Read these testimonies and more about how God's kingdom manifests on earth in tangible ways:

Healings and Creative Miracles

- "The eye is back!" exclaimed the stepdaughter of a man who'd had his right eye surgically removed due to irreparable injury. After his stepdaughter and her church believed for the man's healing, he was given a brand-new eye supernaturally by God.
- A twenty-one-year old man suffered from achondroplasia, a genetic condition that is the most common type of dwarfism. After receiving prayer for a creative miracle, he reported that he had been touched by God's fire, and he could move his arms, which had previously had only limited mobility. Then, during the following year, he grew five inches in height as a tangible manifestation of the kingdom of God on earth!
- A woman responded in faith to an altar call for those who were HIV-positive. When a minister declared healing over her, she felt heat flowing through her body. The following day, she went to be retested, and the results were negative! She testifies that she received "joy, health, and everything I needed!"

Salvation and Victory over Sin

- A young man had used and sold drugs, prostituted himself with men and women, been in trouble with the law, and suffered from psychological imbalance. One day, he was alone in his room, desperate and depressed, when Jesus called him by name and said, "I have given you many opportunities, but you have turned your back on Me. This is your last chance to choose correctly." That night, the power of God delivered him. "I am a different person today," he says. "I do warfare against the enemy of our souls and uproot him from the territory that belongs to Jesus."
- A successful and wealthy attorney felt "an unmistakable emptiness from which I could not escape. I...could not understand why I was so often sad, depressed, and fearful." An ever-present question rang in her mind: Is this all there is to life? After responding to the message of the kingdom of God, she says, "Jesus melted my heart as I gave it to Him.

I began my own personal relationship with Him, as I felt His presence for the very first time in my life....Jesus Christ filled that void inside of me."

• A Major League Baseball player focused only on his success and ran away from his relationship with God. "Then, my friend took me to the baseball chapel," he says, "where I gave my heart to Jesus. I do not know how to explain it, but I felt that a heavy burden had been lifted from my soul....The hatred, hard feelings, resentment, bitterness, and more began to go away....Family, ministry, friendship...all has been restored!"

Deliverance from Demons and Oppression

- During a spiritual retreat, a woman who was in bondage to rejection, abandonment, and guilt was led to renounce her bondage through prayer. "When I finished," she says, "I felt every oppression leave me. Today, I feel free of that generational curse of abandonment. The pain in my heart disappeared!"
- "I was empty and wanted to die," said a young man who was diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder and was told he would be on medication for the rest of his life. Then he responded to an altar call to accept Jesus. "I felt like a new, changed man," he said. "That night, I felt electricity going up and down my body." This young man has been off of his medication for nine years now, and he continues to be free of depression.
- A woman in the Middle East had been violently demon-possessed for thirty years. A chain was fastened around her stomach, and the chain was attached to a hole in the wall, to keep her from harming others. The atmosphere was charged with spiritual opposition. After a pastor commanded demons of fear and suicide to leave the possessed woman, in Jesus' name, and after the woman's cousin prayed, sang, and worshipped God, the woman calmed down. For the first time in three decades, her ropes and chains were removed, and she began to behave normally. She ate her dinner calmly, and she slept on a bed with her clothes on.

Prosperity

- "Lord, You promised that I would live in abundance!" prayed a man who had given to God sacrificially and trusted Him to provide for his family's financial needs. His savings were down to \$1,200, and he had bills to pay. When he asked his wife to get the small box that contained their savings, she said, "There is \$11,200!" Ten thousand dollars had been supernaturally placed inside the cashbox.
- A pastor and his wife were activated in the supernatural power of the kingdom of God. They prayed for a man who had a debt of half a million dollars because his accountant had not paid his taxes, and they believed for the cancellation of the debt. The miracle took place! First, the man was notified that the debt had been reduced by half. A month later, he received notification that the rest of the debt had been canceled.
- A family faced impending foreclosure on their home because the father's work hours had been reduced, making it impossible for them to meet their mortgage payments. "We began to declare a miracle from God," they said. They were certain that He would provide. Not long afterward, God spoke to a family friend in prayer, saying, "They will not be left homeless, because you will give it to them." The friend gave them \$95,000 for the purchase of their home.

Resurrection Life

- A couple's premature baby was stillborn, and they had to wait twelve hours before receiving permission to see their daughter's body in the morgue. When their church heard the news, they began to intercede for the family. The parents were finally allowed into the morgue, where their child's body had lain for half a day at extremely low temperatures. The woman took her daughter's cold hand in hers to say goodbye. Suddenly, they heard a weak sound, and the baby moved. God had raised her! The baby was immediately taken to the neonatal unit, where doctors confirmed that her vital signs were normal.
- A pastor and his wife were sent to pray for a man in the hospital, yet they arrived at the room just after he had died. They laid hands on his

dead body, declaring that God would resurrect him, but they walked away sad when they did not see him raised up. After they gave condolences to the family, the man's son said, "What are you talking about? My father is not dead!" While that fact was confirmed, another family was shouting with joy, saying that *their* father had awakened from the dead. The desk clerk had directed the pastor and his wife to the wrong room! The other man for whom they had prayed was now totally healed and telling everyone that Jesus had resurrected him! He and his entire family received Jesus as their Savior.

