



Restoring Heaven's Kingdom to Earth

Jesus began His ministry with the words, “The kingdom of heaven is near” (Mt. 4:17). As He began to go throughout the Galilee, Matthew says that He was “preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people” (4:23). When He later sent the twelve, He told them to preach that the “kingdom of heaven is near,” to “heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy” and to “drive out demons” (10:7-8). The seventy were sent with similar instructions. They were to heal the sick and pronounce the nearness of God’s kingdom (See Luke 10:9).

During the forty days between Jesus’ resurrection and ascension, He continually spoke to the apostles about “the kingdom of God” being restored to earth, and told them they were receive the power of the Holy Spirit (See Acts 1:3, 6). Luke later confirms that “many wonders and signs were done by the apostles” (2:43).

When the apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he reminded them that “my message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power” (1 Cor. 2:4-5). If our lives do not demonstrate God’s power in some way, we have yet to touch the reality of the kingdom of God.

We must never be satisfied with lives that are devoid of the Spirit’s power. Healing the sick, raising the dead, and driving out demons were not instructions that ceased with the first century. Believers are still to lay hands on the sick, elders are specifically instructed to anoint with oil and pray for those who are ill. Our brother John Wimber, who saw many miracles in his life, prayed for dozens, perhaps hundreds, before the first person was healed. But he refused to allow his faith to be ruled by sight. Heidi Baker testified to the many times she prayed for blind eyes to be opened before she began to experience the restoration of sight to the blind.

The kingdom of heaven has come! God has restored and is restoring His power to His people in our day. His power will come to us in the form of transformed lives, but it will also come to us through other manifestations of His supernatural power. I refuse to accept anything less. I challenge you to do the same. Never let your experience dictate what the Word of God says.