

Fountaingate Christian Foundation presents...

The King's Table

**Series
High Value Living**



***Sending the Word of God
to the Ends of the Earth***

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A Personal Letter to You

Dear Friend

One thing most people need is to be encouraged as to the true value of their lives. Each of us is unique and has received special qualities, giftings and opportunities in life.

Most of us also settle for lower levels of achievement and fulfilment than God actually intends for us. Often we measure our quality of life by the lives of others or, even worse, by the standards of the world. Paul, the apostle, said if we measure ourselves by ourselves we are not wise (2 Cor. 10:12). Our measure is indeed Jesus Himself. When we receive Christ into our lives our lives take on another whole dimension which anoints and enhances our whole personality.

This is a different perspective and value system. It is "high value living". This series deals with just a few of the high value aspects.

Our prayers are with you.

Kind regards,

*Paul, Bunty and David
The Collins Ministry Team*

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The New Dimension

As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:48

The Second Man

"The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven" 1 Corinthians 15:47.

Christ died as the Last Adam, the representative of the old humanity. In Him God put to death that fallen human race. But when he rose, he rose as the Second Man – the representative of all those who believe in Him. He rose as the beginning of a new spiritual genetic line, a new humanity, a new race altogether. See 1 Cor.15:22; 2 Cor.5:14-15.

The new humanity

"And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven" 1 Corinthians 15:49 (see also 2 Cor.5:17-21; 1 Peter 2:9; John 17:14-16).

Life now, for the believer, is of a new dimension, of high values, daily seen outworking:

In life

"And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." 2 Cor. 5:15 (see also Romans 6:4-11).

In relationships

"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brother, love one another deeply, from the heart" 1 Peter 1:22 (see also John 13:34-35).

In forgiveness

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive

as the Lord forgave you" Colossians 3:13 (see Matthew 8:21-35; Hebrews 12:15).

In attitude

"...make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus" Philippians 2:2-5 (read verses 1-8. See also Romans 12:9-21).

In reactions

• To others

"...When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it, when we are slandered, we answer kindly..." 1 Cor.4:12-13.

• To stress and pressure

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hardpressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed" 2 Cor.4:7-12 (read to verse 18).

In focus and purpose

"...But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" Philippians 3:13-14 (see also Philippians 1:21).

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A Life of Great Benefits

“ Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits...who...crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things...Ps.103:2-5 ”

“For the Lord has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling: ‘This is my resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it – I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor will I satisfy with food. I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints will ever sing for joy’” Psalm 132:13-16 (see Hebrews 12:22-24).

God's abundant blessing

“For out of His fullness (abundance) we all received – all had a share and we were all supplied with – one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing, and even favor upon favor and gift [heaped] upon gift” John 1:16 (Amp) (see also Ephesians 1:3).

God is a loving Father who, out of His great abundance, delights to bless us, His children. Relationship with Him brings great joy and fulfilment in life.

3 attitudes to receiving

“Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret...” Psalm 37:4-7.

Here we see, for us to experience the abundance of God's outpoured blessing, there are three important attitudes of heart in our relationship with the Lord:

- Delight in the Lord (see Psalm 27:4-6).
- Commit to the Lord (see Psalm 31:14-15).
- Be still before the Lord (see Psalm 46:10).

3 hindrances to receiving

“...You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures” James 4:2-3.

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” Hebrews 11:6.

- Not asking (see 1 John 5:14-15).
- Wrong motives (see 1 John 3:21-22).
- Unbelief (see James 1:6-8).

3 keys to receiving

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened” Luke 11:9-10 (Matt.7:7-8).

All through this life with Him three words will be the keys that will open vast doors of opportunity and development:

- Ask (see John 14:13-14; 15:7,16; 16:23-24).
- Seek (see Jeremiah 29:13; Isaiah 55:6).
- Knock (see Luke 11:5-8)

We will look further into these keys to receiving in the next lesson.

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"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Recipients of His Goodness

“ So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Luke 11:9 ”

The invitation to ask

“...Ask and keep on asking...” Luke 11:9 (Amp).

Asking speaks of the simple loving relationship of a child with a father (see Matthew 7:9-11). In this relationship with God our Father, we are encouraged to ask Him for whatever we need and His promise is definite – we will receive.

Ask in faith

“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer” Matt.21:22 (see James 1:5-8).

Ask in Jesus' Name

“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it” John 14:13-14.

Anything is possible

“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God’” Mark 10:27 (see Mark 9:23).

God does more than we ask

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work with us...” Eph.3:20-21.

The invitation to seek

“Seek and keep on seeking...” Luke 11:9 (Amp).

