

Kingdom Perspectives – Part 7

Welcome to Kingdom Perspectives, Part 7, October 22, 2008. We looked at Kingdom Perspectives about kingdom roots and content, kingdom views, kingdom attire, kingdom choices, kingdom glory, and last week kingdom paradox. Today we'll look at our kingdom model.

I John 2:6 – The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked (speaking of Jesus). This has two meanings. The first meaning is the obvious one and that is that we're to strive to walk sinlessly just as Jesus lived without sin. That is our goal; but just as important is the mechanism by which we are to function to reach toward that goal. And that brings us to the second meaning of walking as he walked. That relates to the method or mechanism by which Jesus walked. So how did Jesus walk while He was on planet Earth? If we can understand that it will teach us how to walk since we are told by Scripture to walk as He walked. The fundamental principle is that Jesus is fully God and fully man. As God, Jesus is the Son of God, the second member of the Trinity. However, during His earthly walk, Jesus did not walk primarily by His power as the Son of God. He used that power to initiate the process. After initiation of the process, He tapped into a different source of power. In doing that, He taught us how to walk as He walked. To understand Jesus as the second Adam, we need to review a bit by going to the first Adam.

Remember in our series on Kingdom Progression we went through a series of posters depicting various stages in the life of the Christian. We began with Adam in the pre-fall status at which point Adam was totally innocent before God. That's why this poster is drawn in green to depict that he is innocent pre-fall. His immaterial self, consisting of soul and spirit, the way I use those words, functions as a unitary whole—that is to say as one entity. The key thing about this is to note that Adam had free flowing communion with God, with desires coming from the spirit realm, so long as he remained God determined. But Adam did not have a divine nature within him. He communed with God; but he was not indwelt by God. God gave Adam a will to make a choice. His fundamental choice was to choose to remain God determined or to choose to declare himself as self determined. And we all know by now in this series that Adam self determined that he would be self determined. God gave him choice. God did not force him to choose either one. And there is a principle that we're about to begin to review as a result of Adam's decision.

Next poster. The next poster looks at Adam post-fall which is the same as our status pre-salvation. Adam chose self determination. In that instant his spirit died; thus, it is depicted as small and black. His spirit lost its capacity for total unhindered communion with God. Although God could still speak to Adam; because God, being sovereign, has no limits on what He can do in the context of His creature, namely man. By choosing to be self determined, in a sense, Adam created the sin nature which I depict as self on the throne. Self determination is the root of self on the throne and self on the throne is the root of the flesh. The sin nature has been inherited by every man since Adam except for One—that being Jesus as the Son of Man.

Now let us return to Jesus as the second Adam. Jesus was fully human as the Son of Man. That includes being tempted. Hebrews 4:15 tells us that Jesus was tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. That has to be paired with the Scripture of James 1:13, which tells us that God

cannot be tempted. I used to argue with Susan about this point. How could Jesus be tempted, yet He was the Son of God and God can't be tempted, in my unbelieving days. Since Jesus is God as the Son of God, then Jesus as the Son of God cannot be tempted. Since the Son of God cannot be tempted, yet Jesus was tempted, then Jesus was tempted as the Son of Man. So how was Jesus tempted as the Son of Man? Recall that Jesus is the second Adam. So how was the first Adam tempted? He was tempted to give up being God determined in order to be self determined. The first Adam did just that. Thus, the second Adam was tempted just as we are. Jesus, as the Son of Man, was tempted to give up being God determined in order to be self determined. Yet Jesus did not sin. Thus, Jesus never chose to give up being God determined in order to be self determined. That foundational temptation is true throughout the time of Jesus on Earth. However, it is best described in Luke 4:1-13 which describes the wilderness temptation. This is the temptation of Jesus by Satan. In essence, Satan was tempting Jesus to choose to be self determined rather than to be God determined. We know that Jesus responded to each temptation by replying that, "it is written." Thus, He constantly chose to be God determined since what was written was the Word of God. Adam succumbed to his temptation to be self determined. Jesus did not. What was the difference between the two?