A pastor preached to his church about stepping out in faith to pray for healings, miracles, and resurrections. Two young girls, ages fourteen and fifteen, took hold of that word. A week later, their grandmother suffered a severe heart attack and died. The two girls ran to her, scared but full of the boldness of the Holy Spirit. After they prayed, the grandmother's vital signs returned! The doctor could not understand how a ninety-year-old woman could have survived such a severe attack.

KINGDOM of POWER

HOW TO DEMONSTRATE IT HERE & NOW

GUILLERMO MALDONADO



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1

The Kingdom of God Is Within You

Jesus made this remarkable declaration to His disciples: "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). This statement applies to Jesus' followers today, as well. No matter what troubles or fears we may contend with in our lives, God has given us His kingdom, which shines powerfully into the darkness of our world, sweeping away sickness, sin, demons, lack, and even death. I invite you to enter into God's kingdom of power so that you may see it demonstrated in the here and now!

There is a striking image of the earth at night that was produced by NASA through combined satellite data. Each white dot of light in the image represents the light of an individual city or other light source, and the collective lights of various metropolitan regions show up as brilliant patches of illumination.

Besides creating a beautiful picture, the manifestation of lights on satellite "maps" like this one communicate information about the lifestyle of people across the globe. They chart urbanization. They reveal nighttime electricity consumption. And they are sometimes used to indicate economic development and other social factors in various countries and regions. Researchers call this "luminosity data." ¹

^{1.} geology.com/articles/satellite-photo-earth-at-night.shtml; geology.com/press-release/world-at-night/; http://www.flickr.com/photos/wwworks/2712986388/.

Lights Shining in the Darkness

[Jesus said,] You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden....Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

(Matthew 5:14, 16)

Jesus described His followers as having "spiritual luminosity." What if we were able to "map" the radiance of God's light emitted from believers throughout the earth, so that the degree of luminosity indicated people's spiritual condition and activity for God? We would be able to detect...

- the nations or regions where God's light is shining the brightest on earth today.
- how far and to what degree we have spread the kingdom of God throughout the earth.

The combined "spiritual luminosity data" of Christians all over the world would tell us to what extent we are shining "as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15). If we are truly letting our light shine, we should see "patches" of brilliant spiritual light in our cities, states, regions, and nations. Believers joining together in unity as "shining cities" can dispel the spiritual darkness wherever they live, work, and travel.

Shining from the Inside Out

On the NASA satellite map, the white dots of light are clearly visible. However, we cannot see the electricity that produced those lights because it worked unseen within numerous generators.

In a similar way, our spiritual light is "generated" from within us. When we are born again (see John 3:1–21), God comes to dwell inside us through the Holy Spirit, and the kingdom is established within us. Jesus said, "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).

If no electricity were generated or used on the earth, our physical world would be much darker at night. When there is a major electrical

blackout in cities or regions, the brightness on satellite pictures is diminished. Likewise, if the light of God within us is diminished, for various reasons, we will emit a weak spiritual light, and God's kingdom will not advance in our lives—or in the world.

Yet when the kingdom of God is flowing in us and through us by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, it is like a great generator. This happens when we learn how God's kingdom functions and then act on its principles. Then we will shine! We will give glory to God as we light the way for others to receive the kingdom of God in their own lives, producing miracles and transformation.

The kingdom of God must first come within us, so that it may be manifested externally.

I was ministering recently at a meeting in Dallas where many miracles and healings took place under God's anointing. Pastor Damion of Phoenix, Arizona, was in attendance. He is under the covering of a church associated with our ministry, and he testified of a miracle involving a woman in his congregation. This woman's stepfather lives in Detroit and worked for an electric company. He had been beaten with a metal pipe because he had refused to do something illegal in relation to his job. As a result, his right eye had to be removed, and the eye area was sutured shut. Pastor Damion received a phone call from the woman in his congregation asking him to please keep her stepfather in prayer.

This pastor had been teaching his congregation some of the principles in my book *How to Walk in the Supernatural Power of God.* One Sunday, he was moved by God to play a recording of one of our ministry's services, which he downloaded from our Web site. He had remembered my mentioning something about playing such recordings during a service, because the spirit of healing and deliverance would remain in the atmosphere, producing additional healings and deliverances for those with the faith to receive them. After a powerful time of worship, Pastor Damion played the recording in faith, with the expectation that something would happen. Toward the end of the recording, I prayed, and during this part of the

church service, the woman felt God prompting her to place her hand over her right eye as a prophetic act to accelerate the healing of her stepfather in Detroit. She believed, and the rest of the church believed with her, that something would happen.