Seeking speaks of a whole-hearted desire. There are depths to life and understanding which keep us

seeking for the treasures of the knowledge of God. After 30 years of glorious experiences with God, Paul still proclaimed his greatest desire in life...

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings...” Philippians 3:10 (read through verses 7-14. See also Psalm 63:1).

To seek God means life

“...Seek Me – inquire for and of Me, and require Me [as you require food] – and you shall live!” Amos 5:4 (Amp).

Seek for things of heavenly value

“...set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God” Col. 3:1.

Seek for the good of others

“Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others” 1 Corinthians 10:24.

Seek for your nation

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land” 2 Chronicles 7:14.

The invitation to knock

“Knock and keep on knocking...” Luke 11:9 (Amp).

Knocking speaks of a determined faith that will not give up. Read the parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8.

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"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Blessing of God

☪ Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. ☪
Psalm 23:6 (NKJV)

In the dominion of darkness, where we once belonged, we lived under a curse (Genesis 3:17) but now, through faith in Christ and his work on the Cross, God has transferred us out of the dominion of darkness into His Kingdom (Col.1:13). We have now embarked on a journey touched by the overflowing goodness of God towards us. We now live under the umbrella of His blessing.

The curse is broken

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.' He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus..." Galatians 3:13-14.

Read Numbers 23:7-26. Balaam set out to curse the people of God to gain the promised payment by their enemy, Balak. But he could not curse them!

"How can I curse those whom God has not cursed?...I have received a command to bless; he has blessed, and I cannot change it" Numbers 23:8,20.

We have been blessed

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ" Ephesians 1:3 (see also Galatians 3:7-9).

When we stepped into Christ we stepped into the blessing of God.

"Blessings crown the head of the righteous..." Proverbs 10:6.

Results of being blessed

The first blessing God declared upon mankind pictures God's blessing upon us today. Read Genesis 1:27-30:

Fruitfulness

"Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth..." Genesis 1:28.

So it is for the New Creation. God desires us to be fruitful and increase and fill the earth.

"...go and make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28:19 (see also Psalm 67:1-2).

Authority

"Rule over...every living creature..." Gen.1:28.

So it is for those of His kingdom.

"When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick" Luke 9:1-2 (see also Matt.28:18-20).

Abundance

"Then God said, 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food" Genesis 1:29.

So it is for those in Christ – God blesses with His abundant provision for all we need (see 2 Corinthians 9:8; Philippians 4:19; Matt.6:25-34).

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Life of the Overflow

“...I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance – to the full, till it overflows.

John 10:10 (Amp)

Jesus came not only that we might have *eternal* life but that we might have *abundant* life now. Through our faith in Christ God has given us, by His Spirit, the wonder of His own life. In the midst of the trials and difficulties of life down here on earth the believer now knows...

Abundant grace

“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ” Romans 5:17 (see 2 Corinthians 9:8).

Abundant peace

“Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord” 2 Peter 1:2 (see Philippians 4:7).

Abundant love

“Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance” Jude 2 (1 Thess.3:12; Ephesians 3:14-19).

Inexpressible joy

“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy...” 1 Peter 1:8 (see also 2 Corinthians 8:2).

Running over provision

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap...” Luke 6:38 (see also 2 Corinthians 9:12).

Overflowing hope

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” Romans 15:13 (see 5:1-5; Heb.6:18-19).

Overflowing comfort

“For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows...” 2 Corinthians 1:5 (read through verses 3 to 7; Psalm 23:4).

Overflowing thankfulness

“...just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness” Colossians 2:7 (see 2 Corinthians 4:15).

Incomparable power

“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know ...his incomparably great power for us who believe” Ephesians 1:18-19 (read to v.23).

Surpassing victory

“Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us” Romans 8:37 (Amp). (See also 2 Corinthians 2:14).

Crowned with blessing

“Blessings crown the head of the righteous...” Proverbs 10:6 (see also Eph.1:3; Psalm 23:5-6).

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Adversity is a Plus

“...you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials...so that your faith...may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour... 1 Peter 1:6-7”

We can expect adversity

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” John 16:33 (see also 1 Peter 4:12-19; Acts 14:21-22).

The Lord does not promise there will no longer be any trouble for the believer. Indeed, He states as a definite fact – in this world we will have trouble. His promise is victory in the *midst* of it!

God works in everything

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” Romans 8:28 (see also verse 17-18).

God works in all the circumstances of our life for two reasons:

For us

God uses everything to bring about His ultimate purpose in us. Paul goes on to declare what that purpose is...

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers” Romans 8:29.

