

## Kingdom Progression – Part 12

Welcome to Kingdom Progression, Part 12, May 7, 2008. The schedule you see before you, we're in session 12 called Deliverance. This is the last session in this series. In these sessions, we've covered, remember, the seven stages representing the entirety of the Christian progression. Last time we looked at the next poster which includes Kingdom Laws. I included these because these four laws are mentioned by Paul in a space of five verses in the Word of God. They represent the transition from the end of Romans chapter 7 into the beginning of Romans chapter 8. And that's where Paul makes the transition from "Oh wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of sin?" into life in the spirit realm. We looked at the law of God which, in general terms, means the will of God. We looked at the moral law as a specific example of that. We looked at the law of my mind which includes the desire to fulfill the will of God, but using willpower. We looked at the law of sin in Romans 7:23 more fully called the law of sin and death in Romans 8:2 which represents taking self on the throne, the sin nature, and trying to use that to glorify God.

Then we looked at the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus which is represented by faith in Jesus Christ and Him crucified. So at the end of the last session, we ended up basically in the law of sin and death and we were at the point of "oh wretched man that I am." We were there because, in our foundational poster of this whole series called Kingdom Life, we were trying to use our willpower turning into the flesh, functioning in self determination with self on the throne in order to perform works with our performance of those works being the means by which improvement occurs and glory is given to God; but all done under the power of self functioning within a system of law. That, of course, results in defeat, failure and death. I'll say that again. We were in a system of law, based on works with our performance as the means and the power being of self. That obligatorily results in failure, defeat, and death because it brings no glory to God. However much we may express that we think it does, in reality, it's simply an example of the pride of man thinking through his own efforts he can produce anything worthy before a Holy God. The death that's spoken of there in the life of the Christian, of course, is not positional death, we don't lose our salvation, but it means functional death; that is to say dead works, dead testimony, dead abundant life, and taken collectively, dead churches. All of that occurs because we've not accessed the power of the Holy Spirit. Early in the book of Acts in chapter 2, we see the beginning (if you will) of "wait in Jerusalem until power has come upon you." The power is through the Holy Spirit. That is simply the way prescribed by God. If we choose any other option, we are choosing functional death. So when we cry out for deliverance, but use our wills to function in death, we need to understand the explanation.

But in the spirit realm, Jesus is our focus. Jesus is our source. Jesus is our basis of all things. We have every spiritual blessing through Jesus Christ. But we don't necessarily access in a continuing way every spiritual blessing in Jesus Christ. Every single blessing that we have was purchased for us on the cross of Christ. No cross, no spiritual blessings. So we can distinguish Jesus from His cross, but we're never to separate Jesus from His cross. We know that He rose from the grave, but we also need to know that every spiritual blessing was purchased for us on His cross. So the cross of Christ is the means by which we have even access to the power of the Holy Spirit; because no cross, no Holy Spirit dwelling within us for us to even access. That's why Paul would write over and over, I know nothing, teach nothing, and boast of nothing except

Jesus Christ and Him crucified. That is to abide in Jesus. If you're not walking in that position of abiding in Jesus regarding Jesus as the source and the basis of all things and the cross as the means, then you're operating by faith in self. And faith in self will not access any spiritual blessing. But when you're in the spirit regarding Jesus as the source of all things, the cross as the means, then you're in the system of grace and it's in the system of grace that the power of the Holy Spirit is released. It's only there that you are bearing witness of Jesus rather than bearing witness of self. It's only there that you're bringing glory to Jesus and not bringing glory to self. Why are those two statements important? Because those two represent the mission of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit comes, He will bear witness of Me, said Jesus. When the Holy Spirit comes, He will bring glory to Me, said Jesus. When the Holy Spirit comes, He will take of Mine and give to you, said Jesus. When we do those things the Holy Spirit is then loosed to be our helper. He is our helper, but He's not our helper to exalt self with self on the throne functioning in the power of self to perform works to a level that we determine to be godly. In short terms, that is the system of grace as opposed to the system of law.

Next poster. When we access grace, we access not only forgiving grace but empowering grace. And I simply define the empowering grace of God as the unmerited, omnipotent, power of God operating on our behalf and to His glory. We commonly want the grace of God to empower us to operate on our behalf. The problem is so often when it's on our behalf, it is not to His glory. And the Holy Spirit came to be our helper, to operate on our behalf, to bring glory to Jesus Christ and not to us. And that has three levels in terms of which we can think of. The first is facilitating to choose God rather than un-God. Remember every choice is the same choice over and over. God makes it simple and not complicated. Every choice is either God or un-God. We either choose to be God determined or self determined. And since God has spoken to us in these latter days in His Son, and since God has told us this is My beloved Son, listen to Him, to be God determined for the Christian is to be Jesus determined.