Thirty minutes after the church service ended, Pastor Damion received a phone call from this woman, who was screaming into the phone. He thought something bad had happened, but she said, "The eye is back!" This is what had transpired: That morning, her stepfather was still in the hospital, and when the doctor was checking his sutures, he noticed something moving under the sutured eyelid. The doctor said that couldn't be, so they opened it up, and there was an eye! This man was able to see shapes and shadows, such as a newborn baby sees before his vision is fully developed. Later, he was able to see perfectly. God had created a new eye where the other one had been removed due to the severe damage it had sustained.

The stepfather was not a believer, but after this powerful miracle, he got saved and is now on fire for God. What's more, the man's stepdaughter has been able to become pregnant, after having been told by her doctors that she couldn't have children. In addition, the man's other daughter, who lives in Detroit, was healed of Crohn's disease. This is what the kingdom of God produces as it is demonstrated on earth!

The Kingdom of Power

Many of us have heard teachers and pastors talk about the kingdom of God, yet few of us have had a deep revelation and understanding of what it is, so we miss out on its truths and benefits. We fail to understand its potency for changing lives. As you read this chapter, ask God to give you a revelation of His kingdom, with its power and characteristics. God's kingdom is a reality that we can receive and enjoy today.

God's Sovereign Government

What is God's kingdom? It is His sovereign government on earth. In the New Testament, the Greek word for "kingdom" is *basileia*, which means "royalty," "rule," "a realm" (STRONG, G932), or "sovereignty," "royal

power" (NASC, G932). It comes from the root word *basileus*, which relates to the idea of a "foundation of power" (STRONG, G935).

An earthly kingdom is the influence, dominion, will, and lordship of a king or prince over a certain territory for the purpose of governing its inhabitants. There can be no king without a dominion and subjects. The kingdom from heaven—the kingdom of God—is His realm and His foundation of power on earth. It is His dominion or lordship, in which He establishes His will here and now through the redeeming work of His Son Jesus Christ in the lives of His people. God governs over territories, entities, and human beings; He rules over sickness, poverty, and oppression. He is sovereign over His spiritual enemy, Satan (the devil), who seeks to spread his own kingdom of darkness in the world to counteract God's kingdom of light.

Everything a king rules is called his dominion or territory.

God is the Supreme Ruler of the universe, including our world, and He wants us to be active participants in spreading His kingdom here. "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). God's invisible, eternal, and permanent kingdom impacts the visible, physical, natural world by means of men and women who are born by the spirit into His kingdom.

Wherever God's kingdom governs, it is visibly demonstrated, and every work of the enemy must depart because darkness cannot remain in the same territory occupied by His light. For example, when the kingdom of God comes upon an individual, then sickness, sin, wickedness, and any other work of hell must flee.

I was ministering at a conference at the largest church in Peru, and we held a miracle and healing service. It was there that I met seven-year-old Loretta Ismaeles, who was born without a thyroid gland. This illness causes dwarfism and other symptoms, including a lack of hair. Loretta suffered daily from weakness and sleepiness. She would tell her mother that she wanted to be healed; she didn't want to spend the rest of her life taking pills, which had been prescribed by the doctor to keep her illness under control.

This little girl attended the miracle and healing service with her mother, and as I was ministering, Loretta felt fire rise to her heart and into her mouth, and she exhaled it. She believed that she was exhaling her various infirmities. When she went to the altar to testify of her healing, I asked one of the doctors to check her throat and look for a thyroid gland. The doctor examined her and felt the gland! God had created a new thyroid within her. Loretta cried from happiness. She checked the gland herself and jumped for joy when she felt it. She was happy knowing that she was healed, could stop taking the medication, and would no longer have to deal with the daily lack of strength and other symptoms. This was a visible demonstration of the presence of God's kingdom of power in our world today, bringing His will of healing and wholeness to the earth.

The kingdom of God is the manifestation of the spiritual realm that demonstrates His lordship, dominion, and will.

The Kingdom and the Church

To understand the kingdom of God, we must realize that it is not the same thing as the church. Today, many pastors, teachers, and believers miss the clear revelation and intent of the Scriptures regarding the kingdom. Jesus spoke of the kingdom more than one hundred times, while He referred to the church only twice. Following His crucifixion and resurrection, He remained on earth for forty days before ascending to heaven. What did He do during this time? He instructed His disciples about the kingdom. (See Acts 1:3.) Jesus is God the Son (fully God and fully Man), and after He fulfilled His mission on earth, God the Father established Him as Ruler over the world. As it says in Revelation 11:15, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" God gave Jesus all authority in heaven and on earth. (See Matthew 28:18.) He is our Lord and King, and through Him, the kingdom of God is spread throughout the world.

