

Chapter 3

SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL

We have been discussing the rewards of God's Master Plan. The Scriptural title for His Plan is "The Gospel of the Kingdom". We are told to preach "*the gospel (good news) of the kingdom*", and we are to pray, "*Your kingdom come*". (Matt. 24:14;6:10). However, some misled Christians have been shortchanged regarding all the 'good news' that His Kingdom provides.

"King-dom" is made up of two words: "king" & "domain". It means the king's sphere or realm over which a king reigns. In Biblical terms, there are two basic areas of His rule.

1. Territorial: The regions over which the Lord has total authority and sovereignty.
2. Personal: Believers who have given Him complete rule over their lives.

1. TERRITORIAL RULE

We are aware that, in the not-too-distant future, He is returning to the earth; only this time, He will have total authority over every kingdom or country on the planet.

"The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" Rev. 11:15

2. PERSONAL RULE

Most believers are aware that they are not 100% obedient to the Lord and that they are a work in progress. Nevertheless, there is a growing number who have the revelation that God is presently raising believers who will measure up to '*the full and complete standard of Christ*' (Eph 4:11-13).

To enable them to achieve this, they have rediscovered a crucial and mysterious component. "*To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God.*" Mark. 4:11

The mystery of the kingdom of God is that Christ can rule believers from within or inside of them." *To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory*". Col. 1:27

This has far greater implications than the traditional coined phrase of 'having Jesus living in our hearts'. **Why does He live in our hearts?** God's rule is achieved by developing a personal relationship with Him and being led by the King who lives inside of you. Jesus explained this to the Pharisees.

"The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!'..." "*For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.*" Luke 17:20-21 NKJV

Unfortunately, it also remains a baffling mystery for many believers because many Bible versions mistranslate the original Greek word '*entos*' SC 1787, used in "*the kingdom of God is **within** you.*" They interpret it as "*the kingdom of God is 'among you' or 'in your midst.'*" (referring to Jesus being in their company).

We believe this one-sided attempt at interpretation conceals the major truth of the mystery that Jesus was trying to reveal. Consequently, because of these inadequate translations, there may be some who may need to be reassured about the Scriptural meaning of the word "within".

The Complete Word Study Dictionary New Testament tells us that the word for “*within*” (entos) means; “it is located in your heart and affection, not external”. The only other Scripture we could locate using this word is found in Matthew 23:25-26, and it confirms its literal meaning of ‘within’ or ‘inside’.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside (entos) of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.”

Matt. 23:25-26

Isn’t the meaning of ‘entos’ self-evident? Young’s Literal Translation correctly interprets it as; *‘the reign of God is within you’*. Therefore, we trust you can now accept *“the kingdom of God is within you”*, as the correct translation.

Internal or External Guidance?

Why is comprehending the meaning of ‘entos’ so important? While on earth, Jesus instructed His disciples on what to do and where to go (external guidance). Many of us today would be envious of this level of face-to-face guidance and correction that they received. However, Jesus told them that He was going to upgrade His communication system.

“It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you.”

John 16:7

Why is it an advantage? As Jesus was about to leave them, they could no longer continually come back and forth and receive their next instruction face-to-face (external guidance). The Helper (the Holy Spirit) was going to supersede this antiquated system, by leading them, anywhere or at any time, from within (internal guidance). That’s good news!

However, many believers are preaching a partial “gospel”, and are not sharing the mystery of the gospel of the kingdom. The edited message of “having Jesus living in our hearts” may be emotive and touching. However, it is vague and abstract, as it does not answer the question ... “Why does the Lord come and live in their hearts?” Does He just sit there twiddling His thumbs? It should be obvious that *“the kingdom of God is within you”*, (internal guidance) is a crucial component of the gospel of the kingdom.

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES

The apostle Paul obviously preached the mystery of the gospel of the kingdom (being led by the Spirit from within). *“Pray also for me, so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.” Eph. 6:19.*

He shared this mystery with the Galatians. *“Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?” Gal. 3:3 (Rev. 2:5).* Initially, they were taught to be Spirit-led, but they backslid and were being led by their flesh, or legalism.

