

## SPECIAL DEVOTIONAL

### THE KINGDOM OF GOD RESTORES

*“For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.”*

**(1 Corinthians 4:20 NKJV)**

Kingdom of God refers to God who reveals Himself powerfully in all His works. Kingdom of God that is in power of God surely doesn't just come by itself, but it comes by the role of believers, who always seek Him with a hungry and thirsty heart, both in their own lives and in the fellowship of believers.

Jesus taught believers in the Lord's Prayer to pray: *“Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”* God wants to renew the world that has been “broken” by the fall of man, which results in a lot of unrighteousness in all aspects of human's life. But the Word of God guarantees that when the power of God comes in the lives of believers, the truth will rule in human's heart. Just as what is written in **Isaiah 32:15-18**.

*“Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.”*

Though Isaiah prophesied about judgment, it is always accompanied by the hope of restoration, because the characteristic and the theme of his prophecies is about salvation. Truly, righteousness and blessing will come when the Holy Spirit is poured upon believers who long for Him, and the Holy Spirit will work and rule in their hearts.

Jesus says in **Matthew 11:12** that the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven can only be taken by mighty man, who is willing to break free from the deeds of sin into Christ and His Word. Kingdom of God is not for those who do not have spiritual hunger; who seldom pray, praise and worship God, or still compromising with the world and violating the Word of God. Believers must pray and attempt to bring the spiritual manifestation of the Kingdom of God in this world today and also to proclaim the Kingdom of God among His people in order to destroy the work of the enemy, heal the sick, save the lost souls, and declare the truth and righteousness in the lives of believers. Therefore, the role of believers become so important in these last days to bring the Kingdom of God, so transformation can happen in the lives of believers and also in our nation. What must believers do in order to bring the Kingdom of God in their lives?

A conversation between Jesus with a scribe in **Mark 12:28-34 NKJV**,

*“Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, “Which is the first commandment of all?” Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” So the scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart,*

*with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that no one dared question Him."*

The heart attitudes of believers that can bring the Kingdom of God in their lives are:

- **Love God**

God desires all believers who have received His salvation to love Him faithfully; this love demands an attitude that reveres and values God; that the believers have a deep desire to fellowship with Him, to surrender all of their lives to God faithfully, to make the truth of God's Word as their standard of living, and to try with all their might to follow His will.

- **Love People**

Believers are required to love all people, not just their fellow believers, but including those who are against them. Believers' love towards their neighbors must be founded on the standard of God's Word, therefore when we present our love to our neighbors, we must not compromise with the holiness of God, His will and His standard, in accordance to what is written in the Scriptures.

Kingdom of God that is in power will be revealed when the Holy Spirit is poured out, and transformation will take place. Then as Isaiah prophesied:

*"The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever." (Isaiah 32:17 NKJV)*

These days we are waiting for the fulfilment of God's promise, which is: the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This promise of God will be fulfilled when all of us-believers have spiritual hunger, live according to His will by loving God and people. Then the Holy Spirit will be poured out mightily and He will rule as king in our lives, and transformation will take place. (JM)

*"For I will pour water on him who is thirsty,  
And floods on the dry ground;  
I will pour My Spirit on your descendants,  
And My blessing on your offspring."  
(Isaiah 44:3 NKJV)*