For others

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles,

so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God...” 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (read through to verse 11. See also Philippians 1:12-14).

More than conquerors

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” Romans 8:37 (read from verse 26).

Note Paul declares we are more than conquerors *in all these things!* What things? He lists first of all the natural forces of life (v.35-36), then goes on to include spiritual forces (v.37-39). The Chinese translation of this verse declares:

“In all these things we have the victory with plenty left over”.

God's grace is all we need

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’” 2 Corinthians 12:9.

God's grace...His enabling power...is available for us in every situation of life we face. Through it we experience:

- Strength in weakness (1 Cor.12:9-10).
- Peace in trouble (Philippians 4:6-7).
- Revelation of Him (2 Cor.4:6-18).
- Changed to be more like Him (Rom.8:17-18).

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all” 2 Cor.4:17 (2 Cor.3:18).

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A Totally New Culture

“ For if a man is in Christ he becomes a new person altogether – the past is finished and gone, and everything has become fresh and new. 2 Cor.5:17 (Phillips) ”

When Jesus preached the gospel of the Kingdom He preached its culture – a whole new way of living (read Matthew chapters 5-7). This is not just a new philosophy in words. Jesus acted those words out in His life right up to His death on the Cross (see John 1:14).

The new culture begins

“...for you have finished with the old man and all he did and have begun life as the new man, who is out to learn what he ought to be, according to the plan of God” Colossians 3:9-10 (Phillips)

Every nation and people have a culture peculiar to themselves. A culture is the way we live. It is what gives a people their identity. As believers “in Christ” we are now:

The people of God

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God...” 1 Peter 2:9 -10 (see also Colossians 3:12).

Foreigners on earth

“Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us” 1 Peter 2:11-12 (read the example of the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11:8-10; 13-16).

A whole new race of people

“As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven” 1 Corinthians 15:48-49.

All barriers broken

All the divisions that were part of the old culture because of sin and self-centredness are completely dissolved in the new.

“[In this new creation all distinctions vanish]; there is no room for and there can be neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, [nor difference between nations whether alien] barbarians or Scythians [who are the most savage of all], nor slave or free man; but Christ is all and in all – everything and everywhere, to all men, without distinction of person” Colossians 3:11 (Amp).

In Christ, gone are...

- Cultural barriers (“Greek nor Jew”)
- Religious barriers (“circumcised nor uncircumcised”)
- Racial barriers (“barbarians or Scythians”)
- Class barriers (“slave or free”)
- Gender barriers (“male or female” - Galatians 3:26-28)

Read Ephesians 2:14 -19.

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Right Side Up Living

“...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave. Matthew 20:26-27”

The model citizen

“Let Christ Jesus be your example as to what your attitude should be...” Philippians 2:5 (Phillips).

Jesus, although he was the Son of God, became by choice the Son of Man. He came to serve us and give His life for us. He is the example for us of what the true citizen of His kingdom is like.

“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’, and rightly so, for that is what I am.. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you” John 13:13-15 (read also verses 5-17; Matthew 20:26-28; Luke 22:27).

Up-Side-Down Life-Style

The life-style of the Kingdom of God is up-side-down to the life-style of the world. Its basic principles are in direct opposition. It is filled with paradoxes.

In slavery is freedom

“But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness...” Romans 6:22 (see also 1 Corinthians 7:22; 1 Peter 2:16).

In servanthood is greatness

“The greatest among you will be your servant” Matthew 23:11 (read also verse 12; Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 9:35).

God promises that those who follow Jesus will be honoured by the Father.

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me” John 12:26.

In humility is exaltation

“Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” Matthew 18:4.

In submission is authority

“...Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him” ‘Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof...But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it” Luke 7:6-8.

The right-side-up life-style of the Kingdom of God is living by God’s principles and wisdom. It is an attitude of submission and obedience to God, not because of fear or duty, but desiring to please Him:

- Because of all He has done for us (Romans 12:1; Ephesians 4:1; Titus 3:4-7).
- Because in doing so we find fulfilment (Psalm 40:5-8).
- Because of love for Him (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3-4).

“We also pray that your outward lives, which men see, may bring credit to your master’s name, and that you may bring joy to his heart...” Colossians 1:10 (Phillips).

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Living in the Light

☪ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light – lead the lives of those native-born to the Light. Ephesians 5:8 (Amp) ☪

The New Testament is full of descriptions of the new culture of the Kingdom of God, the writers constantly contrasting the old and the new (read Colossians 3:3-17; Ephesians 2:1-7; 4:17-32).

Living in the light

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)" Ephesians 5:8-9 (see John 8:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5).