On the day of Pentecost, the early Church was the first to receive this mysterious promise. *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” Acts 1:8*

The early believers were filled with the Spirit and spoke with tongues.

Traditionally, tongues and the gifts of the Spirit, have been accepted by many as the fulfillment of power promised.

However, speaking with tongues is initial evidence of having the Holy Spirit within believers. The mysterious and basic purpose of being Spirit-filled was to hear the Lord’s voice and be led from within. That’s another extraordinary and awesome level of power!

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

John 10:27

“Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

John 18:37 (Matt. 4:4)

SPIRIT-FILLED ... NOT SPIRIT-LED

Today, many believers have been filled with the Spirit, speak with tongues, and move in the gifts of the Spirit. Nevertheless, lacking this understanding of this mystery of being led from within, they have a gaping hole in their spiritual education.

They were Spirit-filled but were not taught nor equipped to be Spirit-led (Rom.8:14).

Therefore, for many, attempting to hear God's voice remains a trial-and-error process.

The New Covenant was introduced by God to lead believers into a personal relationship with Jesus and to be led by Him. This enables believers to overpower sin. How?

"So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves." Gal. 5:16 NLT

Please meditate on this incredible life-changing Scripture. It's the good news of how believers can overcome sin.

Jesus didn't sin because He only did what the Spirit told Him to do. We are to imitate Him. Presently there are relatively few believers who have understood, let alone appropriated, this promise of overcoming sin through the power of being led by the Holy Spirit. This was the goal of the apostle Paul. *"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me." Phil 3:12*

Jesus laid hold of Paul with a plan to take him to this level of perfection. by being totally led by the Spirit.

Paul continues: *"Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you". Phil. 3:15*

Those believers who consider themselves mature, need to revise their appraisal based on Paul's understanding that Jesus laid hold of him to bring him to perfection and that this remained his goal. *If in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you."*

Mind Renewal

How do shortchanged believers receive mind renewal? We need to reveal this by re-teaching basic truths. The apostle Peter provided the headline points for the foundation of achieving Paul's goal and, similarly, all believers.

"Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

Repent - Repenting of your independence from God (no relationship) to your total dependence on Him (being led by Him).

Baptism - Receiving forgiveness; thereby providing friendship with Jesus and the confidence to talk to Him without shame or guilt.

The Gift of Holy Spirit - The potential of the Spirit to lead, empower, and conquer sin.

If we reproduce Peter's model, these foundational principles of repentance, water baptism, and receiving the Holy Spirit, should be immediately imparted to believers when they first receive Christ. Nevertheless, tradition has many making these separate events, spread over days, weeks, or even months (as it was with me and many others).

Good News

When we have shared the original mystery of the gospel of the kingdom, we have experienced much more than the unsaved repenting. Converts were so excited about receiving the empowerment to lead new lives, they wanted to be water-baptized immediately ... fully clothed.

As they emerged from their baptism, they immediately began to speak with tongues. That's the motivating power of the gospel of the kingdom when the complete mystery is revealed. Why is it essential for believers to be Spirit-led? Apart from the vital truth of overcoming sin (Gal. 5:16), there are additional considerations.

STRESS AND WORRY

This section is adapted from our book, "I'm Just Dying to Hear from God".

One of the greatest problems we face in the world today is mental health. Both believers and the unsaved suffer from stress, worry, depression, and suicide. Why believers?

Many Christians appear incapable of obeying simple Scriptures.

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." *1 Peter 5:7 NLT*

We know that there are those who claim that they have given their cares and worries to the Lord, and yet, in reality, they have remained full of anxiety or even tormented. Why the inconsistency? The evidence of giving your cares to the Lord is total peace.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." *Phil. 4:6-7*

Why is it that Christians can believe they have genuinely given their worries to the Lord, but don't receive that assurance of the peace of God that surpasses all understanding?

In many cases, it's the result of our customary method of praying.

Traditionally, many of our prayers are one-way conversations with the Lord. They are for the sole purpose of giving Him a shopping list of our problems and asking Him to remove them. Our hope is that He will sovereignly answer our prayers and resolve our predicaments.