The second category is restraining grace. Restraining grace is necessary to deny self. We cannot deny self using self on the throne to do so. Self is denied by the restraining grace of God through the work of the Holy Spirit; the fruit of the Spirit is called self control. But the fruit of the Spirit can only be produced when the Spirit is loosed, and the Spirit is only loosed when we're in the spirit with Jesus as the source, the cross as the means, to bring glory and bear witness to Jesus and of Jesus.

Then upholding grace which is really a summation of A and B. That is to say upholding grace (which could be called sustaining grace, persevering grace, and so on) is to simply have the power to persevere and choosing God and to persevere in restraining self through the power of the Holy Spirit regardless of time passage, regardless of circumstances, regardless of temptations, regardless of obstacles, regardless of delays, and regardless of failures. When we add all those together, facilitating grace, restraining grace, and upholding grace, we then have the empowering grace of God which is sufficient whatever we face. But we always need to remind ourselves that the empowering grace of God is only accessed when we access the system of grace; and the system of grace is only accessed when we're living constantly in the light of Jesus as the source, the cross as the means, to loose the power of the Holy Spirit, to bring glory and witness to Jesus and of Jesus. We only access the system of grace in the spirit realm with Jesus as the basis, the source, and the object of our gaze. That's why we're told to fix your gaze upon

Jesus the author and finisher of your faith. Any other choice does not access God's empowering grace; because any other choice does not operate to His glory. And, in fact, any other choice is really choosing to be self determined rather than Jesus determined.

Next poster. This poster simply looks at grace abounding over sin. Romans 5:20 is the foundational Scripture – where sin abounds, grace even more abounds. This poster is meant to point out the relationship of grace abounding over sin in various aspects. Abounding grace related to sin can be thought of in two broad categories. The first is forgiving grace. This forgiving grace transcends all of our sins. It is accessed by faith in Jesus Christ as having paid for all of your sins via His substitutionary death on His cross. Thus, Jesus is the source; the cross is the means by which we access forgiving grace. Many Scriptures, of course, apply to that. I've simply selected II Corinthians 5:21 which tells us that Jesus was made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The second category of grace abounding over sin is empowering grace, not forgiving grace. First of all, the empowering grace of God empowers me to resist sin. I Corinthians 10:13 – No temptation has overtaken you, but such as is common to man. And God is faithful Who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able; but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also that you may be able to endure it.

The second category of empowering grace for me in relation to sin is to empower me to forgive when I am sinned against. Jesus as always is where we look for our example and our model, particularly so, Jesus Christ on His cross. I Peter 2:23 – And while being reviled He (Jesus) did not revile in return. While suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself (Jesus) to Him (the Father) Who judges righteously. So no matter how bad the abuse and the persecution became, Jesus did not revile and did not utter threats; but said Father forgive them for they know not what they do. Therein is our model and the way in which we access empowering grace to forgive sin; because when we walk in unforgiveness, what is our basis? The basis is self; because when we think that we have been sinned against and we hold a heart of unforgiveness, by definition we're walking in self as the source and self as the basis. Why? Because Jesus has already paid for all sins for the whole world. So we are holding unforgiveness toward a sin which has been paid for by Jesus. But we can only access unforgiveness in our hearts when we're regarding Jesus as the source and the cross as the means.

The third category of empowering grace is to enable me to even withstand the sins of demons as they buffet me. The Scripture you'll recognize is II Corinthians 12:7-9 which tells of Paul's thorn in the flesh—namely a messenger of Satan who was buffeting Paul. But Jesus, remember, told Paul that His grace was sufficient to withstand the buffeting, to withstand the suffering. So long as Paul was thinking that this demon and his buffeting had to be removed for Jesus to be glorified; or Paul was thinking that he had to, through his own power, overcome the power of the demon, then Jesus could not be glorified. But it's only in the weakness of knowing that I can bring Jesus Christ no glory so long as I'm functioning in the power of self with my eyes on a demon and the buffeting rather than my eyes fixed upon Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of my faith. So we have God's forgiving grace through faith in Jesus Christ and Him crucified. We must have God's empowering grace to the point of abounding grace if we're to have deliverance from the power of sin. Now here's a foundational point which you old-timers will have no