Light speaks of clarity, honesty and purity.

A new perspective

In the Kingdom of God everything in life is seen from an eternal perspective.

"... We are asking God that you may see things, as it were, from his point of view by being given spiritual insight and understanding" Colossians 1:9 (Phillips).

A new focus

The things of heaven are now the priorities and greatest desires of our life.

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" Colossians 3:1-2 (see also 2 Peter 3:10-14).

A new attitude

Thankfulness, constant rejoicing and praise to God mark the new creation people.

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" Col.2:6-7 (see Col.3:17; Eph.5:18-20; Phil.4:4; Heb.13:15).

A new relationship

Open, honest hearts before God and others produce true fellowship.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" 1 John 1:6-7 (1 John 2:9-10).

Love governing all

God's kind of love is the centre of our new culture.

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers" 1 John 3:16 (see John 13:34-35; 2 John 6).

It is selfless

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" Ephesians 5:1-2.

It is active

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" 1 John 3:17-18 (see Rom. 13:8-10).

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The Joy of Self-Surrender

☉ ...If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me...whoever loses his life for me will find it. Matthew 16:24-25 ☉

The big decision

Who has the ownership of my life? This is the big decision we all make.

"...You are not your own; you were bought at a price..." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

A great exchange was made at the Cross. Jesus took all I was – my sins, my old self, my judgment, my future. He gave me all He is – his righteousness, his nature, his life, his future. This now flavours the total direction of my life.

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self...and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" Eph. 4:22-24.

It is this new creation that I am (2 Corinthians 5:17) that I am now to offer in total surrender to Him.

Jesus set the example

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" Hebrews 12:2.

We have been brought into the same eternal, God-centred orbit of living as Christ Himself. We now have a totally new focus in life. Our eyes are fixed on two things:

Jesus

Self is no longer the central focus of our lives – Christ is. He is now the centre of everything for us.

The joy set before us

Jesus suffered the agony and shame of the Cross for "the joy set before him". He was focused on what the Cross would produce – us – the new creation children of God! In the same way, we, the new creation people, take up *our* cross (the hardships and persecutions related to sharing the gospel – 2 Cor. 4:7-12; 6:3-11; 10:22-33) for the joy set before us – seeing people come into all that Jesus has done for them.

Our new life-style

Daily surrender of our new life in Christ determines the new life-style of the believer. This following scripture says it all:

"...If any person wills to come after Me, let him deny himself – that is, disown himself, forget, lose sight of himself and his own interests, refuse and give up himself – and take up his cross daily, and follow Me [that is, cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example, in living and if need be in dying also]" Luke 9:23 (Amp).

The great satisfaction

"In everything I have pointed out to you [by example] that, by working diligently thus we ought to assist the weak, being mindful of the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, It is more blessed – makes one happier and more to be envied – to give than to receive" Acts 20:35 (Amp.) (See also Colossians 3:23-24; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

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"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Yielding to God's Directions

“...Offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. Rom.6:13”

Everything we have in this life has been given to us specifically to benefit others, advance the Kingdom of God and glorify God. Our daily life of partnership with God gives us a high value life with a sense of great purpose.

Giving God our all

This joyous surrender involves all areas of our life – added value living.

Our life

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (read also Galatians 2:20; Acts 17:24-25).

Our time

“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” Psalm 90:12 (see also verse 14; Ephesians 5:15-16).

Our talents and abilities

“Each of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms” 1 Peter 4:10 (read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

Our possessions

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and

rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” Matthew 6:19-21 (read also Colossians 3:1-2).

Our finances

“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” Matthew 6:24 (read also 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19).

Our sharing of the Gospel

“So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God...” 1 Cor.4:1 (also v.2; 1 Tim.6:20).

The big decision first

If we clearly make the ultimate decision of our life then the little daily decisions will be easier. We only have one life. We must decide what we do with it.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship” Romans 12:1 (also v.2; Col.2:6).

Responding daily

Our delight is to daily surrender to the Lord.

“The Sovereign Lord...wakens me morning by morning, wakens my heart to listen like one being taught” Isaiah 50:4 (also Psalm 118:24; Luke 9:23).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Highest Motivation

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap... Luke 6:38

Much of Jesus' teaching concerned the area of giving which deals with one of the major areas of heart motivation. To have a high value motivation Jesus emphasised:

We choose with an eternal view

"Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" Luke 12:33-34 (see vs. 16-21; Luke 16:13-15; Matt. 6:19-21; Matt. 19:16-24).

We do not share to get rewards

"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" Matthew 6:2-4.