Nevertheless, as many have found, God does not necessarily remove their crisis or dilemma immediately. It continues, and their anxiety and condemnation grow. You might be thinking, "Why doesn't He answer those kinds of prayers? Doesn't He want me to see our worries ironed out?" Your heavenly Dad does want to overcome our anxieties.

The contention is not over His will, but how His will is to be put into effect.

Baby Believers

Obviously, a natural baby can't look after itself. When it cries out to its parents, they respond. However, as the child matures, it learns to hear from its parents and be guided by them. Likewise, when a baby believer cries out, "Lord I want ...! Lord I need ...!", our heavenly Father initially and graciously answers their needs.

Nevertheless, He desires His babies to grow up, hear His voice, and be obedient to Him. If we continue the baby benchmark of "Lord, I want! Lord, I need!" prayers, we don't give Him an opportunity to speak. In addition, we certainly don't have ears to hear. The result for those who remain spiritual babies:

"You have come to need milk and not solid food." *Heb. 5:12*

He resolves the communication issue by slowly withdrawing His initial 'baby level' helping hand ... in order to get our attention. His hope is that we will stop expecting Him to do everything at the drop of a hat, and for us to start listening for His voice. *'The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.'* John 10:3

As you mature, your Dad wants you to ask Him for the answer. He will give you the solution personally ... *by name*. *"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."* Jer. 33:3

Four Basic Options

When the early Church prayed, undoubtedly, they expected an answer each time. Why? Apart from the previous Scripture, they were taught to be Spirit-led, and an answer was promised. *"If any of you needs wisdom to know what you should do, you should ask God, and he will give it to you"*. James 1:5 GW How many Christians believe, appropriate that promise, and expect an answer from Him today?

We have found that He may answer your requests with four basic options:

- He might handle it sovereignly. *"My grace is sufficient for you"*. (2 Cor. 12:9)
- He could remind you of a particular Scripture with which to do battle. When attacked by the devil Jesus answered, *'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"'*. (Matt.4:5-11)
- He may reveal what specific action you are to take. (Acts 9:11-12; 16:6-7; 18:9-10)
- He might lead you to share the problem with believers who can give you reassurance, physical help, prophetic insight, a word of wisdom, etc.

His Faith Producing Words

When God speaks, His words are creative and empower us with faith.

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word (rhema) of God." Rom 10:17

When a believer does hear from Him one-on-one, it provides them with a supernatural faith impartation. However, they need to stand unwaveringly on that Word. **Then;** *'the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus'*.
Php. 4:7

What happens to those who don't resolutely stand on His rhema word?

"When you ask for something, don't have any doubts. A person who has doubts is like a wave that is blown by the wind and tossed by the sea. A person who has doubts shouldn't expect to receive anything from the Lord. A person who has doubts is thinking about two different things at the same time and can't make up his mind about anything." James 1:6-8 GW

Those who waver will maintain their anxiety and lack of peace and joy. It's evident, that they either did not seek His word ... or they did not believe the word they received.

Inevitably, for those who did receive and believe, the enemy will counter-attack with reminders of the problem. This can result in doubt and fear.

Nevertheless, you are to continually remind yourself of the Word He has given you and thank Him for that answer.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God". Php. 4:6 (Thanksgiving means expressing gratitude).

Every time those who do hear Jesus' voice, learn to trust Him, and a deeper friendship develops.

"No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you." John 15:13

NO NEED FOR THE BIBLE?

Are we saying that there is no need to know the Bible's commands? Of course not! Jesus said, *"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you"*. John 14:25-26.

We need to note that there are two separate but complementary ways that the Spirit uses to provide His guidance to believers.

Method 1 *'Bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you'*. Reminding us of His appropriate words said in the Bible. (The right words for the right situation at the right time.)

Nevertheless, how can Jesus remind you of a Scripture if you don't know it in the first place? We need to be meditating on His written word daily.

Obviously, anything Jesus tells you will not contradict Biblical principles. Therefore, knowing His written Word acts as protection, safeguarding you from going into error. (Matt.4:5-11)

"By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established". 2 Cor. 13:1

Method 2 *'He will teach you all things'*. (Things not in the Bible Jer.33:3).

Obviously, if He is going to teach **all** things, there are other things to learn that are not in the Scriptures. If everything we need to know is in the Bible, why would He include these verses, some of which we have already covered?

