that is the life source of our community

Col. 3:12-15 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And

above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

The love of God is very real and is what absolutely makes this community different from all others. Jesus Himself said that the world would know we are His disciples by our love for one another.

7. It is in this fellowship that we experience revelation.

Luke 24:30-31 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

Jesus really lives in our midst. One of His promises were that wherever two or three of His followers gather together He would be in their midst. It is in His community that we see Him the most clearly.

Week 5: Kingdom Help

Memory Verse

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

1. Read Hebrews 4:16 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding the help that comes from God.

“Paul was talking about help in the midst of a life-threatening storm in this verse. How do I know? He used the most unusual word for help in this verse. It is an ancient nautical term called boetheia in greek. This is the definition:

boetheia – aid; specially, a rope or chain for frapping a vessel
frap – nautical term; to bind or wrap tightly with ropes or chains.

Paul was talking about a tactic sailors in his day used when a ship was being beaten by a storm and threatened to be broken apart. They would take ropes or chains and literally wrap the boat with these bands to strengthen the vessel. This would hold the wooden ship together against the pounding of the waves. Now do you see what Paul was trying to tell us? He was saying that we could be ‘frapped’, held together or helped by the strongest cords of all. We are held by the bonds of God’s love. Nothing can destroy us because we are helped by God.

So, this verse tells us that we can draw near to the throne of grace with confidence in the midst of our storm and find help no matter what we may be facing.

This word, boetheia, is used one other time in the New Testament. It is found in Acts when Paul was traveling to Rome as a prisoner. The ship was caught up in a storm and the sailors used frapping to help save the vessel.

Acts 27:17 Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven.

The book of Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians who were being tempted to back down on their beliefs because of religious persecution. We live in similar times today. Paul was saying that no matter how hard the headwinds of resistance against you are blowing we have help that comes from the Lord. If the circumstances of your life are contrary to the gospel and the pressure from others to temper your beliefs is strong, it may be time for you to come boldly before the throne of grace. You will find well timed help that will be more than enough to get you through.”

2. Read John 14:16 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding our helper and counselor, the Holy Spirit. Discuss practical things you can do to put yourself in a position to receive help and counsel from God. Share testimonies of how God has provided help and counsel in the past.

John 14:16 (AMP) And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), to be with you forever

Have you ever needed counseling? Sometimes you just don't know what to do, what steps to make, or who to turn to. The natural man is limited. He has only natural resources at his disposal, sometimes that is simply not good enough. The decisions we make often times effect ourselves as well as many others, often for a very long time. That's why counsel is essential. That is one of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit. He has everything of God at His disposal; He is eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. His eternal nature puts Him outside the limits of time. His omnipotence says all powerful, His omniscience gives Him all information. His omnipresence removes any secrets, He is everywhere. Here is how Luther describes our Counselor.

“It's correct to say that the Holy Spirit is our Counselor, because that's what he does and is supposed to do. Right now, I don't want to debate about his divine being or substance. Christ indicates here that the Spirit is a distinct person—the Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son. But in John 15, we also see that the Spirit is God—the Holy Spirit is one in essence with the Father and the Son. For now, it's enough to learn that he is called a counselor for us. Whoever understands what it means for the Spirit to be our Counselor will have already won the battle. That person will find nothing but pure comfort and joy in heaven and on earth. Because the Father is the one who sends him to help us, and because Christ is the one who asks him to do so, this sending is certainly not done out of anger. Instead, it flows from a fatherly, heartfelt love. So Christians should remind themselves of this name for the Holy Spirit. He is a counselor, and we are the troubled and timid ones whom he helps.”

So what kind of counsel do you need? There is no human counselor that can help some of the tight spots we find ourselves in. Where can I meet this God Counselor? He speaks to us from His written word. Remember, that book is alive, active, and sharper than a two-edged sword. Today, He has every answer you need. You can trust Him and lean powerfully on His word.

Week 6: Kingdom Power

Memory Verse

Ephesians 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

1. Read Ephesians 3:20 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding the power of God at work in the life of the believer in God's kingdom.