Consequently, the church is composed of those who have been redeemed through the death and resurrection of Jesus and who are called to expand His kingdom, just as Jesus did when He lived on the earth. The church is not the kingdom but rather the *agency* through which the kingdom is extended.

Most of us have much more knowledge about the doctrine and culture of our individual churches and denominations than we do about the kingdom of God. Yet the church must always be subject to the purposes of the kingdom. No Christian church or ministry should conduct itself according to its own agenda. In the supernatural realm, we should be governed by a kingdom mentality rather than a democratic mind-set.

The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven

Another misunderstanding about the kingdom is the meaning of the phrase "kingdom of God" versus the phrase "kingdom of heaven." In Scripture, these phrases are often used interchangeably. Yet, even though they are similar, I believe each implies something specific. The kingdom of heaven is a spiritual location called "heaven," from which God rules and influences the earth and the entire universe. This is God's dwelling place or atmosphere where His throne, court of angels, elders, and so forth, are found. (See, for example, Revelation 4:9–10.) The Father's seat of glory and power is surrounded by "unapproachable light" (1 Timothy 6:16).

The kingdom of heaven is the dominion of God.

The kingdom of heaven is invisible, but it impacts the visible world as the kingdom of God. Everything that takes place on earth to advance the kingdom must first be revealed, declared, and decreed in heaven. The kingdom of God extends the dominion and authority of the King to the world. It is the realm where His will is obeyed, producing a heaven on earth.

We can say that the kingdom of God is the atmosphere produced by our relationship of obedience and submission to Him. The spiritual and emotional atmosphere of any given place is the result of relationships. For example, when good relationships exist among the members of a household, a positive atmosphere can be perceived in their home. We experience something similar wherever the will of God is obeyed and His kingdom takes dominion over a territory, place, or person. If we have a right relationship

with our heavenly Father, we will experience the spiritual atmosphere of heaven on earth, and we can convey that atmosphere to those around us.

In this book, our focus is the kingdom of God—how God wants believers, as the church, to continue to expand His reign on earth through our authority in King Jesus and our power in the Holy Spirit.

The kingdom of God is His will and dominion exercised on earth as it is in heaven.

Qualities of the Kingdom of God

Let us explore several distinguishing qualities of the kingdom of God so that we may act on them as we advance His kingdom on earth.

1. It Is a Supernatural Kingdom

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." (John 18:36 NIV)

God's kingdom is not physical, nor does it have an earthly capital, like Rome was the capital of the Roman Empire. It is a supernatural, or spiritual, kingdom. Its capital is in heaven, from which God reigns.

The capital of God's kingdom is in heaven.

Because the kingdom of God is not of this world, it doesn't arrive through natural means. We will not see a physical building, army, or anything of that sort descend from heaven. As we have noted, God's kingdom is within you and me—and it is among us and our other brothers and sisters in Christ—wherever we go. It is the life of God exercising its influence on earth as the power of the Holy Spirit works through our humanity.

The kingdom reveals itself visibly through miracles and signs of God's unconditional love. For example, when a person is delivered from demonic influences, we see physical evidence of the arrival of the kingdom of God and its collision with the kingdom of Satan; there are often symptoms such

as convulsions as the latter is cast out of the individual's life. Moreover, the day will come when the kingdom of God will arrive visibly for every eye on earth to see when Jesus returns physically to establish His government on earth. (See, for example, Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17.)

2. It Is a Kingdom of Power, Not Just Words

For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

(1 Corinthians 4:20)

The kingdom of God was never meant to be proclaimed with words alone, in an abstract way. Neither was it to be communicated as something that will come only in the future. It was always meant to be announced with power, and in the present—in the now. The apostle Paul wrote, "For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance" (1 Thessalonians 1:5). Many preachers talk about the kingdom, but they have no accompanying demonstration of what they teach. This shows they lack revelation of the true qualities of God's kingdom. It is easy to preach something that cannot be proven because, that way, we don't put our reputations at risk. But each time the kingdom is preached, there must be a visible demonstration of God's power to heal the sick, deliver the captives and the oppressed, and save the lost. Consider Jesus' ministry:

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. (Matthew 4:23)

Each time the kingdom is preached, it must be manifested with a visible act of power.