"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jer. 33:3

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Matt. 4:4 (Rev. 2:17; 1 Cor.2:9-11)

"If any of you needs wisdom to know what you should do, you should ask God, and he will give it to you." James 1:5 GW

Obviously, whether being spoken to with personalized wisdom or being reminded of His specific tailor-made words from the Bible, both require being led by the Spirit.

OVERCOMING LEGALISM

Paul found that preaching the mystery of the Spirit-led life was extremely challenging. Why? It was a ground-breaking, incisive message. It exposed the futility of the Old Testament tradition of believers trying to obey Bible commandments through their own efforts (legalism). It was a brand-new, controversial, mind-boggling, concept.

Can you imagine the reaction when he shared the mystery that Christ can live in believers and lead them from within? Many considered that he was losing his mind, ridiculed his claims, and attacked, or imprisoned him. Knowing that he faced adversity, rejection, or jail, Paul requested prayer. *"Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."* Eph. 6:19-20 NIV

Believers Under the Law?

It should be obvious that the mystery of the gospel can also overcome the problem of legalism. Nevertheless, despite the traditional claim that all believers are no longer under law, it simply remains a theological supposition for many. In general, the New Testament contains just another set of rules which many sincerely try their best to obey. Any works done by trying to obey Bible commands purely through a sense of duty ... is legalism. (Gal. 5:16-18). *'But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.'* (Gal. 5:18).

In other words, if you are not led by the Spirit, you are under the law.

Many Christians attempt, but fail to overcome sin, as they are bound by this unfulfilling religious routine. Consequently, they continually struggle with shame and guilt. *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit"*. (Gal. 5:25).

Without the guidance and confirmation of hearing His voice, believers are unable to walk in the Spirit ... and become spiritual cripples. Initially, the apostle Paul suffered the same condemnation, frustration, and crippling effects of trying to legalistically obey the Scriptures.

"But I need something more! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge. I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does."

Rom. 7:17-25 MSG

Paul provides the solution for His inability to overcome sin. *'The answer is that Jesus Christ can and does.'* Great theory, but how, in a practical sense, does Jesus do it?

As previously noted, when the Lord provides you with His rhema words, He also empowers you with the supernatural faith and authority to achieve that word.

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the (rhema) word of God." (Rom. 10:17).

Our job is simply cooperating with His words ... no more, no less (Matt. 4:4). By doing so, you enter His rest. *"There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His."* Heb. 4:9-10

This rest is impossible through legalism. Jesus promised a breakthrough and a new upgrade:

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Matt. 11:28-30 MSG

Multi-millions of believers have failed to appropriate and experience the rest of the Spirit-led life. Why? The mystery of the gospel of the Kingdom was never revealed to them. As noted, they simply see the New Testament commands as a list of do's and don'ts which they genuinely try to keep ... but fail to achieve. The fallout ... frustration, shame, and guilt.

What is the collateral damage when believers fail to understand and appropriate the truths of the mystery of the gospel of the Kingdom? By attempting to obey the New Testament commands in their own strength (instead of being led by the Spirit), they are simply replicating the futile efforts of Old Testament saints. As we have already noted.

'But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.' (Gal. 5:18).

In other words, if you are not led by the Spirit, you are under the law.

Deprived and unaware, many Christians are ignorantly and unintentionally living under the law. How can believers determine if they are in this category? They can identify their shortfall by re-reading Paul's predicament on the previous page, asking if it applies to them ... and if Jesus has solved their problem. *He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (Php.4:13)*

The Mystery Prize

Why have we gone into so much detail on being led from within (the Spirit-led life)? This supernatural form of communication provides the key to developing a personal relationship with Jesus, solving life's challenges, and overcoming sin and legalism.

That's the good news of the mystery of the gospel. It's indispensable!

"Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track."

Prov. 3:5-6 MSG

The bad news is that those not equipped to hear His voice will continually face an inability to overcome their problems and become or remain spiritually disabled. Instead of the peace and joy promised, they can end up discouraged, guilt-ridden, or backslide. We can readily see that being led from within is a vital and essential component of the mystery of the gospel of the kingdom. The apostle Paul declares this vital truth in a resounding and explicit manner.

