

Kingdom Humility - "Life in the Spirit"

Willard ~ Wheaton ~ 4.17.09

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60kOaLMUFQQ>

The session was typed from the YouTube with good-faith effort but it is not verbatim.

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TOPIC - "Life in the Spirit: Spiritual Formation in the Theological Perspective"

Spirit (def) is "un-bodily personal power".

God is Spirit - un-bodily personal power

God acts and His actions constitutes His kingdom - range of His effective will. Thy Kingdom come is not the United Nations but I'm thinking about my life.

A spiritual life is a life lived from the direction, power and motivations of Jesus Christ Himself. With Christ comes his two best friends - God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

A life lived from the Kingdom of God available to everyone who comes and places their confidence in Jesus Christ and he'll take care of the rest of it.

What a Spiritual Life Looks Like

Matthew 6:33, *"Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and everything else will be added."*

When Jesus speaks, we say "Yes" and then ask, "how can I do that?"

He speaks to people like us who have all kinds of concerns

Let all those rest and pay attention to seeking the kingdom of God.

If you seek the Kingdom of God, it will find you.

What do you do when you seek for something?

* Lost keys - Look for it everywhere. Make it your main project to find it.

You seek God in action everywhere.

That's how you seek the Kingdom of God.

If you do one thing, everything else will be taken care of.

"The Lord is my Shepherd. I will not lack anything."

Really? Yes really if the Lord is my Shepherd.

You live in a world where you face many demands and threats. It is only an honest response to recognize I can not deal with them. If I can not recognize them, my life is short and full of trouble.

When I seek him, I began to see the action of God in everything.

Why do we have to seek it?

[9:00]

Seeking is fundamental to show who we are.

What we are seeking pulls our life together and makes it what it is.
God leaves us free to deal with the issue of what we want.

* Bertrand Russell, "What will you say before God?"

"Why didn't you give me more evidence?"

God's answer - "I wanted you to do what you wanted to do."

What is your life really about?

What are you seeking...beyond grades, graduation, beyond letters of recommendation to get into a good professional school?

It is the deepest question. It is a very dangerous question.

God could put an end to all deviation from His will simply just by being present.

When Jesus rose from the dead, He just appeared to some of His friends.

He wanted them to choose. He wanted them to follow their wants. That's why the Kingdom of God is something we seek. If you don't want to know about it, you don't have to...at least for now.

But he makes it available that we can find it if we seek it.

Jeremiah 29:13, "If with all your heart, you really do seek me, you will find me."

What is it you really want?

[13:25]

Things we want with a little help from God.

The greatest threat to the Kingdom of God in my life is my kingdom.

God gives us space. He makes the Kingdom available in His Son, Scripture, human history and right next to you where you can know now if you want to know.

* Song - "Holiness, holiness is all I long for..."

[14:45] Christ comes to us and says, "*You have a lot of things to worry about. Just do this one thing. Make it your primary objective in life to find, interact with what God is doing in your time. That is the doorway to eternal life.*"

God is all in favor of it. You don't need to worry about help from Him. The help will be there

That was Jesus' gospel.

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"Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is now available to you."

The big change in that was - it's now available to everyone who will simply look at Him and trust Him. No longer do you have to have the right " _____ " — you fill in the blank.

The conditions that had been laid down had made the Kingdom of God not available to most ordinary people. The point of the Beatitudes is to make clear that the people who were down on the human scale could come into the Kingdom of God where blessing is. Jesus' gospel brings the old news that there is a Kingdom of God down to the level of the people who say, "I don't qualify" could by trusting Him enter the Kingdom of God. That's called new birth. John 3 is a Kingdom of God passage.

What does it look like?

Three Passages

[17:50]

~ **Joshua 1:8** - it coincides with what Jesus was saying about the Kingdom of God.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth but you shall meditate on it day and night and be careful to do all that is written in it and you will be prosperous and have much success."

See the parallel between Mt. 6:33 and Joshua 1:8

Law is what God is doing. Refers touch more than the 10 Commandments. Law is spiritual, righteous, holy, good. To fill your mind with it brings a substance. You take it in and as you take the substance of the Word of God in you it directs you and conforms you to the Kingdom of God.

The Word is a primary dimension of the Kingdom. It's active, creative, redemptive. When you take the Word in, it is a substance to your soul. Many shall not live by bread alone. When we take the Word of God into us, not just verses but passages. Colossians 3:1-17 is a good place to start because it has the whole reality of spiritual formation.

~ **Proverbs 3:5-7** - What a spiritual life looks like. [21:50]

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes. Flee from evil."

A spiritual life is one who acknowledges God in all your ways.

First - recognize God is all you do. Get over your own sufficiency.

Most are still running their own life.

- God's address is at the end of your rope.

Acknowledge and expect God to be involved.

That's why the Proverb says, "*Don't be wise in your own eyes.*"

~ **I Peter 5:6-7**

[25:00]

6 "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **7** casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."

All of these scripture have to do with leading a life of sufficiency under the hand of God.

"Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God" - that's God's action. You acknowledge him, you depend upon him. When the time is right, God wants to exalt you. If He can just get us to lay aside our efforts to exalt ourselves. He wants to exalt you like a grandparent wants to exalt a grandchild, except that's not even the beginning.

It's more important that you be in a position to be exalted. The way you get there is by humbling yourself before God.

We have a hard time with humility, like if you were really humble you would not even know it.

"Clothe yourself with humility."

What does it mean to be humble? Be realistic about yourself. Immediately see you can't manage your life without God. That will bring you to God. Only with the help of God can you make your life work. That's why humility is so important in this overall picture of spirituality. If you are humble, you are in God's hands. That's the humble person. It is the person who very simply is just who they are.

Three Steps to Humility

[28:40]

1.) Never Pretend

You're going to have to learn how to do that. Getting your body to learn to not pretend before you think about it. You'll save a lot of energy. Think of all the energy people put into pretending.

2.) Never Presume

Don't think you should be treated in certain way. Be who you are where you are. It will save you a lot of disappointment.

3.) Never Push.

Stand for what is right,
stand for who you are,
stand for God but let Him do the pushing.

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If you do those three things, you will find it possible to submit yourself under the mighty hand of God and He will exalt you.

If you are humble, you are not passive. It means there isn't anything you would not undertake that you thought was right and good.

This is available to anyone. It doesn't matter who you are. You begin where you are and you seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and you will know the fullness of a spiritual life if you simply stay on that path.

Closing Prayer

[32:00]

>>>End of Teaching @ 32:45<<<