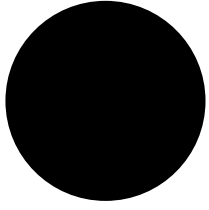


Bringing Heaven to Earth



Jesus' mission of revealing the kingdom could be identified with one word: *righteousness*. We are told, "For the kingdom of God is...*righteousness*" (Romans 14:17, NKJV). Jesus tells us to "seek first the kingdom of God and His *righteousness*" (Matthew 6:33, NKJV). To put it simply, *righteousness* means "right in the eyes of God."

Scripture makes it crystal clear: "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10, NKJV). Unless someone is born again by the incorruptible seed of the Word of God, it is impossible to be righteous or acceptable in the eyes of God. However, the Word declares: "Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him share our sin in order that in union with him we might share the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21, TEV)

Because of what Jesus did for us, we are now acceptable to God in every way. Right standing with Him has nothing to do with our effort but is based on the amazing work of Jesus Christ. It breaks my heart to hear Christians refer to themselves as miserable sinners who have just been forgiven when such a great price was paid for us to not only be forgiven and delivered but also to be re-created in the image of Jesus.

First and foremost, the kingdom within speaks of the divine nature, which empowers us to live holy and fruitful in

this
present world. This power is most evident in the life of
Jesus. He
showed how humankind was created to live—not bound to the
burning
desires of fallen flesh, but motivated by righteousness,
propelled by
the power of the Holy Spirit in love, joy, and peace—abounding
in
forgiveness, healing, restoration, and lifting others to the
higher
life. This is the kingdom; it's not only to live holy but also
to bring
heaven to our lost and dying world.

Now here is His charge to us: "As the Father has sent Me, I
also send you." (John 20:21, NKJV)

What a statement! We are to bring heaven to earth in the
same manner Jesus did. In essence, this is how it should be:
To see one
of Christ's true followers is to see Jesus, just as seeing
Jesus was to
see the Father.

What a responsibility—and an opportunity—this is for each of
us!

*Marked by boldness and passion, **John Bevere**
delivers uncompromising truth through his award-winning
curriculum and
best-selling books now available in over sixty languages. His
newest
book is Extraordinary: The Life You're Meant to Live. More
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