You may know that the meaning of the word *gospel* is "good news." So, what should happen when we proclaim the "*gospel of the kingdom*"? The same good things that happened when Jesus preached. He demonstrated the power of the kingdom with miracles, signs, healings, and the casting out of demons. Each time He announced the good news of the kingdom,

these five entities, which have plagued humanity since the fall of man, could not remain:

- Sickness
- + Sin
- Demons
- Poverty
- Death

Sickness, sin, demons, poverty, and death all proceed from Satan's kingdom; therefore, each time Jesus confronted them with the superiority of God's kingdom, they experienced total defeat. Unfortunately, there are many theologians and preachers today who have never witnessed healing or the casting out of demons because they have only a mental knowledge of the kingdom, not an experiential knowledge of it. They have not witnessed God's power manifesting in visible ways.

At a miracle crusade at our church, I preached about the power of God and then ministered that power to others in a demonstrable way. Among those in attendance at the meeting was a woman named Madeline who was pregnant and had received a bad diagnosis concerning her baby. When she had gone for her first sonogram, the medical personnel had detected that her baby was missing its right kidney. Madeline was sad but began to pray for a miracle. The following month, she had another sonogram, and the doctors confirmed that the baby's right kidney had not formed. But Madeline did not give up. She continued to fight the good fight of faith.

In the midst of this distressing situation, she attended the healing crusade, believing for a creative miracle. I gave an altar call for everyone who needed a creative miracle, and Madeline was one of the first to respond. I declared the word, and she took hold of it, crying and believing that God had done the miracle. During the ninth month of her pregnancy, she went to have her last sonogram, and the doctor said he did not understand what had happened. What had not existed before was there now: the baby's right kidney had appeared! To the glory of God, after the birth, Madeline joyfully and gratefully testified that her daughter was healthy and had all of her organs. The supernatural power of the kingdom had performed a creative miracle that medical science was unable to produce.

The revelation of the message of the kingdom we proclaim can be proven by the visible manifestation of God's power, dominion, and authority.

3. It Is an Unshakable Kingdom

We are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken.

(Hebrews 12:28)

Our world is being shaken in many ways. The skies, the seas, the ground, the global economy, world leaders and governments, individual churches, denominations, and ministries are all being shaken. There is only one secure place for us to be: in the kingdom of God. If we are under its covering and authority, we cannot be shaken. Sickness will not be able to defeat us, poverty will not have lordship over us, economic crises will not rob us of our peace or our daily bread, moral corruption will not take hold of our children, and natural disasters will not devastate us. We will prevail over all things because of the covering, or protection, of God's unshakable kingdom.

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

(Matthew 7:24-25)

4. It Is a Kingdom Whose Reality Is Experienced Here and Now

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matthew 4:17)

When Jesus preached about the kingdom, He referred to it mainly in the here and now, saying that it "is at hand," or "has come upon you" (Matthew 12:28), or "has arrived among you" (verse 28 NLT). He taught relatively little about the kingdom as the eternal future. He expressed the concept as a present reality, where there is no past or future—just an eternal now. Jesus said that the kingdom was "at hand" because heaven was on earth. He didn't tell people to wait for death to enjoy the kingdom

in heaven; His message was that the kingdom had arrived and could be received.

Some people think that the kingdom of God consists only in the forgiveness of sins and a future in heaven. It is much more! Such people have repented enough to be forgiven and saved, but they haven't repented to the point where they can see the kingdom manifested abundantly in their lives. Full repentance, as we will see shortly, means a complete change of mindset. Forgiveness is just an entryway into a kingdom that is infinite, eternal, and of unlimited power.

Likewise, throughout history, the church as a whole has limited itself because it has often regarded the kingdom as either a past event or a future reality, without having a revelation of its present existence. It has frequently seen eternity as something we will experience after we die or after Jesus returns, when, in actuality, eternity always exists in the now. In the eternal now, eternity is past, present, and future put together. The church has also often shied away from supernatural manifestations, for reasons that we will address in a later chapter.

For now, it is important to know that the kingdom of God on earth was established by Jesus, and, when He returned to heaven, He delegated authority to the church to continue expanding the kingdom in the here and now, in the "present" of each succeeding generation of believers. The kingdom brings everything each human being needs, such as salvation, healing, deliverance, prosperity, and purpose. It is to be experienced today, and it is to be applied to each circumstance we are undergoing at this moment.

The kingdom of God is an eternal reality that can affect any present situation, here and now.

Throughout the New Testament, we read of the kingdom being brought to earth. Therefore, when I am ministering and meet a person suffering from cancer, I remember that cancer does not exist in heaven. I pray for that person, and the cancer leaves. I don't have to wait for Jesus to return to either receive healing or minister healing, because I am a carrier of God's kingdom who visibly manifests His power here and now.