The difference is that Adam was fully man, but not fully God. Jesus as the Son of Man could be tempted as we are. Jesus as the Son of God could not be tempted. One way of expressing it, although I'm not insisting that this is theologically correct, is to say that the Son of God was in the Son of Man. Thus, the Son of God never let the Son of Man choose self determination over God determination. Thus, Jesus being both, never sinned. Jesus was the Son of Man. Jesus was the Son of God. Thus the Son of Man was indwelt by the Son of God. Jesus as the Son of man was indwelt by the divine nature. The first Adam was only a man. He was not indwelt by the divine nature. Thus, he functioned in the power of man. Operating alone, the power of man is inadequate to resist the temptation to become self determined. I believe the following; but I don't insist that it be specifically doctrinal for you. From the sum of the Word of God, which is truth according to Psalms 119:160, I believe that Jesus as the Son of God during His earthly ministry only used His power for one purpose. That one purpose was to empower the Son of Man to always remain God determined rather than choosing to be self determined. Beyond that Jesus walked by a certain method to serve as our model about how to walk; because we're to walk as He walked. So how did Jesus walk?

The first point is to observe the focus of Jesus Christ. John 5:19 – The Son can do nothing of Himself unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. Jesus fixed His gaze upon the Father. John 5:30 – I can do nothing on my own initiative; as I hear, I judge and My judgment is just because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him Who sent Me. Jesus fixed His hearing on the Father. John 14:24 – The Word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's Who sent Me. So Jesus fixed His speech on what He had heard the Father saying. The constant focus of Jesus was the Father. John 8:29 – I always do the things that are pleasing to Him. Jesus fixed His actions on the Father. So He fixed His gaze, He fixed His hearing, He fixed His speech, and He fixed His actions on the Father. That's why the Father would say in Matthew 3:17 – This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased. Because Jesus only did what was pleasing to the Father. Jesus constantly remained God focused and God determined. That is our model.

Jesus also performed many miracles that required the power of God. Yet Jesus did not release the power of God that He possessed as the Son of God. He possessed that power; but He did not express that power. If He had done so, He could not have been our model since He is God and we are not. But He did show us how to access the power of God and taught us how the power of God is to be released. His object of focus was the Father. Then the Father released the power through the Spirit.

Romans 8:9 – But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. Here the Holy Spirit is referred to as the Spirit of Christ. What could that mean? Well, here are some possibilities. Luke 1:35 recounts how Gabriel spoke to Mary – The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Thus, the Holy Spirit was the vehicle by which Mary conceived Jesus in her womb to become the Son of Man. Luke 4:1 – And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness. Thus Jesus was filled by the Spirit and led by the Spirit. Luke 4:14 – And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. Luke 4:18 – the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me. Mark 1:10 – The Spirit like a dove descended upon Him. Matthew 12:28 – But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. John 15:26, Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit and says – He will bear witness of Me. And John 16:14, Jesus says of the Holy Spirit – He shall glorify Me; He shall take of Mine and disclose it to you. John 16:13, Jesus says of the Spirit, Whatever He hears, He will speak. Thus, the Holy Spirit is the mouthpiece of Jesus. Hebrews 9:14 – How much more will the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Thus, Jesus through the Spirit, endured the cross. Romans 8:11 – but if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He Who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who indwells you. In all of these dimensions the Holy Spirit could be called the Spirit of Christ. The Holy Spirit was involved in the conception of Jesus; He was involved in the resurrection of Jesus. The Holy Spirit was upon Jesus. The Holy Spirit filled Jesus. The Holy Spirit led Jesus. The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus. The Holy Spirit bears witness of Jesus. And the Holy Spirit brings glory to Jesus. In all of these ways, the Holy Spirit can rightly be called the Spirit of Christ.

Now review how Jesus walked. He focused on the Father, looked at the Father, listened to the Father. He did not focus on the Spirit. He prayed to the Father; He did not pray to the Spirit. Then the Father loosed the Spirit to empower Jesus. Jesus did not rely on His own power as the Son of God while here in His earthly ministry. Now all that I've just described is summarized on the next poster. Beginning at the bottom, all that is circled by red is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Son of God and Jesus is the Son of Man. So let us begin with Jesus as the Son of God. The Son of God is fully God. Thus, the Son of God is the divine nature. Since God will never violate God, then the Son of God will only do the will of God. It would be an oxymoron to speak of God not doing the will of God. Thus, Jesus as the Son of God had no choice. That's because for God, being God determined and self determined are the same thing. Thus, God cannot be tempted by self determination. That is obviously not true for the Son of man. He is the second Adam and fully man, and being fully man, He has a human nature. And by human nature, what I mean is that He has been given a will to make a choice. That choice given to the Son of Man is to be God determined or to choose to be self determined which in my terminology is to choose God or un-God. The first Adam chose to be self determined. The first Adam did not possess the