Only genuine giving pleases God

"Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the

treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on" Mark 12:41-44.

Giving determines our receiving

"Consider carefully what you hear,' he continued. 'With the measure you use, it will be measured to you – and even more" Mark 4:24.

The life-style of giving in God's Kingdom is selfless. The act of blessing others is reward enough.

The heart of sharing

We are to have the same heart of sharing as God:

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" Ephesians 5:1.

- Willingly 2 Cor. 8:12; Acts 20:35.
- Generously 2 Corinthians 9:6.
- Cheerfully 2 Corinthians 9:7.
- Secretly Matthew 6:1-4.
- As Jesus did Philippians 2:5-8.

Motives of our service

- To the Lord Matthew 5:37-40.
- To others 1 John 3:17-18.
- To ourselves Acts 20:32-35.

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" Acts 20:35.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Victory Over Little Foxes

“ Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom. Song of Songs 2:15 ”

God's vineyard

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" John 15:5 (read through to verse 8).

Satan sends "little foxes" to seek to destroy the vine in which we grow in Christ.

Aware of Satan's schemes

"...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes" 2 Cor.2:11.

Recognising the "little foxes", and knowing God's provision in combating them, is the all-important thing. Satan attacks the believer, seeking to reduce our victory in Christ, in two areas – our personal lives and the relationship of the Body of Christ:

Our personal lives

The enemy focuses his attack in four areas:

Our feelings

He attempts to pressure us to focus on our feelings instead of the Word of God – the truth. Faith is based on God's Word not how we feel.

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ" Romans 10:17.

Our imaginations

Satan seeks to paint dark fantasies on the canvas of our minds. But we are instructed by the Lord:

"We demolish arguments and every pretension

that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" 2 Corinthians 10:5.

Our memories

Satan would try to inject in the memory of the believer the pain and paralysing effects of the past. But we stand in the finished work of the Cross. The old has gone (2 Corinthians 5:17):

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us" Ps.103:12.

Our conscience

The enemy actively accuses the believer and seeks to hold us under condemnation (Revelation 12:10). But our consciences are washed clean by the shed blood of Christ.

"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" Hebrews 9:14 (see Romans 8:1; 31-39; Acts 24:16).

Victory over "little foxes"

To have knowledge of the enemy's devices is to be forewarned. Our strength is in the Lord!

"In conclusion be strong – not in yourselves but in the Lord, in the power of his boundless resource. Put on God's complete armour so that you can successfully resist all the devil's methods of attack" Ephesians 6:10-11 (Phillips) (See also James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

United in Christ

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:3

The Body of Christ

The Enemy has "little foxes" (Song of Solomon 2:15) he uses to try to bring division between Christians. Recognising them and refusing to entertain them are the keys to living in the unity of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:25-27).

"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind" 1 Peter 2:1.

Malice

Malice is always attributing the worst to every situation and wrong motives to every action (read Colossians 2:20; 3:1-10). The New Creation believer views everyone from the perspective of the Cross:

"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" 1 Corinthians 2:2.

Deceit

Deceit, or guile, is not being straightforward and open, but baiting and crafty (see Psalm 32:2; 34:13). We, as the New Creation are called to live in the light...

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" 1 John 1:7.

Hypocrisy

Hypocrisy literally means "to pretend" or "play-act" (read Matthew 23; Luke 12:1). What counts for the believer is that which is *real*.

"...But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit —just as it has taught you, remain in him" 1 John 2:27.

Slander

Slander is to speak down and against someone (see Col.3:8; Titus 3:2). As a New Creation we impart life through our words (see Proverbs 18:21; 15:4).

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen" Eph. 4:29 (from v.21).

Envy

Envy comes from discontent – it is a mortified feeling because of the success of another. Though not necessarily wanting to be elevated, envy seeks to downgrade others. The love of God, now poured into the Christian's heart (Rom.5:5) dispels all envy.

"Love... does not envy..." 1 Corinthians 13:4.

The bond of peace

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace..." Colossians 3:15 (read from v.12).

The peace of God in our innermost being is a strong guide to let us know when these "little foxes" are attempting to enter our hearts and thereby destroy relationships. The moment that sense of inner peace is shaken we can call on the grace of God to help us (Hebrews 4:16; 12:15). Through His enabling we overcome and unity is preserved.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The High Ground of Love

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”...“Love your neighbour as yourself”. Luke 10:27

God desires a harvest in our lives. Heading the list of the fruit of the Spirit is love (see Galatians 5:22; 1 Corinthians 13:4-13).