It is the same for all of the leaders in my ministry. While my wife, Ana, was ministering to thousands of people at a conference in Argentina, she met a woman named Alejandra who had arrived wearing a scarf to hide her baldness. Alejandra testified that she had undergone three operations in the past twelve months to cure the breast cancer that threatened her life. Her left breast had been removed, and she was undergoing chemotherapy, which had caused the loss of her hair. She had discovered a lump on her breast the size of an egg while she was breastfeeding her newborn daughter, and the doctors had confirmed that it was cancer. "When I heard the news," Alejandra said, "all I knew to do was to hold on tight to God and say, 'Lord, I give You my life.' I was expecting my miracle, so I never let go." That was her faith affirmation.

During the conference, God's presence was very strong. While Pastor Ana walked up and down the aisles, she laid hands on Alejandra's shoulder and declared her healed. "I didn't feel anything at that moment," Alejandra said, "but when I returned to the doctor for further testing, everyone was surprised to discover that the cancer had disappeared!" But the miracle doesn't end there. After the three operations, her left breast looked like a tiny mass the size of a raisin. Everything down to the bone had been removed, including muscle tissue. She was unable to lift her left arm or do anything else with it because it would swell due to the lack of ligaments. Although she was grateful to the Lord for her healing from cancer, she was still unhappy. She did not want to see her body as it was. Her husband, Juan, continued the story by telling us, "I said to God, 'This is not the God I know! I want a new breast for my wife!' Then I made a covenant, believing He would do it. One morning, she said to me, 'Look!' When I looked, her breasts were the same! The only visible mark was a small scar caused by the surgery. God created a new breast! This is a true miracle of God and total restoration. The Lord reconstructed her breast; this is something that is not often seen!" The visible manifestation of the power of God is in the "now," and Alejandra is complete, as if cancer had never invaded her body.

The Character of the Kingdom of God

How can we recognize that God's kingdom has truly arrived in our midst? We can tell by experiencing, and living according to, the character of His kingdom.

For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)

The kingdom of God doesn't consist in material things or mere words but in three main characteristics—righteousness, peace, and joy—which are found only in the Holy Spirit.

1. Righteousness

Living in righteousness means several things: (1) Being in good standing with God by the forgiveness and redemption we receive through Christ's death and resurrection. (2) Acting in the same ways that God acts, as it says in Micah 6:8: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (3) Submitting yourself to be accountable to God for your thoughts, words, and actions, and allowing Him to correct you and to guide you in "paths of righteousness for His name's sake" (Psalm 23:3).

There is no righteousness outside of God's kingdom, only rebellion.

To be within the kingdom of God, we must be righteous, regardless of which denomination we are affiliated with or what we might call ourselves. We can belong to a church that is Pentecostal, Baptist, Methodist, or something else, but if we have not submitted to the government of God, then we are rebels and unrighteous. Only those who are within the kingdom can know righteousness; outside of it, Satan rules us. The good news is that everyone who repents can receive the righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, in which we can enter the kingdom of God and have true, eternal life.

2. Peace

And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful...Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.

(Isaiah 9:6–7)

Isaiah the prophet proclaimed an essential sign of the Messiah (Jesus Christ) and the essence of the good news He would bring to earth: the *government* would be upon His shoulders. He would take over the governance of human beings, all of whom have been lost under their own governance since humanity first rebelled against God. We will explore this topic in more detail in the next chapter. The government of King Jesus brings true and lasting peace to all who submit to it.

Peace is possible only when one lives under submission to the kingdom, or government, of Jesus Christ.

The Hebrew word for "peace" is *shalom*, which can mean "completeness," "soundness," (NASC, H7965), and "safe," with connotations of being "well" and "happy" and of "health" and "prosperity" (STRONG, H7965). Peace and other life-giving benefits come as a result of our having been justified by Jesus Christ.

One measure of the success of a government is the peace enjoyed by its citizens. And true peace on earth comes from the kingdom of God. Therefore, it is in vain that nations seek peace outside His kingdom.

Has not the LORD Almighty determined that the people's labor is only fuel for the fire, that the nations exhaust themselves for nothing? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:13–14 NIV)

History has shown that peace cannot come in the absence of a righteous government; thus, the words *righteousness* and *peace* will always be related; one cannot exist without the other. We cannot experience true peace without having righteousness. Jesus wants to reign over the human race to bring it both righteousness and peace.

The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. (Isaiah 32:17)

Rebels do not enjoy peace! We can be "religious" and still have a rebellious nature. Trying to keep all the rules or practicing religious rituals

does not bring righteousness. In Luke 15, in the parable of the prodigal son, the older brother stayed home and kept every one of his father's rules. However, in his heart, he was as rebellious as his wayward brother. The father's welcoming celebration for the younger brother, who had repented, exposed the condition of the older brother's heart. (See verses 25–32.) Peace is one of the primary needs of all human beings, and we can understand why people feel uneasy, unhappy, and miserable when they are not in relationship with God and are leading lives that are contrary to His kingdom. Receiving peace with God through Jesus Christ brings an end to our rebellion and misery.

"Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near," says the LORD, "and I will heal him. But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked." (Isaiah 57:19–21)

Why are the oceans always "uneasy," choppy, and in constant movement? Scientists have discovered that the seas continually react to various forces. The gravitational influences of the moon and the sun produce high and low tides. Currents also contribute to the movement of the water. Tides cause the water to move up and down, while currents move the water back and forth.² The state of an individual who is separated from God is an uneasy restlessness, similar to the churning waters of the ocean. He is unable to find peace and never feels satisfied.

Has the world ever been as uneasy as it is today? Look around and observe how people determinedly and even obsessively seek pleasure. What produces this relentless pursuit if not uneasiness, dissatisfaction, and lack of peace? Often, people say things like "Let's take our minds off our problems and just go do something!" "I can't stand being home by myself," or "I feel like I'm going crazy." Some people try to find relief from their uneasiness by constantly going to parties or engaging in other pleasure-producing practices. They have a constant desire to see or experience something new and fresh. The modern term for this behavior is "escapism." People want to escape reality. Because they are agitated, they seek ways to "feel something good" or situations in which they can let go of what troubles them. They

^{2.} http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/navigation/tidesandcurrents/.

try to stimulate themselves through amusement, adventures, and strong emotions. These endeavors express the fundamental uneasiness that is produced by the negative spiritual, emotional, and physical forces at work in their lives.

The apostle James wrote that the person who doubts the reality of God and His truth is "like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind....He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways" (James 1:6, 8). Many people feel pulled between good and evil, between knowing that they should do what is right but liking what is bad and destructive. Yet everyone has a need for peace, and we will never feel satisfied without the peace of God. As I said earlier, the only way to find peace is to submit to God's government and receive His righteousness through Jesus Christ. When righteousness enters our hearts, its produces eternal peace, rest, and security.

3. Joy

Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

(Nehemiah 8:10)

The kingdom of God also brings us joy! There is a difference between happiness and joy: happiness belongs to the realm of the soul, while joy belongs to the realm of the spirit.

Happiness is connected with external circumstances. Depending on the nature of those circumstances, we feel happy or sad. Many people believe that having a nice car, a new house, and a high-paying job with enough money coming in to cover all their bills will bring them happiness. If they achieve these things, they are temporarily happy. However, the state of various life circumstances—finances, relationships, health, and so forth—often changes, which means that their happiness is constantly in jeopardy.

In contrast, joy is always related to a stable source that never changes, does not vary, and is not affected by external forces. This source is God and His unshakable kingdom. Regardless of the circumstances we might be experiencing, His joy is our strength. We simply have to make sure we keep ourselves under submission to King Jesus and His kingdom; then, we will have peace and joy in the Spirit of God.

4. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Administrator and Executor of the kingdom. He is the only One who can reveal the things of the kingdom and of its King. (See, for example, 1 Corinthians 2:11–12.) When we receive the Holy Spirit, we become carriers of the kingdom of God, which is revealed in and through us by the Spirit.

Without the Holy Spirit, there is no kingdom or government of God.

The Holy Spirit is always at work in the lives of God's people who yield themselves to Him. He produces great spiritual activity, manifesting miracles, healings, signs, and wonders. He generates the supernatural both within the church and in the kingdom at large. If the Holy Spirit were to be removed from our midst, we would be left with only a theoretical, theological, and historical kingdom without power, one that would be unable to produce change or transformation in people. Righteousness, peace, and joy are possible only where the Holy Spirit operates.

The church deceives itself when it talks about the kingdom of God and Christianity but fails to allow the supernatural power of God to be revealed in people's lives. How is it possible for us to preach the kingdom of God while at the same time ignoring, rejecting, and criticizing the things of the Spirit? How can we teach on the kingdom without mentioning being filled with the Holy Spirit? How can we proclaim a kingdom of power without producing healings, miracles, signs, and wonders as visible proof? How can we welcome the kingdom and not give the Holy Spirit the freedom to move among us?

We must seek to manifest the kingdom, in all its fullness, in our own lives and in our world. During a miracle crusade in South America, I met Efraín Sigala. He had spent twenty years of his life connected to an oxygen tank, and he was tired of living that way. He couldn't work (he had been a pastor), and he was hardly able to walk, so that he had been declared handicapped. Every day, he felt faint. He would pray to God for strength to keep going.