divine nature. The second Adam is fully God and fully man, and as the Son of Man is tempted in all ways such as we are. However, the second Adam possessed the divine nature as the Son of God. The Son of God empowered the Son of Man to always remain God determined. Thus, Jesus could say that I always did the will of Him Who sent Me. This choice to be God determined (and completely so) is the only way that Jesus used His power as the Son of God in the second member of the Trinity during the earthly ministry. He used this power to remain God focused; used this power to fix His gaze upon the Father. He lived in awe and reverence of the Father which we call the fear of the Lord. He obeyed the Father. He walked by faith in the Father. He loved the Father and He only did what was pleasing to the Father. The Father then worked through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit then came upon Jesus, filled Jesus, led Jesus, revealed to Jesus, and empowered Jesus. Through all of this, Jesus becomes our model. There's only one difference. Jesus focused on the Father. We are to focus on Jesus. By focusing on Jesus, we are obeying the Father. This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased, listen to Him. Scripture tells us to listen to Jesus, to fix our gaze upon Jesus, to follow Jesus, to build upon Jesus, to fix our hope upon Jesus, and so forth. When we do that we are bearing witness of Jesus and we bring glory to Jesus. Those are the two ministries of the Holy Spirit. Then the Holy Spirit is loosed to work in us just as the Holy Spirit was loosed to work in Jesus by the Father. Thus, He becomes our model

Next poster. This depicts some functions of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit functions in us to bring truth, which I call here illumination. He brings gifts and He brings power; and all of these work together; thus there's free flowing connection between them. John 16:13 Jesus says – But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes He will guide you into all truth. I Corinthians 12:8-11 lists the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These include faith, knowledge, wisdom, healing, effecting other miracles, prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues and discernment of spirits. I Corinthians 4:20 – for the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power. And the source of that power is revealed by Jesus in Acts 1:8 – But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. The purpose of illumination, gifts, and power from the Holy Spirit is to produce fruit. The fruit of the Spirit is listed, of course, in Galatians 5:22-23. By illumination, gifts, and power producing fruit, we bring glory to Jesus. Do not forget how the process works. We are to walk as Jesus walked. As Jesus fixed upon the Father, so are we to fix upon Jesus. We fix our gaze upon Jesus because it is written that we're to do so. We fix all our hope upon Jesus. We meditate on Jesus. We stand on the rock of Jesus. We build our house on the rock of Jesus. We follow Jesus. We abide in Jesus. And we sum up all things in Jesus.

Next poster. This is a poster that looks complicated; but don't get lost in the complication. This was covered as the summary poster in our 12-part series on Kingdom Progression. We landed at this point. This poster depicts what I've been describing. We have two choices: spirit and flesh. We are always to use our will to turn to the spirit. In the spirit we access the system of grace. In the system of grace, the source is Jesus, the basis is Jesus, the object of our gaze is Jesus, and the means by which we have every spiritual blessing is by Jesus and Him crucified. This taps into the power of the Holy Spirit. The alternative to that is to use the will to turn into the flesh where we function by a system of law which consists of works, measured by our performance under the power of self which leads to defeat, failure, and death; because it doesn't bear witness of Jesus and doesn't bring glory to Jesus and it doesn't rely on the power of God. So it's only by using our will to turn into the spirit, focusing on Jesus Christ and Him crucified that we tap into the power

of the Holy Spirit. In fact, that alone looses the Spirit to fulfill His mission; because His mission is to bear witness of Jesus and to bring glory to Jesus. He is to be our helper in that; but He is not our helper in using the power of self to perform works where we self evaluate that we reached a godly level that should be acceptable to a Holy God. That's the system of law. So Jesus is not only a goal that we press toward, Jesus is our model of how we are to press toward it. That is to walk as He walked in both meanings. That's how Jesus is our kingdom model.