"The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence. God has done all this. He has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships.

In other words, God was using Christ to restore his relationship with humanity. He didn't hold people's faults against them, and he has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. Therefore, we are Christ's representatives, and through us God is calling you. We beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God."

2 Cor. 5:17-21 GW

Paul has revealed that we can enter into an up close and personal friendship with Jesus.

"He has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships." 2 Cor. 5:18 GW

Therefore, all believers should be living this life and passionately sharing this mystery prize with the spiritually incapacitated. Realizing its critical importance, Paul pleads in more desperate terms. *'We beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God'. (V21).*

For those who want further detail and equipping to share the mystery of the gospel of the kingdom, we suggest our booklet "Know Greater Love" (available free as an E-book).

THE SHORTFALL OF OUR TRADITIONAL GOSPEL

We have discovered that many believers lack confidence when it comes to sharing the good news about Jesus, and our *ministry of restoring relationships* with Him. Why?

When they received Christ, they were assured that Jesus was the answer to all their problems, and He would give them the peace and joy for which they were searching.

However, down the track, they found the promise of a joyous and peaceful life became a mirage to them. Instead, they began a life of trying their best to be obedient to Bible commands (legalism) and, in many aspects, failing. The result: They suffered shame and guilt!

Understandably, they are hesitant about sharing this ‘good news’ of peace and joy with the unsaved because deep in their hearts, they know that, in their case, it would not be the truth.

At the other end of the scale, we have those who preach the gospel out of legalism. *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15*
This can be achieved again through a sense of duty rather than through the peace, joy, and fulfillment that has evolved through their friendship with Jesus.

Therefore, instead of sharing about their personal relationship with Him, they come across as legalistic and concentrate on sin and repentance with a “turn or burn” message.

What’s the answer for those who are legalistic and bound up in one way or another? Obviously, they need to be equipped to lead a Spirit-led life.

“I advise you to obey only the Holy Spirit’s instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won’t always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to do.” Gal. 5:16 TLB

Presently, there are relatively few believers who have fully appropriated this advice.

In general, our traditional modern-day gospel concentrates on awareness of our sins and being forgiven, but not sharing that unbelievers can overcome sin by being led by the Spirit.

Therefore, this shortfall results in large numbers remaining spiritually disabled, lacking in both power and Holy Spirit guidance.

New believers certainly need to be ashamed of their sins and repent. However, they also need to know the crucial keys of water baptism and how to use the power of the Holy Spirit to permanently overpower those sins.

Consequently, believers need to realize that if they don’t share this good news with spiritual babies, we will simply repeat our preceding traditional mistakes. At best many will eventually become lethargic, or at worst, backslide (as we have consistently witnessed in the past). If we sincerely have compassion for the spiritually impoverished and disabled unbelievers, we will share the uncensored mystery of the gospel of the kingdom.

Like Paul, those who are hesitant or afraid of sharing this message need prayer. What are we to pray for? Love! *‘There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear’. 1 John 4:18*

Being motivated by a heartfelt desire to see those spiritually crippled being saved, having a relationship with Jesus, and overcoming sin and life’s problems ... can overpower any anxiety.

Unashamed Believers?

That prayer empowered Paul. Firstly, out of his compassion for the unsaved, he put the welfare of others above concern for his reputation. *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes”.* Rom 1:16

Secondly, because of Paul’s love for the Lord. He didn’t want to disappoint Him. *“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory.”* Luke 9:26

We are not trying to put a guilt trip on you with expectations of you preaching the gospel to anyone you see (Mark 16:15). Paul, being Spirit-led, requested, *'Pray that God will give us an opportunity to speak the word.'* Col. 4:3

Paul was seeking Spirit-led opportunities, enabling him to preach... "the right words, for the right person, at the right time". We have an equipping book with the same title.

In these end times, the Lord is restoring the truth of hearing His voice from within.

Those who are Spirit-led, will have a relationship with Jesus, and are overcoming life's challenges through Him. They will be fulfilled, excited, and more than willing to share this good news of the gospel of the kingdom with both the saved and the unsaved.

'Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power.' Ps 110:3

As a result, the uncensored mystery of the gospel will be preached.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Matt 24:14

It should be obvious that until the full mystery of the gospel is preached, the end shall not come.

MASTER PLAN OUTLINE

The mystery of the kingdom of God is, Christ ruling believers from within or inside of them. *"To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory".* Col. 1:27

This has far greater implications than the traditional coined phrase of 'having Jesus living in our hearts'. Why does He live in our hearts? God's rule is achieved by developing an intimate relationship with Him and being led internally by the King who lives inside of you.

This in turn empowers you to overcome sin.

"I advise you to obey only the Holy Spirit's instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won't always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to do".
Gal. 5:16 TLB

Paul writes to the Church. *"He has restored our relationship with Him through Christ and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships".* (2 Cor.5:18). Therefore, out of love for the spiritually crippled unbelievers, all Christians are to share this mystery prize. Realizing their impoverished lifestyle, Paul pleads in more heartfelt and emphatic terms. *"We beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God".* 2 Cor.5:2.

In this age, those who put being led by the Spirit into practice will become Jesus imitators who can overcome sin. They will preach the mystery of the gospel of the kingdom and their words will be confirmed with signs and wonders. The Bible refers to them as overcomers. In the future, they will receive an incredible inheritance.

"He who overcomes shall inherit all things". (Rev. 21:7). As we will see in our next chapter, not all believers will achieve this level of maturity. Therefore, as a motivating factor, we will reveal the identities of both the overcomers and the non-overcomers.

Questions:

1. Is there any tradition that now hinders you from accepting that the mystery of the gospel of the kingdom incorporates being led from within?
2. Is there any secret fear that would torpedo your incentive to unashamedly share the gospel of the kingdom

Summary Chapter 3

1. We are told to preach the good news, “*the gospel of the kingdom*”, and we are to pray, “*Your kingdom come*”. “King-dom” is made up of two words: “king” & “domain”. It means the king’s domain over which a king reigns. This applies both territorially and personally.

2. Many are unaware of one vital aspect of the kingdom of God. It’s described as mysterious. *‘To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God’*. Mark 4:11. The mystery of the kingdom of God is, Christ ruling believers within or inside of them. *‘To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory’*. Col. 1:27.

3. The mystery of being led from within by the Spirit was a foundational and elementary teaching of the early Church. Paul requested: *‘Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel’*.

4. Many are attempting to be led solely by the Bible. Without the guidance of the Spirit, it can eventuate in legalism or works of the flesh, e.g. the foolish Galatians. The Bible was designed to lead believers into an intimate relationship with Jesus and to be led by Him. Why? By doing so they can overcome sin. *‘So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves.’*

5. When the early Church prayed, they expected an answer from the Lord. Why? They were taught to be Spirit-led, and an answer was promised. *“If any of you needs wisdom to know what you should do, you should ask God, and he will give it to you”*. James 1:5 GW.

6. We have found that He may answer your requests with four basic options:

- He could handle it sovereignly. *“My grace is sufficient for you”*.
- He might remind you of a particular Scripture with which to do battle. When attacked by the devil, Jesus answered, *‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”’*. (Matt. 4:4) (Also
- He can reveal what specific action you are to take. (Acts 9:11-12; 16:6-7; 18:9-10).
- He may lead you to share the problem with believers who can give you reassurance, physical help, prophetic insight, a word of wisdom etc.

7. Many believers heard “the gospel”, but the mystery of the gospel of the kingdom was not shared with them. The edited message of “having Jesus living in our hearts”, may be emotive and touching. However, it is vague and abstract, as it does not answer the question. “Why does Jesus come and live in their hearts?” *“I advise you to obey only the Holy Spirit’s instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won’t always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to do”*. Gal. 5:16 TLB

8. If the mystery of how to overcome life’s problems by the personal leading of their friend Jesus, is not shared with the unsaved (and believers), they will flounder. They will attempt to obey Bible commands in their own strength (legalism) ... and fail. That’s not good news. The fallout: shame, guilt, frustration, and a lack of peace and joy. At best, will become lethargic, or at worst, backslide (as we have continually witnessed in the past).

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Matt 24:14