“Do you believe that you have the Lord actually living inside of you? I mean really, not just a philosophical or doctrinal belief, but the living Christ living powerfully within you. If you really have the Lord, the Creator of all things and the restorer of broken lives, in your life, I believe He effects every part of you. How could it be possible to have that kind of power in you and it not make a significant difference in every part of your life? He effects your intelligence because He is the wisdom of God. He effects your conscience because He is the High Priest who forgives all of our sins. He effects your health because He is the very source of all life and the healing power of God. Your emotional condition is absolutely transformed because He is the Wonderful Counselor. Our ineptness and lack of power is totally transformed because He is the very power of God. He absolutely changes everything when He lives in our hearts. Here are some thoughts from A.B. Simpson on today's verse.

‘When we reach the place of union with God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we come into the inheritance of external blessing and enter upon the land of our possession. Then our health and physical strength come to us through the power of our interior life. Then the prayer is fulfilled that we shall be in health and prosper as our soul prospers. Then, with the kingdom of God and His righteousness within us all things are added unto us. God's external working always keeps pace with the power that works in us. When God is enthroned in a human soul, the devil and the world soon find it out. We do not need to advertise our power. Jesus could not be hid, and a soul filled with divine power and purity should become the center of attraction to hungry hearts and Suffering lives.’

Let us receive Him and recognize Him in His indwelling glory, and then will we appropriate all that it means for our life in all its fullness.”

So, let me ask you again, is Jesus in your life? He is bigger and more dynamic than we can ever know. Our world is changed in proportion, or as today's scripture says, “according to the power that works within us.” If Christ is in you, then you are more than a match for whatever challenges you are facing in life.”

2. Read Colossians 1:29 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding the power that is at work within us.

Colossians 1:29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

“Sometimes Christianity seems to be in conflict with itself. Paul’s life is a great example of what I mean. We see in Paul’s life someone eaten up with zeal and vision for his ministry; obviously Paul holds nothing back. At the same time, we see the transforming, supernatural power of God working powerfully in and through the Apostle Paul. This conflict is at the heart of all Christian endeavors. Was Paul’s success all Paul or all God? We see the dilemma in today’s verse, Paul says he is struggling or agonizing with the very energy and power of God. This is how Adam Clarke describes this conflict.

‘Whereunto I also labour. In order to accomplish this end, I labour with the utmost zeal and earnestness; and with all that strength with which God has most powerfully furnished me. Whoever considers the original words, will find that no verbal translation can convey their sense. God worked energetically in St. Paul, and he wrought energetically with God; and all this was in reference to the salvation of mankind.’

So, is it Paul or is it God? It seems as if the revelation of God awakened Paul’s passion and drive and at the same time empowered him in unprecedented ways. Albert Barnes also talks about this strange convergence of human and divine energy.

‘Striving. Gr., agonizing, he taxed all his energies to accomplish this, as the wrestlers strove for the mastery in the Grecian games. According to his working. Not by my own strength, but by the power which God alone can give.’

Was Paul striving? The answer is yes but not the striving in the flesh we normally associate with striving. He was striving together with the Lord to see all mankind effected with this divine power that had changed his life. So, there was supernatural power involved, not just the will power of a driven man. Wuest also talks about this divine energy at work in Paul’s life.

‘Our word “energy” is derived from this word. “Mightily” is Dunamis, “power” in the sense of natural, inherent ability. Expositors says; “The struggle is carried on in proportion, not to his natural powers, but to the mightily working energy of Christ within him.’

The good news about all of this is this; this power is working in whosoever will. Rather than doing nothing and waiting on the Lord or taking matters into your own hands; we can yield our hands, all of our strength and talents, into His hands. Learning to yield to the conflict will bring you into the place where you too can say, “For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me”.”

Week 7: Kingdom Visitation

Memory Verse

Acts 2:2-3

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

1. Read Acts 2:1-4 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding the presence of God. Share testimonies of experiences in the Lord's presence.

One of the problems that people who have been around church a lot is this, they know about God, they may even have all the revival talk down, but there is no awareness of the God in their lives. That was the problem with the Jewish people when Christ appeared on the scene, they thought they knew but they didn't recognize Him when He was right in front of them. A similar thing happens in times of revival, it didn't look the way you thought and it passed you by. When the Holy Spirit fell on the day of Pentecost those in the upper room were filled with an awareness of the Lord. There was the rushing mighty wind, the tongues of fire; the atmosphere in the room was alive with God. The same types of things happened when the fire fell in Wales and Azusa Street and when the joy broke out in the outpourings of 1994. Some were clueless, others were caught up in the holiness and power of God. Here are some thoughts from Arthur Wallis on being God conscience.