Poured out from Heaven

The Father so loved the world He gave His Son (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10). The Son so loved us He gave His life as a ransom to redeem us (Romans 8:5; John 15:13). This same love is now poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

“God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us” Rom. 5:5.

Our continuing debt

“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law” Romans 13:8 (see John 4:20-21).

How can we ever repay God for all He has done for us? We can't! It is too great, too wonderful. It is a continuing, never-ending debt impossible for us to repay. But God has transferred this debt onto the lives of those around us so that we are now indebted to love them as the expression of repaying our overwhelming debt to God.

Growing in love

“May the Lord give you the same increasing and overflowing love for each other and towards all men as we have towards you” 1 Thessalonians 3:12. (Phillips) (see also Philippians 1:9).

Decide to love

“If God loved us as much as that, surely we, in our turn, should love each other!” 1 John 4:11 (Phillips).

Love is initially a decision not a feeling.

Realise it comes from God

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God...” 1 John 4:7.

Don't try to love just let the love of God be released from within.

Aim to excel in love

“...No human being has ever had a direct vision of God. Yet if we love each other God does actually live within us, and his love grows in us towards perfection” 1 John 4:12 (Phillips).

Put love into action

Find someone today who needs your love and give it generously.

“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them” Hebrews 6:10 (also 1 John 3:16-18).

The great victory of love

“...If you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good” Romans 12:20-21 (The Message. See also Luke 6:27-35; Matt.5:43-44).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Value of Not Worrying

☉ Casting the whole of your care – all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all – on Him; for He...cares about you watchfully. 1 Peter 5:7 (Amp) ☉

Where worries began

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, sin came upon all mankind with all its various effects. Adam and Eve stepped out to live life on their own without God. They stepped out of dependence in God to independence. "I'll do it my way" became their theme for life. This left them to face all the difficulties and challenges of life alone and so gave birth to the cares and anxieties of life.

Worry is a curse

We need to see worry for what it is – a curse – and cast it off our lives. Jesus taught us about the destructive force of worry if we allow it to grip us:

Worrying is useless

"And which of you by worrying and being anxious can add one unit of measure [cubit] to his stature or to the span of his life?" Matthew 6:27 (Amp).

Worrying can crush us

"Don't worry at all about tomorrow. Tomorrow can take care of itself! One day's trouble is enough for one day" Matthew 6:34 (Phillips).

Worrying is untrusting

One of the major tests in our life is to show if we trust God with our life and our affairs.

"Therefore do not worry and be anxious, saying, What are we going to have to eat? or, What are we going to have to drink? or, What are we going to have to wear?...your heavenly Father well

knows that you need them all" Matt.6:31-32 (Amp).

Worrying is idolatrous

"No one can be loyal to two masters...You cannot serve God and the power of money at the same time – that is why I say to you, don't worry about living..." Matt.6:24-25 (Phillips) (read to v.34).

Worrying about the things of life elevates them above God's ability and His promises to help daily.

Worrying makes us earthbound

Worrying keeps our focus on our own limitations and the things of earth. But if the Lord and His purposes are the central focus of our life all our needs will be met by our generous heavenly Father.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" Matthew 6:33.

The answer to worry

Trust in God is the answer to worry.

"...for He (God) Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless, nor forsake nor let [you] down, [relax My hold on you]. – Assuredly not! So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my Helper, I will not be seized with alarm – I will not fear or dread or be terrified. What can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:5-6 (Amp). (See also Psalm 55:22; 37:5; 118:5; 27:1-3).

This is a daily experience.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Value of Overcoming Fear

“ Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe. Proverbs 29:25 ”

Fear is torment

“Love contains no fear, indeed fully developed love expels every particle of fear, for fear always contains some of the torture of feeling guilty. This means that the man who lives in fear has not had his love perfected” 1 John 4:18 (Phillips).

Most of the things people fear never come to pass. So fear itself is often greater than the things we fear.

Fear is not from God

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity – of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear – but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control” 2 Tim. 1:7 (Amp).

7 most basic fears

The enemy of darkness seeks to attack people to paralyse them with all kinds of fear. The answer to fear is faith, which is total dependence of God and His goodness in ordering our lives and helping us with the essential needs of our lives. God has given many promises to off-set the lies of fear:

The fear of poverty

“And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:19 (Amp).

The fear of losing love

“Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord’s unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him” Psalm 32:10 (see also Psalm 52:10).

The fear of rejection

“...God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you’” Heb. 13:5 (see also Ps. 94:14).

The fear of failure

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed” Proverbs 16:3 (see also Genesis 39:23; 1 Samuel 18:14).

The fear of sickness

“Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases” Psalm 103:2-3 (see also Exodus 15:26; Matthew 8:17).

