

Kingdom of God

Chapter 3

3.1 Enter into the Kingdom of God

Once you are born again, the Holy Spirit opens up the Kingdom of God. You have now entered into the Kingdom of God. And now that you live in the Kingdom of God, you need to know how to stay in the Kingdom of God. The only way to do this is through obedience to God and His commands.

Now that you understand several keys and secrets of God, what are we to do? Well Jesus has made that very clear in Matthew 6.

MT 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money (mammon)."

This verse is very important because He shows here that we cannot server or love God and love the things of the world, or evil. The Kingdom of God is achieved only through the Holy Spirit. But as you see, the sinful nature is contrary or in battle against the Spirit.

GAL 5:16 "So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. [17] For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. [18] But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law."

As you see here, the Lord is showing that you can loose your salvation if you go back to your old sinful nature.

GAL 5:13 "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. [14] The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." [15] If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other."

3.2 Salvation is NOT Guaranteed

Salvation is not guaranteed. If so, then we would not need most of the New Testament, for it mostly speaks on keeping your crown of life--salvation. If not then we would be robots without a free will, and the Lord hates robots. He wants us to love Him freely. He wants us to have a free will to choose to love Him or to not. What kind of life would you have if you always had to tell your spouse what to do? Imagine, that it is your birthday

and you want to have a party, so in the morning you wake up and program your robot to make a cake, invite friends over, and tell you happy birthday, because the robot loves you. When you come home after a hard days work and as you open the door, you see your robot and it says, here is the cake you ordered me to make, I have invited you're your robot friends as your ordered and happy birthday as you told me to tell you and I love you as you have ordered me to do.

How contrived, how cold, how lifeless is that? I would much prefer to leave work only saying that I love you, and when I get home there is a surprise party, where my spouse is full of warmth, life and lovingly hugs me and tells me happy birthday, because my spouse loves me, not because I ordered it.

So the Lord says:

JAS 1:12 "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the **crown of life** that God has promised to those who love Him."

JAS 1:13 "When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; [14] but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. [15] Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

JAS 1:16 "Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. [17] Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. [18] He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all He created."

JAS 1:19 "My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, [20] for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. [21] Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you."

God is saying that you must keep your faith. You must choose with your free will that you want to obey His commands because you want to Love Him and that He is showing the natural consequence of not. If He did not give us these choices, then we would be like robots. AND GOD HATES REBOTS!

Thus you must obey His commands willingly. You must love God and turn away from the works of the devil or you will loose your crown of life—your salvation. We must endure to the end, not just go to church on Sundays and think that that is enough.

REV 2:8 "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of Him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. [9] I know your afflictions and your poverty--yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. [10] Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. **Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.**”

REV 3:1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of Him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, **but you are dead.** [2] Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found **your deeds complete in the sight of my God.** [3] Remember, therefore, what **you have received and heard; obey it, and repent.** But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.”

REV 3:4 “Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. [5] **He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white.** I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before My Father and his angels. [6] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

REV 3:7 "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open. [8] I know your deeds. **See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name.** [9] I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars--I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. [10] **Since you have kept My command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.**”

REV 3:11 “I am coming soon. **Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.** [12] Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of **My God.** Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of **My God** and the name of the city of **My God,** the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from **My God;** and I will also write on him **My new name.** [13] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

REV 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. [15] **I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!** [16] **So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of My mouth.** [17] You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. [18] I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see."

REV 3:19 "Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. [20] Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears **My** voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

REV 3:21 "**To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on his throne.** [22] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

So what are we doing while we are living here on earth is waiting for the Lord's return? We are fighting a good fight.

3.3 Keeping Our Salvation

1TI 1:18 "Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, [19] holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these **and so have shipwrecked their faith.** [20] **Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.**"

Here Paul is saying that these 2 people have possibly lost their faith and so their salvation, but only God is the judge. He has given us some guidelines as to how to live and so to receive our salvation.

1TI 6:11 "But you, man of God, flee from all this (evil), and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. [12] **Fight the good fight of the faith.** Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. [13] In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you [14] to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, [15] which God will bring about in His own time--God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, [16] who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and might forever. Amen."

But we are constantly fighting the spiritual warfare because our enemy wants to hurt God by destroying us. See Ephesians. When we fight people or argue with them are we not arguing with them but with something more devious.

EPH 6:10 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. [11] Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. [12] **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.** [13] Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. [14] Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, [15] and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. [16] In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. [17] Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. [18] And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

Here is what God says about guaranteed salvation. He only finds 2 churches worthy of salvation. Please read.

REV 2:1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lamp stands: [2] I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. [3] You have persevered and have endured hardships for My name, and have not grown weary.”

REV 2:4 “Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. [5] Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place. [6] But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

REV 2:7 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.**”

(This is one church that God says overcame and was saved. The rest He was mad at. They are all supposed to be Christian churches by He rejects them to hell.)

REV 2:8 "To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of Him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. [9] I know your afflictions and your poverty--yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. [10] Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. **Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.**”

REV 2:11 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death”.

REV 2:12 "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. [13] I know where you live--where satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to My name. You did not renounce your faith in Me, even in the days of Antipas, My faithful witness, who was put to death in your city--where satan lives.”

REV 2:14 “Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. [15] Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. [16] Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.”

REV 2:17 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.”

REV 2:18 "To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. [19] I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.”

REV 2:20 “Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads My servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. [21] **I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.** [22] So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. [23] I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am He who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. [24] Now I say

to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): [25] Only hold on to what you have until I come.”

REV 2:26 “**To him who overcomes and does My will to the end**, I will give authority over the nations—

REV 2:27 ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery’ –“ just as I have received authority from My Father. [28] I will also give him the morning star. [29] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

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3.4 Finally here is what He says about foolish Christians.

MT 25:1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the Bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish and five were wise. [3] The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. [4] The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. [5] The Bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

MT 25:6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet Him!'

MT 25:7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

MT 25:9 " 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

MT 25:10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the Bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

MT 25:11 "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'

MT 25:12 "But He replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

MT 25:13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

Also more!!!!!!!!!!

MT 25:14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. [15] To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. [16] The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. [17] So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. [18] But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

MT 25:19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. [20] The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

MT 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

MT 25:22 "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

MT 25:23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

MT 25:24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. [25] So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

MT 25:26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? [27] Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

MT 25:28 " **Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents.** [29] For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. [30] And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Finally:

MT 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. [35] For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, [36] I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.'

MT 25:37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? [38] When did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or needing clothes and clothe You? [39] When did we see You sick or in prison and go to visit You?'

MT 25:40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.'

MT 25:41 "Then He will say to those on his left, '**Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.** [42] For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after Me.'

MT 25:44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help You?'

MT 25:45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.'

MT 25:46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