“Here is another conspicuous feature that characterizes revival. “There came . . . a sound as of the rushing of a mighty wind. . . . There appeared unto them tongues . . . like as of fire”. Wherever the Spirit of God is poured out, saints and sinners alike are made acutely aware of the presence of the Almighty. The spirit of revival is the consciousness of God. Just as the “light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun” struck down the zealous Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, and brought him to his knees, convicted and repentant (Acts 26), so does the Eternal Light, in days of revival, burst upon the slumbering consciousness of men with much the same result. On the Day of Pentecost, God manifested His presence first to those in the Upper Room and then to the multitude who had gathered outside, who were soon “pricked in their heart”, until that strange, mysterious influence from heaven had spread over the whole city “and fear came upon every soul”.”

So maybe today is the day for you, look to heaven, acknowledge the Son of God and worship Him. Maybe your room will be suddenly filled with the mighty presence of the Lord.

2. Read Psalm 110:3 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding the revival. Discuss what revival is and our need for it. Revival is what happens when God tangibly visits His people.

Psalm 110:3 Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.

Seasons of revival are rare and precious. I remember a picture of John Wesley that was on the wall in the home of one of my teachers in Bible School. Just that picture invoked a fear of God and a longing for revival in my soul. Our teachers and leaders at school spoke often of those days of revival in history that changed our world. Have you ever thought about what revival is really like? What is its purpose from God's perspective? Jonathan Edwards gives us a glimpse into the heavenly purpose in this short quote.

‘God hath had it much on his heart, from all eternity, to glorify his dear and only-begotten Son; and there are some special seasons that he appoints to that end, wherein he comes forth with omnipotent power to fulfill his promise and oath to him. Now these are times of remarkable pouring out of his Spirit, to advance his kingdom; such is a day of his power.’

The whole purpose is to magnify Jesus, the one and only Son of God. David called it “a day of His power.” Jesus becomes the focus of life when the Lord pours out His Spirit in this way on the earth. Outpouring turns our attention off of His gifts and onto the Lord Himself. Jesus is magnified, and hungry hearts are attracted to Him as the source of all life. Edwards also warned about the danger of preconceived ideas about revival that can actually cause us to reject it when it comes. It seldom happens the way we thought it would or should. Here is Edwards' warning.

‘Persons are very ready to be suspicious of what they have not felt themselves. It is to be feared many good men have been guilty of this error. . . . These persons who thus make their own experience their rule of judgment, instead of bowing to the wisdom of God, and yielding to his word as an infallible rule, are guilty of casting a great reflection upon the understanding of the Most High.’

This sounds like the way I was before I was touched by God in 1994. I had some strong opinions about the way it should be and the way it shouldn't be. Thankfully, the Lord was persistent and broke down my barriers so that I could also enter in to His great outpouring.

3. Read Hebrews 10:19-20 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding Kingdom visitation. Discuss how we can enter into His Kingdom today.

Hebrews 10:19-20 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh...

“One of the most awesome characteristics of revival is the obvious presence of God. Many people touched by revival have learned how to walk in the awareness of His presence. In Hebrews 10, the author talks about entering behind the veil. He says that the veil in the Old Testament temple symbolizes the flesh of man. Even though Jesus has

opened the way into the presence of God for us, most Christians never learn how to enter behind the veil, and only a small number have learned to live there. What separates Christians from the presence of the Lord? What does this veil of flesh represent?

First, this veil speaks to us about the cares and desires of this present world. There are so many distractions to keep us from His presence in the natural world. We have worries, fears, entertainment, personal goals, and ambitions, to mention just a few. These distractions separate us from the tangible presence of the Lord. These desires have to be replaced with a hunger for the Lord. When we begin to hunger and thirst for Him, we can push behind the veil.

This veil of flesh also speaks of religious traditions. Many of us are caught up in traditions, programs, and formats that make it highly unlikely for there to be a move of God. The traditions of man, regardless of how spiritual they appear to be, keep us from experiencing the real God. These traditions keep us from what Jesus called worshipping Him in spirit and in truth, or in reality. Many ministers have a set form and purpose in their services. These forms become a hindrance for the move of the Holy Ghost. For many years, I experienced this frustration in my ministry. I believed that I was on the cutting edge of worship and that I had a progressive full-gospel ministry. Little did I know that our progressive services were very predictable and rigid. Only after I was changed did a spontaneous expression of worship and ministry begin to flow in our church. The veil of religion had blocked the move of the Holy Ghost. But now we are moving in the freedom and reality of the Holy Spirit. We are pressing in behind the veil.