The fear of old age

“Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you” Isaiah 46:4 (see also Psalm 71:17-18; Proverbs 16:31; Job 12:12).

The fear of death

“When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’ ‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 15:54 (read through verses 42-58. See also Psalm 116:15).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Winning the Victories

“ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:57 ”

Founded on the great victory won for us by Christ, we can now face triumphantly any attack from the enemy – whether it comes through temptation or outward circumstances. God not only desires us to have continual victory, He has made it possible.

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him” 2 Corinthians 2:14.

Six keys to victory

Here are six keys to continual victory:

Know the victory is already won

Because of his defeat at the Cross, the devil's only strength now is found in a Christian's ignorance (see Hosea 4:6). But when a Christian knows the complete work of the Cross and resurrection in his life, the devil is stripped of any weapon against him.

“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” Colossians 2:15 (see also Ephesians 1:18-23).

Know God is on your side

“...If God is for us, who can be against us?...” Romans 8:31 (read through vs.28-39).

Recognise the enemy's work

“...we don't want to unwittingly give Satan an opening for yet more mischief – we're not oblivious to his sly ways!” 2 Corinthians 2:11 (The Message).

- He is a liar (John 8:44).
- He is a slanderer and accuser (Rev.12:10)
- He is a deceiver (Revelation 12:9).
- He is a tempter (Gen.3:1-4; Matt.4:1-11).
- He is an oppressor (Acts 10:38).
- He is a hinderer (1 Thessalonians 2:18).
- He is as a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8).
- He can transform himself into an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

Know there is a way of escape

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But...he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it” 1 Cor.10:13 (James 4:7).

Keep clear of problem areas

“I will set before my eyes no vile thing” Psalm 101:3 (see Philippians 4:8;1 Timothy 6:9-11).

Handle from the right perspective

If we tried to handle the problems we face by ourselves we would often be overwhelmed by them and the resulting confusion. But Jesus won an absolute victory over sin and Satan and has placed us together with Him, in that victory, on the Throne at the right hand of the Father (see Ephesians 2:6). It is from this position that we approach life's problems down here on earth. To know our position in Christ means that we can step back from the problem, go to the Lord in prayer and then, seeing the situation from God's perspective, receive directions from the Lord how to handle it.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

High Yield Harvest

“ He who sows wickedness reaps trouble...A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor. Proverbs 22:8-9 ”

God has given principles that outwork themselves in both the natural and the spiritual. One of these is the law of harvest. We can learn from the process of harvest so that we can experience a high yield harvest for our everyday lives.

No seed sowing – no harvest

“...A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life” Galatians 6:7-8.

Without sowing seed there will be no harvest. We need to determine in our lives that we will be seed sowers.

What kind of harvest?

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you” Luke 6:36-38 (see also Matthew 6:14-15).

Read Genesis 1:11-12. The harvest is determined by the kind of seed we sow. Everything produces according to its kind. If we sow potatoes we get potatoes. If we sow rice, we get rice. Neither can we sow in our lives that which is wrong and get that which is right. If we sow love, we reap love. If we sow forgiveness, we reap forgiveness. If we sow finance we reap finance.

We reap more than we sow

“Give, and it will be given to you: A good

measure, pressed down shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap...” Luke 6:38.

A farmer assumes sowing produces multiplication, otherwise he would never sow seed. The same applies to our lives. Read Matthew 13:3-8; Mark 10:29-30; Philippians 4:18-19.

Our harvest is proportionate

“...For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” Matthew 7:2 (see 2 Cor:9:6).

A farmer's attitude to his sowing determines the harvest he receives. If he only sows a little he will only get a little. If he wants a great harvest he must also have a great seed sowing. If he only cultivates one acre he can only receive what one acre produces. However, if he sows in one hundred acres, the harvest will be a hundred times greater.

We reap in another season

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” Galatians 6:9 (see also Eccl.11:1).

A farmer does not expect to receive a harvest immediately after he has planted the seed, but watches over it carefully, expecting to receive the harvest in a later season. Let us sow the right seed and wait patiently for the inevitable result.

Future harvest is determined now

We can do nothing about the harvests of the past, but we can determine the harvest we will experience in the future (see 2 Corinthians 9:7-15).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Orbiting the Son

“ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. Romans 11:36 ”

The centre-point

Jesus Christ is the centre-point of heaven and earth. Our lives are in right order when we revolve around him. He is the central key to high value living.

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy” Colossians 1:16-18.

From Him – the source

“...there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live” 1 Corinthians 8:6 (see also Revelation 21:6).