trouble recognizing. We will never regard God's grace as abounding over sin except by regarding God as holy. God is other than. God is transcendent. God has no limit. There is nothing which can approach the power of God. If we're not living in the light of the holiness of God, we'll forever be measuring our circumstances against what we have seen of God or what we have interpreted of God. But God is simply other than. God is holy. God's glory is other than; and remember, last week we looked at how His grace is part of His glory. Thus, God's grace is other than. So if sin and its power seems too big, it simply means that our view of God is too small; because if we're viewing God rightly in His holiness, we will never compare the power of anything to the power of God; because God Himself has said to whom would you compare Me? And that is not a question that He's waiting for us to answer so He can benefit from the quality of our answer.

Next poster. This poster, I call Deliverance. This poster takes these principles and presents them differently. All human beings need deliverance. The unsaved person needs deliverance because the penalty of sin has separated him from his God. Now the unsaved person either makes no effort, because he doesn't consider it worthwhile or relies upon his own performance to satisfy a Holy God. That always ends in failure because Isaiah 64:6 – All of our righteousness is as filthy rags before a Holy God. You've never had a quality second based on your own worth before a Holy God that would merit salvation. That leaves all men under condemnation apart from Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Secondly, the saved person needs deliverance from the power of sin. He already has deliverance from the penalty of sin through the blood of Jesus Christ. He has accessed the grace of God for forgiveness. He now has two ways to try to overcome the power of sin. The first way is by his own performance operating in his own power. This is trying, remember, to use the sin nature of self on the throne, to deny the sin nature so as to bring glory to God. That will always fail because self on the throne will never deny self in order to obey God. The saint has already accessed the forgiving grace of God, but not necessarily accessed the empowering grace of God without which no deliverance occurs. You have deliverance from the penalty of sin; but you do not have access to overcoming the power of sin except you access the empowering grace of God. And it is the same with your progressive sanctification to overcome the power of sin as it is for your salvation. Could God make it any simpler? So how are you saved? You are saved by Jesus Christ and Him crucified. So how will you overcome the power of sin? By Jesus Christ and Him crucified. That's what Paul meant when he said, will you complete in the flesh what was begun in the spirit?

But the second way for the saved person to overcome the power of sin is to turn to the spirit. This includes the cross of Jesus Christ which is the means by which Jesus has purchased for us every spiritual blessing including specifically the power of the Holy Spirit. When we turn to the spirit with Jesus as the source, the cross as the means, then we join the Holy Spirit in His mission and He then looses His power. His mission, remember, is to bear witness of Jesus. His mission is to bring glory to Jesus. Beforehand we had already accessed the grace of God for forgiveness; and in that sense we have the abounding grace of God which has paid the penalty for sin. But now we access the abounding grace of God to have the power to overcome sin. And this is the way of escape that he has provided no matter what temptation we're engaged in. This is to function according to the Kingdom Law that we looked at last time called the Law of the Spirit, the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. The Law of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, is that He only imparts functional power to have functional life to those who are in Christ Jesus. This

means, of course, born again; thus, positionally in Christ Jesus. But it also means abiding in Jesus functionally. And only that brings victory, deliverance, and life meaning the abundant life. Too often we want the abundant life as a fruit of the Spirit while functioning according to the law of sin and death focused on our power performing certain works to a preconceived level of what righteousness with which a Holy God should be satisfied. Only by abiding in Jesus does fruit occur. That includes fruitful works, fruitful testimony; and of course the fruit of the Spirit as part of the abundant life.

Now I'm going to head toward closing this series by simply stating certain aspects drawn from Scripture that pertain to abiding in Jesus. I've extracted these from the Word of God. They're familiar to us; but we don't commonly view them or listen to them one after the other. I've not given each Scriptural reference so that we don't bog down in time consumption, but you'll recognize them easily. The spiritual principle here is to join in the plan of God which is to sum up all things in Jesus Christ—to sum up all things in Jesus Christ. That includes your next thought. That's why we're told to capture every thought in obedience to Christ; because your next thought is to be summed up in Jesus Christ. If it isn't, you're functioning in the flesh with self on the throne and you'll end up in defeat, failure, and functional death. Abiding in Jesus includes (but of course is not limited to)