The veil also speaks to us about time. In our fast-paced society, we have become extremely time conscious. The services in most churches can be predicted to end at a certain time. If the meeting goes much past that time, the people become restless and begin to look at their watches. How can God move in such a carnal environment? In order to move behind the veil, we must move beyond our user-friendly short services. We must take the time to wait upon the Lord. We must learn to sit quietly in His presence. As Isaiah wrote, "But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint". Many times, people do not want to leave our services. Many linger for hours, enjoying the presence of the Lord. When you get one taste of life behind the veil, of life in 'His presence', time will begin to lose its importance."

Week 8: Kingdom Finances

Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 8:18

And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

1. Read Deuteronomy 8:18 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding finances in the Kingdom of God.

This is a powerful verse that contains God's plan for provision for His people and His kingdom. Notice this beautiful Hebrew word- power – koah – Mounce word book defines this word as “strength, power, might, ability; often physical strength and the vigor of good health, sometimes simply ability to accomplish an action”. The Lord is telling us that He imparts to each of us ability, endurance, power, and favor to be productive in this life. This enabling from the Lord comes from His anointing on our lives. This Hebrew word – koah – is the equivalent of the New Testament word DUNAMIS. The Lord anoints and equips His people to perform and produce beyond the natural expectations for whatever situation they may be in. Here are some thoughts from Adam Clarke on today's verse.

“God-giveth thee power to get wealth. Who among the rich and wealthy believes this saying? Who gives wisdom, understanding, skill, bodily strength, and health? Is it not God? And without these, how can wealth be acquired? Whose is providence? Who gives fertility to the earth? And who brings every proper purpose to a right issue? Is it not God? And without these also can wealth be acquired? No. Then the proposition in the text is self-evident: it is God that giveth power to get wealth, and to God the wealthy man must account for the manner in which he has expended the riches which God hath given him.”

That is incredible!! The Lord provides the seed, the sun, and the rain; and He causes the seed to sprout and flourish and bring forth the harvest. In the same way the Lord gives us natural talents and then enhances and multiplies them by His Spirit. He places us in circumstances for us to use our talents and then gives us favor for them to bring abundant harvest.

Here is the most important part, this verse says God does all these things to establish His covenant. He prospers us for the advancing of His kingdom. Understanding that is critical for you to rise to your full potential. The Lord's eyes search throughout the land for those He can trust to advance His work, that's where His blessing comes to full completion.

2. Read Joshua 1:8 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding the keys to making your way prosperous.

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

“Everyone wants to have a prosperous or successful New Year. This verse may contain the keys that will release the favor and blessing of the Lord in your life and relationships in 2018. If you pay close attention to what the Lord commanded and promised Joshua you will come to the conclusion that success was based on partnership. Joshua couldn’t sit back and do nothing, he had to engage. At the same time without total dependency on God he would be helpless in taking the land of promise. The nuggets of God’s prosperity are in this passage and are pointed out in these notes from the Fire Bible.

‘Those who know and obey God’s Word will be prosperous and successful because they will possess the wisdom to do what is right and to achieve God’s goal for their lives. The requirements for this kind of success are: (1) to be strong and courageous; (2) to make God’s Word your guiding authority for all beliefs and actions; (3) to study and meditate daily on God’s Word; and (4) to recognize and respond to God’s presence in every area of your life. This message to Joshua gives us a set of general principles for successful living.’

Dick Mills often gave this verse of promise connected to the New Year. He points out that all of God’s commands have fulfillment inside of them. The Lord equips us as we follow His direction. Here is how Brother Mills said it.

‘The Lord issued this statement as a command to Joshua. Often, we think of God’s commands as being strictly prohibitive. Here the command is quite affirmative. The thing to remember is that each command given us by the Lord carries with it the enablement of its own fulfillment. That is, each command comes with an assurance that you and I are able to perform it.’

So, each of us have a whole new year in front of us. Follow the Lord closely and yield to His directions. Like Augustine used to say, “Command what you will Lord, just give what you command.” God’s anointing and equipping are always connected to His directives. May you have a blessed and prosperous New Year.”