Next poster. As we use Jesus as our model, this poster is to indicate how we are to flow in kingdom life. The first point is to pay attention. Hebrews 2:1 – We must pay closer attention lest we drift. The point is no one drifts to function in the kingdom of God. If we don't pay attention, we drift and the default position is the flesh with self on the throne. So it begins with paying attention. If we pay attention, the next step is to set the mind. This is reviewed in Matthew 16:23. Jesus rebuked Peter after Peter told Jesus not to go to Jerusalem to be killed. Jesus said to Peter, you are not setting your mind on God's interests; you're setting your mind on the things of man. We are to set our minds on God's interests. So it begins with paying attention lest we drift. Then we're to set the mind, not on the things of man, but on the things of God. And there is one more branch point if we're to function in kingdom flow. We still have a choice as to how we try to implement the things of God and that choice is flesh or spirit. Notice if we don't pay attention, we don't end up accessing the Holy Spirit. If we set our mind on the things of man and not God, we end in a dead end; do not access the power of the Holy Spirit. If we pay attention and set our mind on the things of God, but try to walk in the flesh, we do not access the power of the Holy Spirit. If we pay attention, set the mind on the things of God, and walk in the spirit, then we begin to access the power of the Holy Spirit. So why is there no power in the church today? It is because we are not paying attention, not setting the mind on the things of God, and then trying to walk out the things of God in the flesh under the power of self, performing works to a certain level that we self declare to be acceptable to a Holy God. We are to choose the spirit. What does that mean? I just showed you in the poster on kingdom life. This means regarding Jesus as source of all, Jesus as the basis of all, and Jesus as the object of our constant gaze. That also includes the cross of Christ; because no matter how much you look at Jesus, if you're not functioning in the light of every spiritual blessing that was purchased for us by Jesus on the cross of Christ, there will be no power. That's why Paul would know only Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Paul would teach only Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Paul would boast only of Jesus Christ and Him crucified; because only then are you bringing glory to Jesus, bearing witness of Jesus, and only that taps into the power of the Holy Spirit.

So how do we focus on Jesus Christ and Him crucified with specificity? We covered that in kingdom attire. Our walk in the kingdom consists of constantly putting on our kingdom attire. It is available; but we choose not to put it on. We're told in Scripture to put on the Lord Jesus Christ. We're told in Scripture to put on the armor of God. We're told in Scripture to put on the new man which has been created in righteousness and true holiness rightly in the image of God. That is who we are. So we're told in Scripture to put on the kingdom attire of Jesus Christ. That means to constantly put on Who He is, what He is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do. It's to put on the armor of God which is what we have in Jesus Christ. We have His salvation. We have His righteousness. We have His truth. We have the gospel of peace. We have the shield of faith. And we have the Word of God with Jesus as the truth; both telling us truth and modeling for us how God views reality which is what truth is. When we do

that, what we do then is loose the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit then comes with illumination, gifts and power; but not as ends in themselves. The purpose of illumination, gifts, and power is to produce fruit—namely the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit can then be thought of in terms of categories to help it be easy to understand and easy to remember. Love is the motivation, the basis of all the fruit of the Spirit. No other fruit of the Spirit will flow apart from love; because no matter what you have, no matter what you do, if you have not love it profits you nothing. The emotions of the fruit of the Spirit include joy and peace. Goodness is the morality of the fruit of the Spirit. Gentleness, patience, and kindness are expressions of the fruit of the Spirit. Faithfulness is expressed to God. Control is expressed to self. And gentleness, patience, and kindness are expressed to others. All of the fruit of the Spirit bring glory to God. Giving glory to God is our whole reason for having been created; because all of creation was created to display the glory of God. This glory becomes our extrinsic glory that we direct back to God in response to His intrinsic glory. Thus, we are earthen vessels playing a role in filling the Earth with the glory of God by being transformed from glory to glory into the image of God which is what Christlikeness is.

Now this only occurs when we have proper kingdom perspectives about kingdom roots, kingdom content, kingdom views, kingdom attire, kingdom choice, kingdom glory, and kingdom paradox while regarding Jesus Christ as our kingdom model to enter kingdom flow. That's to enter the river of life as opposed to flowing in the river of death with life in the flesh. This is to walk as Jesus walked and that has two meanings. To become what He was, that is sinless, insofar as it is attainable on planet Earth, and to do it the way He did it. He constantly fixed His gaze upon the Father. We are to constantly fix our gaze upon Jesus; because the Holy Spirit comes to help us when we do that. He didn't come to help us glorify self by performing works under the power of self, doing works that we declare God ought to be satisfied with and the level at which He should be satisfied. That only brings glory to self and only leads to defeat, failure, and death. So I'll ask the questions. Do we pay attention? Do we set the mind on the things of man or on the things of God? If we pay attention and set the mind on the things of God, I ask...do we walk predominantly in the spirit or predominantly in the flesh? If we're functioning in the spirit, it means our gaze is fixed upon Jesus, our hope is fixed upon Jesus, Jesus is the source of all, Jesus is the basis of all. It's through Jesus that we have every spiritual blessing; because it was Jesus Who was crucified to pay the price for all of our sins and what else should be the object of our gaze, if not that Being?

So my time is up and I thank you for yours.