

Search for Truth

11. Welcome into the Kingdom

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 17:20-21

Entering into the Kingdom of God is all about new starts. When you were born in the natural it was not the end but the beginning. The same is true when you are born again.

As we grow in God, we need to balance two things:

1. Privileges (Matthew 11:28)
2. Responsibilities (Luke 9:23)

As with any household there are privileges that come from being a part of that home, but there are also responsibilities.

From Darkness to Light

Christ came to show the new way of life for recreated spirits. By example and teaching, He introduced a lifestyle that is as different as daylight from dark!

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Old Way versus New Way

To better define the government of His kingdom, Christ gave us the Sermon on the Mount. This teaching is to the New Testament what the Ten Commandments were to the Old Testament. Matthew 5, 6, 7

Matthew 7:12

Jesus' basic rule of Christian life can be summed up in this one statement, which is known as the "Golden Rule."

Spiritual Armour

Ephesians 6:10-18

We are in a spiritual battle, so we must be ready for whatever may come our way. It is never a waste to get suited up.

Prayer (developing a relationship with the King)

Matthew 6:6

Prayer is the communication system between man and God. It is a key that unlocks the door of God's treasury. Prayer helps us determine the will of God and then go forth to do His will. It is not merely asking for what we want, but it is conforming to what He wants.

"If we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us" (I John 5:14).

Fasting (a physical discipline for spiritual alertness)

Matthew 17:20-21

To fast means to voluntarily abstain from eating or drinking anything with food value for one or more meals. The best policy is to eat nothing and drink only water.

Isa 58:6 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

**Bible Study and Meditation
(practicing kingdom concepts)**

Psalms 1:1-3

For the spirit to become the center of our existence, it must be given new attention. What helps the spirit grow and develop? We know how to feed the body and the mind, but what about the spirit? Communing with God, Scripture meditation and the preaching of the Word satisfy the cravings of the inner man.

A New Priesthood With New, Living Sacrifices

The fivefold ministry gifts

Ephesians 4:11-12

Under the Old Covenant, God's anointed ministry consisted of the prophet, the priest, and the king of Israel. Before Christ ascended to heaven, a new system was inaugurated. He "gave gifts unto men" (Ephesians 4:8). A new form of priest-hood was emerging that would involve every covenant member and be supervised with specially called and anointed overseers.

**The "royal priesthood" offers
"sacrifices of praise"**

1Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Romans 12:1

Hebrews 13:15

Tabernacle of David

Acts 15:16-17

The tabernacle of David was not built like the tabernacle in the wilderness or like the temple of Solomon. The tabernacle of David was built on praise

2 Samuel 6:13-16

13 And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings. 14 And David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. 16 And as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

Forms of praise

Praise expressions have been provided. Those who have difficulty glorifying the Lord can study examples of the Bible's greatest praise champions. Using God's own Word is a great way of exalting, praying or giving thanks. As our spirit begins responding to His words, we feel ourselves being elevated to victory!

Singing. *A frequent method of praise is singing. More than three hundred scriptures suggest that singing was vital to Hebrew worship. King David commanded singers to perform day and night with songs of tribute to God's glory (I Chronicles 6:31; 9:33).*

And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God.” (Psalm 40:3)

“I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.” (I Corinthians 14:15)

Dancing. *The style of dance in the Old Testament was primarily a leaping movement, often accompanied with music. Repeated examples are given of using the hands, arms and feet to glorify the Lord:*

“Let them praise his name in the dance.” (Psalm 149:3)

(Luke 6:23; Acts 3:8; II Samuel 6:14)

Clapping hands and lifting hands. *Attitudes of praise produce expressions of praise. Just as an uninhibited, excited child claps and waves his hands enthusiastically, a joyful saint often does the same.*

“O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.” (Psalm 47:1)

(Psalm 63:4; Psalm 134:2; I Timothy 2:8)

Musical instruments. *Man’s creativity is exemplified when his soul cries out for expression in various forms of music. Giving glory to the Lord through music is cited at least twenty times in Scripture.*

(Psalm 150:1-6)

A Holy People, Separated Unto God

“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” (I Peter 1:15-16)

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)

What makes something holy is the fact that it is separated unto God. All of the furniture in the temple was considered holy. How could the wooden box wrapped in gold be considered holy? What makes it holy is that it is separated unto God!

There are both Principles and Practical Application of Holiness.

A Balanced Life

Luke 2:52
And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Take note of the balanced way Jesus grew, mentally, physically, spiritually and socially.

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

It is important to live a balanced life but never forget if you put God first, He will help you with everything else.

Phil 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.