Week 9: Kingdom Promises

Memory Verse

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

1. Read Psalms 103:1-5 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding the promises of God.

“Some people, and sadly, some churches act like God is dead. No, they don’t come out and say it; they just act like it. Paul called it having a form of godliness but denying the power. It takes power to truly convert a fallen being into a child of God. It takes power to deliver someone from bondage to alcohol or lust. Only the power of God can heal the sick or change the course of someone’s miserable life. When older Christians fall into a funk and are tempted to believe that God is not going to come through for them we should listen to the words of David, “forget not His benefits”. If He has been faithful before, He will be faithful again. Here are some powerful thoughts from Charles Spurgeon on remembering God’s powerful acts.

‘It is a delightful and profitable occupation to mark the hand of God in the lives of ancient saints, and to observe his goodness in delivering them, his mercy in pardoning them, and his faithfulness in keeping his covenant with them. But would it not be even more interesting and profitable for us to remark the hand of God in our own lives? Ought we not to look upon our own history as being at least as full of God, as full of his goodness and of his truth, as much a proof of his faithfulness and veracity, as the lives of any of the saints who have gone before? We do our Lord an injustice when we suppose that he wrought all his mighty acts, and showed himself strong for those in the early time, but doth not perform wonders or lay bare his arm for the saints who are now upon the earth. Let us review our own lives. Surely in these we may discover some happy incidents, refreshing to ourselves and glorifying to our God.’

So, what are you facing that has you singing the blues? Has God forgotten you? Impossible! Is He unable to help in this particular case? Unthinkable! Remember His promises, remember what He had done for you in the past. He is able to heal your body, forgive your sins, deliver you from the power of sin and even restore broken relationships. His benefits are uncountable, and His best ones are just ahead of you.”

2. Read Isaiah 8:14 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey about the promise of all promises. Discuss what practicing God’s presence looks like on a daily basis and the blessing of becoming aware of His nearness to you and your dearness to Him.

Isaiah 8:14 And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

“Most Christians know about having Christ in their hearts. What may not be quite as common is knowing that they actually are hidden in God themselves. Today’s verse says that God Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, becomes a sanctuary for us. He becomes our shelter in this world no matter what comes your way. What kinds of challenges are you facing? Have you or someone you love received a bad medical report? If so, you are hidden away in God and He happens to be known as the Great Physician. Or maybe you have been struggling with your finances, your daily provision. Here too, you can be encouraged. He is the source of our total supply and He happens to be quite nearby, as close to you as your skin. As a matter of fact, Martin Smith sang that He is wrapped around us like a winter coat, you are hidden away in His care. Matthew Henry speaks powerfully about this verse in his commentary; check it out.

‘He shall be for a sanctuary; make him your fear, and you shall find him your hope, your help, your defense, and your mighty deliverer. He will sanctify and preserve you. He will be for a sanctuary,’ “To make you holy. He will be your sanctification;” so some read it. If we sanctify God by our praises, he will sanctify us by his grace. “To make you easy. He will be your sanctuary,” to which you may flee for safety, and where you are privileged from all the arrests of fear; you shall find an inviolable refuge and security in him, and see yourselves out of the reach of danger. Those that truly fear God shall not need to fear any evil.’

Henry sees this as a place of protection from the onslaught of the sins in this world. It often feels as if we are all alone in in the midst of a ferocious onslaught of sin and compromise. Here too, the Lord is with us. He is our sanctuary and He keeps us from the traps of the enemy. How can you take advantage of this promise in today’s verse? Practice His presence. Draw near to God and you will suddenly become aware of His nearness to you and your dearness to Him.”

Week 10: Kingdom Nature

Memory Verse

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey regarding God's ways of sanctification and holiness in His Kingdom. Discuss the role God plays and the role we play in our sanctification.

Have you ever had a guilty conscience? If you are born again, that's where your salvation experience started. By grace, you realized the obvious; you are a sinner in need of a Savior. We all are. So, our spiritual journey started with a guilty conscience, it continues with a clean conscience. We were separated from God from our birth, Paul said we were God's enemies until that great day when we were changed by amazing grace, we are no longer enemies; we have become friends of God. Now that we have passed from being enemies to becoming friends, the Lord has more He wants to do in us. He refuses to leave us as He found us and just overlook or punish us for our sins. He wants more than that for us. He is not content until He sees Christ formed in us. Now it's becoming clearer and clearer, those cloudy plans He has for my life are not so cloudy any more. He is determined to complete His work of change that He began in me. Here are some thoughts from Ellicott on the beauty of being holy.