He is the source of all things

“Through him all things were made...In him was life, and that life was the light of men” John 1:3-4 (see also James 1:17).

He is the author of salvation

“...he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him” Hebrews 5:9.

He is the author of our faith

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...” Hebrews 12:2.

For true faith to operate, our focus must be upon Him. Faith is not trying to believe. Faith is acknowledging Him as the Source.

Through Him – the power

He is not only the source of our life, but is also the enabling to live that life.

“...that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might...” Colossians 1:10-11 (see also Galatians 2:20).

Read Eph.1:18-23. This “incomparably great power” that is working in and for us, is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead. Through Him we overcome in all areas of life:

• **The enemy**

We are able to face the enemy, and stand unmoved, because we are “strong in the Lord and in his mighty power” (Eph.6:10; 2 Cor.2:14)

• **Circumstances**

His grace (enabling) is sufficient for us in all circumstances (2 Cor.12:9; 4:7-10).

To Him – the goal

“Therefore...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus...” Hebrews 12:1-2 (see Ephesians 1:9-10).

Salvation is not our goal; neither is eternal life, nor righteousness, nor faith, healing, provision, the fruit of the Spirit etc. In *all things* – He is the goal.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Having a Higher Purpose

“...Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you”.
John 20:21

Our glorious purpose

One of the greatest responsibilities as citizens of the Kingdom is to advance its borders. It was for this very reason that Jesus came into the world. Now that we have been brought into the light of God's Kingdom, the Lord Jesus has given us exactly the same commission He was given: To go into the world with the purpose of recovering those who have been “lost” (see Luke 19:10; Matthew 18:18-20).

“...I am sending you to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me” Acts 26:17-18.

Commissioned by Jesus

We have been commissioned to reach the world for God (see Matthew 28:18-20). As we live our lives on the earth, we are now Jesus' Body – the expression of His character and mission. What He was on the earth is what we now are.

“...in this world we are like him...” 1 John 4:17.

Sent from God

“I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world...As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world” John 17:14,18.

Light in the darkness

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden...let your light shine before

men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” Matthew 5:14 (see John 9:5; Philippians 2:15).

Heaven's ambassador

“We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God” 2 Corinthians 5:20.

We have entered into a partnership with God! Sent from heaven's throne to the earth, we have not only been given the same message that Jesus had, but the same Holy Spirit to help us! Together with Him, we fulfil our mission through:

- Prayer (Matthew 6:9-10; Romans 8:26-27).
- Sharing the Good News (1 Pet.3:15; Acts 1:8).
- Releasing people's lives from oppression (Matthew 12:28; Mark 16:17-18).
- Living lives worthy of God (Eph.4:1; Col.1:10).

Revolutionary Gospel

“These are the men who have turned the world upside down and have now come here...” Acts 17:6 (Phillips).

The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ brings about such a revolution of thought, actions and attitudes the early apostles were accused of “turning the world upside down”. We, too, can see our world turned upside down as we join with God in advancing His kingdom!

“...the Gospel...is the power of God...” Rom.1:16.

Making the Truth Mine

Write out in full the scripture from this lesson which means the most to you. We encourage you to commit this verse to memory.

Write out one statement from the study which you feel is most significant for your life.

Write in your own words how you believe you should respond to the truth of this study. Are there any decisions you should make?

You can make a difference!

For this study to have its full effect in your life, we encourage you to:

- Read and digest the study – meditate on the Word of God.
- Put into action what you have learnt (James 1:22).
- Share the Word of God with others.

Your places of ministry have been pre-arranged by God: your home, the street you live on, your place of work and your church.

“I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free” Psalm 119:32.

Food for Thought

Sending God's Word to the Ends of the Earth

The Word of God made available in a
clear, simple layout for personal study
and for use in sharing with others.

The King's Table is designed to help...

- ***Every believer for personal study***
- ***Parents to teach their children***
- ***Leaders of home groups***
- ***Ministers of congregations***
- ***Christian schools and home schooling***
- ***Missionary projects to other nations***

Our Project 21 series for leaders has been widely received and multiplied throughout Asia and the Pacific. The reports from many places of growth and blessing encourage us greatly in the spreading of the life-giving Word of God. It is something that for us never loses its excitement.

The King's Table is an extension of the Project 21 teaching program, where people like yourself can receive a different series of 21 lessons each month. Our prayer is that this series might be a great blessing to you.

Fountaingate Christian Foundation
P.O. Box 1033, Newcastle NSW 2300, Australia
Telephone: +61-2-49253525 Fax: +61-2-49253526
Email: fountaingate@churchlink.com.au
Internet: www.churchlink.com.au