- Sitting at the feet of Jesus as did the Gerasene demoniac.
- Touching the garment of Jesus as did the woman with the issue.
- Leaning against the breast of Jesus as did the apostle John.
- Fixing your gaze upon Jesus.
- Listening to the voice of Jesus; this is My beloved Son, listen to Him.
- Smelling the aroma of Jesus which is how we become the aroma of Christ unto God.
- Standing on the rock of Jesus.
- Hiding in the rock of Jesus.
- Building your house on the rock of Jesus.
- Walking with Jesus.
- Following Jesus.
- Pressing toward Jesus.
- Bearing witness of Jesus.
- Giving glory to Jesus.
- Pointing toward Jesus.
- Eating the flesh of Jesus.
- Drinking the blood of Jesus.
- Imbibing the living water that comes from Jesus.
- Regarding the only way as Jesus.
- Regarding the source of all truth as Jesus.
- Regarding the life as Jesus.
- Regarding the light by which we walk as Jesus.
- Regarding the one mediator between us and God as being Jesus.
- Regarding every spiritual blessing as coming through Jesus.
- Consolidating every fear into one fear—namely the fear of Jesus; fear meaning dread and terror and fear of Jesus meaning awe and reverence because we're told to cast our

anxieties upon Him. You will never cast your earthly fears upon Him unless you're holding Him in awe and reverence compared to that which you fear in the earthly realm.

- Knowing the Son of God to be Jesus.
- Knowing the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world to be Jesus.
- Knowing your Savior to be Jesus.
- Knowing all ultimate value to be wrapped up in Jesus.
- Growing progressively into the image of Jesus.
- Putting on Jesus.
- Knowing love by Jesus.
- Loving because you were first loved by Jesus.
- Accessing all grace through Jesus.
- Walking by faith in Jesus.
- Knowing your basis of all things to be Jesus.
- Knowing your source of all things to be Jesus.
- Accessing the power of the Holy Spirit only in Jesus.
- Capturing every thought to the obedience of Jesus.
- Fixing all your hope upon Jesus.
- Casting all your anxieties upon Jesus.
- Resting in Jesus.
- Knowing righteousness by looking at Jesus.
- Awaiting my rapture by Jesus.
- Awaiting the judgment seat of Jesus.
- Awaiting the second coming of Jesus.
- Awaiting the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus.
- Secure in eternity future with Jesus.
- This is to regard my all in all to be Jesus.
- It's to sum up all things in Jesus; that is to abide in Jesus; and that is to live life in the spirit, not in the flesh.
- And it's to function in the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

This is the goal of our Kingdom Progression during our time remaining on planet Earth after our salvation. This is kingdom life and that's why I view that one poster on kingdom life as the one summary poster of all that we talked about—from the Holiness of God, the Sin of Man, the Judgment of God, and the Cross of Christ, and throughout the Kingdom of God is to bring us to Kingdom Life so that we bring Him glory. So may we access it to the full, to our blessedness, to the well being of the world who is waiting for a testimony of God from us, and to His maximal glory. This is to have the fulfillment of Romans 8:2 and to make the transition of our lives from, Oh wretched man that I am into the abundant life of the Kingdom of God. It's to have the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus set you free from the law of sin and death. Remember, Scripture tells us that it was for freedom that He set us free. So we can be free positionally and never access the freedom for which He set us free. But oh, when we access Kingdom Life according to the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, then we have accessed the freedom for which He set us free which is freedom from every besetting sin. This is our unity in Christ. Of course we're in unity in Christ positionally; but if 99% of the Christians are walking according to the law of sin and death, we will never have unity except unity in something which denies glory to Jesus. This

is our Kingdom Progression and this is to access Kingdom Life functionally and not just positionally. This is what brings Him maximal glory. It brings us maximal joy and brings the world maximal valid testimony of Him. This maximally destroys the works of the devil. And these are the purposes for which Jesus came.

In summary, this is our upward call of God in Christ Jesus toward which we single-mindedly press. So I am a member of the body of Christ. Each member has specific gifts and callings. When asked to describe my calling, I state that I am not a program man; I am a reprogram man. By that I mean that my calling is to be first transformed by the renewing of my own mind, and in the course of that spiritual journey, to play a role in the renewing of the minds of the Christians and the churches with whom I come in contact. This is not a new spiritual concept; this is an old spiritual concept presented in what may be a slightly new way. But after all, isn't that what we as earthen vessels are to do? To receive from our God and then have this attitude? Such as I have I gladly give to you. And that's all that I'm doing in this series on Kingdom Progression, really throughout this whole series, is to take whatever I have learned from the Word of God, illuminated and quickened by the Spirit of God and then share it with you. So such as I have, I give to you. But my time is up as is this series and I thank you for yours.