'The very God of peace. In more usual English, "the God of peace Himself:" the contrast is between the futile efforts after holiness of which they in themselves were capable, and the almighty power of sanctification exercised by God. This sanctification (which is the special work of the Third Person) is here ascribed to the First Person of the Holy Trinity, from whom the Holy Ghost proceeds. He is called the "God of peace," not in reference to any dissensions between the Thessalonians, but because of the peace which His sanctification brings into the soul, so that it fears neither temptation's power nor persecution's rage.'

So much for the struggle of trying to be holy myself. He has cleansed us and given us a new nature. Christ is being formed in each of us. So rather than trying to convince myself that I am not that bad I have come to some conclusions. Just admit what a horrible person you are. That's where the change begins. The horrible me is not only forgiven but given over to death so that this new man, Christ, can live in me. As Christ lives His life in us, we see the fulfillment of today's verse. We are being sanctified through and through.

2. Read 2 Peter 1:2-4 and discuss the commentary below from Pastor Frank Bailey about holiness. Also discuss practical steps we can take to facilitate holiness in our lives.

“You don’t hear much talk or preaching about being holy nowadays. It’s kind of like holiness is out of style. Why would God expect us to be holy in this filthy world? Could it be because He is holy and He wants us to be like Him? Actually, He took that to incredibly extreme measures when He offered His only Son as a sin offering at the cross. He took our sins so we could be forgiven. We are considered holy by the Lord when we believe in His offer of salvation. He wasn’t content to leave it there. We are not only considered holy, He actually makes us holy by sending the Holy Spirit to live this new life inside of everyone who believes in Him and yields to His love. He wants us to show His life as a contrast to what the world offers. Here are some thoughts from A.B. Simpson on this holiness.

‘God’s motives are always loving! I have known people who seemed to be terrified by God’s loving desire that we should reflect His own holiness and goodness. As God’s faithful children, we should be attracted to holiness, for holiness Godlikeness-likeness to God! God encourages every Christian believer to follow after holiness. We know who we are, and we know who God is. He does not ask us to be God and He does not ask us to produce the holiness that only He Himself knows. Only God is holy absolutely: all other beings can be holy only in relative degrees. Actually, it is amazing and wonderful that God should promise us the privilege of sharing in His nature. He remembers we were made of dust. So, He tells us what is in His being as He thinks of us: “It is My desire that you grow in grace and in the knowledge of Me. I want you to be more like Jesus, My eternal Son, every day you live!’

So, dare to be holy. Determine you will not settle for a form of godliness, religious principles and teachings with no power. Press on to know the Lord. As you draw close to Him, more and more of His nature will be yours. You will see that there is a better life available and God will be glorified.”

Week 11: Kingdom Language

Memory Verse

Romans 8:27

And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

1. Read Romans 8:26-27 and the following commentary by Pastor Frank Bailey and discuss the blessing of our prayer language.

“I was born again during the charismatic renewal and the Jesus movement of the 1970’s. I am thankful every day for the emphasis on the Baptism with the Holy Spirit evidenced by the heavenly language that was a huge part of the move of God in that season. The prayer language has been a blessing to me every day for these last 43 years. It has been especially critical in enabling me to access the power and presence of the Lord. Without that intimacy in my life I would be left with only precepts and principles; not nearly enough to sustain and satisfy my hungry heart.

I can remember seasons in those early days at Gods Army in California where we would pray for extended periods of time corporately in our heavenly language. Just thinking about those special times, I am brought back to the incredible sense of the glory of the Lord. In those moments there was a sense of safety, peace, power, unity, and revelation. A foundation of depending on the power of God was being rooted deeply in my life.

One of the great benefits of our prayer language is that the Holy Spirit, God Himself prays through us. When we don’t know how or what to pray, He takes over with gushings of the heart that can’t be uttered in our natural language. Here are some comments from Andrew Murray on today’s verse.

‘We often do not know what we should pray for, and at times we “do not know how to pray”. Then our inability to pray impedes our prayer and handicaps the faith that is essential to the prayer’s success. But God’s Word gives us true encouragement that at times like these the Holy Spirit intercedes for us in accordance to the will of God. Where and how does the Spirit make intercession for the saints? In the heart that does not know how to pray, He secretly and effectually prays what is according to the will of God.’

It’s disappointing to me how many churches today have deemphasized the moving of the Spirit, especially the beautiful practice of praying in the Spirit corporately. This is the place where God comes down and reveals Himself among us. Without the power of His presence evident in His church what exactly do we have? As for me and our church, we will pray in the Spirit and wait in His presence, and allow Him to make His habitation among us.”

2. Read Acts 2:4 and the following commentary by Pastor Frank Bailey and discuss receiving the prayer language. Give an opportunity in the group for people to receive or stir up their prayer language.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

“Speaking in tongues causes all sorts of reactions. I suppose that would be because it originates with God and not with man. Many, even those who claim to believe in the gift, relegate the prayer language to the back room somewhere and come up with some religious reason for that practice. The question I want to have answered is this, do you really speak in tongues on a regular basis? You see, tongues announced the birth of the New Testament church. Their presence made it very clear that God was in the midst of His people. Shunning the public use of the prayer language will highly restrict the presence of God in the services.

Receiving this gift and using it regularly is imperative if you want the power of God in your life. Have you received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit since you believed? Here is a testimony from a church related to Azusa Street in 1906 from Frank Bartleman and how he received his prayer language.

‘On the afternoon of August 16, at Eighth and Maple, the Spirit manifested Himself through me in “tongues.” There were seven of us present at the time. It was a week day. After a time of testimony and praise, with everything quiet, I was softly walking the floor, praising God in my spirit. All at once I seemed to hear in my soul (not with my natural ears) a rich voice speaking in a language I did not know. I have later heard something similar to it in India. It seemed to ravish and fully satisfy the pent up praises in my being. In a few moments, I found myself, seemingly without volition on my part, enunciating the same sounds with my own vocal organs. It was an exact continuation of the same expressions that I had heard in my soul a few moments before. It seemed a perfect language. I was almost like an outside listener. I was fully yielded to God, and simply carried by His will, as on a divine stream. I could have hindered the expression but would not have done so for worlds. A Heaven of conscious bliss accompanied it.’

So, if you haven’t received your prayer language or don’t pray in the Spirit regularly it is time to draw near to God. Yielding your whole being (including your tongue) to the Lord will result in a great Baptism in the Holy Spirit.”

Week 12: Kingdom Fun

Memory Verse

Psalm 16:11

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

1. Read the following commentary by Pastor Frank Bailey and discuss Christian Hedonism.

“C. S. Lewis, John Piper, and Jonathan Edwards have helped convert me to Christian hedonism. You might not like that term at first but if you stay open and evaluate the facts you too may be converted. First let’s look at the definition of the word hedonism from Webster’s Dictionary:

‘the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the sole or chief good in life’

If hedonism is a philosophy of life that our chief purpose is the pursuit of happiness in this life, a Christian hedonist is someone whose main goal in life is to pursue pleasure in Christ alone. I guess the reason that this sounds strange to many people, including Christians, is that they have not discovered the pleasure that is available to them in Christ. To know Him intimately is a taste of heavenly joy, nothing in this life even comes close. We can taste this joy for ourselves most powerfully in two ways. First, we taste this joy in reading the Bible. The Psalmist may have said it best, in Ps. 119:103 “How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” Secondly, we find ourselves caught up in His presence of joy when we press into His presence through worship. Again, we look to the Psalmist for springs of joy, in Psa. 63:3 “Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You”.

Here are some thoughts from John Piper on Christian hedonism.

‘God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in him. That’s the shortest summary of what we mean by Christian Hedonism. If that is true, then there is no conflict between your greatest exhilaration and God’s greatest glorification. In fact, not only is there no conflict between your happiness and God’s glory, but his glory shines in your happiness, when your happiness is in him. And since God is the source of greatest happiness, and since he is the greatest treasure in the world, and since his glory is the most satisfying gift he could possibly give us, therefore it is the kindest, most loving thing he could possibly do—to reveal himself, and magnify himself and vindicate himself for our everlasting enjoyment.’

So that’s where I am after all these years, enjoying this treasure I have discovered in Christ and using all means possible to share with others this liberating power of joy found only in the Lord. Open your Bible, draw near to the Lord in worship, maybe you too will become a Christian hedonist.”

2. Discuss practical ways we can increase our joy in God through reading the bible. Discuss the role bible reading plans, apps, and accountability play in developing a heavenly habit of enjoying God by reading the bible.
3. Discuss practical ways we can increase our joy in God through worship. Discuss ways of incorporating worship into your daily life.
4. Have an opportunity for people to share testimonies of how their life has been impacted by having bible reading and worship as a priority of their life.