Though Efraín was a Christian, he didn't know the supernatural power of God, and he didn't know about my ministry. However, some of his

friends, who were also pastors, told him how the Spirit of God moves during my services, and they paid for an entry ticket so he could attend our meetings. Full of expectancy, Efraín declared that he would return home totally healed. During the time of ministry, while I prayed for a baby and a woman who was having difficulty breathing, Efraín said to his wife, "The time has come." He made his way to the altar and shared his story. He explained that he had pulmonary fibrosis, which had caused inflammation and scar tissue in the pulmonary walls, damaging his vocal cords. He had a hard time breathing, and his body was functioning at a low capacity. Also, a valve in his heart was blocked, and the doctors suspected that he had cancer.

I prayed for him and, in the name of Jesus, I cursed the sickness and decreed the spirit of life and the health of heaven upon his body. Suddenly, he began to tremble under the power of the Holy Spirit. When he stopped shaking, his eyes shone brightly. As an act of faith, he removed his oxygen mask and breathed in deeply several times. Immediately, he started to move and walk without a problem. He was healed! He walked the entire platform and even ran across it. His skin had been yellowish before the miracle, but now it had a healthy pink glow. Efraín was the epitome of happiness! His lungs were healed, and he has not needed the oxygen tank since. He also regained full use of his limbs. This is true Christianity—the power of God visibly manifested through us, His children.

The supernatural demonstration of the kingdom comes only by the Holy Spirit, not by theology or doctrine.

Praying for the Kingdom to Come

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
(Matthew 6:10)

The Lord's Prayer, which Jesus taught His disciples, deals with worshipping God the Father, having communion with Him, and bringing His kingdom to earth. Note that the first request, after "Hallowed be Your name" (Matthew 6:9), is "Your kingdom come." God's kingdom should be our top priority.

Furthermore, this prayer confirms where the kingdom should manifest—"on earth." Again, many Christians believe that the main purpose of the kingdom is to take them to heaven; instead, it is clear that the purpose of the kingdom is to bring heaven to earth! We must understand that our King's will, dominion, and lordship must be carried out on the earth here and now, the same way they are carried out in heaven.

All other prayers are secondary to this purpose, as well as all of our personal needs, problems, trials, and difficulties. After we have prayed for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, then we can pray for our "daily bread" (Matthew 6:11). However, most Christians place their problems and personal needs ahead of the kingdom of God. They don't realize that this is precisely the reason why their needs are not being met: their priorities are not in order. (See Matthew 6:31–33.)

When the kingdom is a priority in our lives—when we worship God, serve others, heal the sick, testify of Jesus, deliver the oppressed, give offerings, and take the gospel wherever we go—our needs will be supplied. We should pay close attention to the way this portion of the Lord's Prayer is expressed: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." These statements do not come across to me as passive requests but as assertive ones. Later on, Jesus said, "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing ["suffers violence" NKJV], and forceful men lay hold of it" (Matthew 11:12 NIV). We are to "seize" what is in heaven and bring it to earth. As we pray, we pull to earth whatever is in heaven: health, deliverance, peace, joy, forgiveness, miracles, healing, prosperity, and so much more! When we depend on the realm of God, we can visibly bring forth whatever is needed.

Heaven is the pattern, or model, that we need to bring to our environment. When we find people with arthritis, diabetes, cancer, or any other sickness, we must remember that sickness does not exist in heaven, and we must "pull" the kingdom of heaven to earth, so that its power can manifest and people can be healed and set free in the name of Jesus.

The Lord's Prayer deals with worshipping God the Father, having communion with Him, and bringing His kingdom to earth.

How to Enter the Kingdom of God

To this point, we have learned what God's kingdom is, where it is found, and its main qualities and characteristics. Now, we will discover how to fully enter into it. Salvation through the work of Jesus at the cross is part of God's provision, but there is also something we must personally do.

1. Be Born Again

Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (John 3:5)

The kingdom of God is entered by spiritual birth, and this "new birth" (1 Peter 1:3 NIV) gives us citizenship in it. We cannot enter the kingdom by being religious; by belonging to a denomination, ministry, or sect; by being affiliated with a particular philosophy; by knowing the theology of salvation through the cross; or by any other means. A total separation from the curse of sin must take place; the umbilical cord of iniquity that connects us to sin and the rebellious nature must be cut. The kingdom is not a mere "remedy." It involves becoming a new creation. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

There is no entry into the kingdom of God except by the new birth.

2. Repent

Now after John [the Baptist] was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

(Mark 1:14–15)

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus' coming by calling the people to repentance. Jesus couldn't present Himself to the Israelites as the Messiah while the people's hearts were not ready to repent—this being the first condition or requirement for receiving Him.

In the above passage, the word "preaching" comes from a Greek word meaning "to herald (as a public crier), especially divine truth"; subsequently, it can mean "to preach," "to proclaim," or "to publish" (STRONG, G2784). Jesus' ministry continued where John the Baptist's ended. There was no variation in the message they proclaimed; both called people to repentance. Why? Because the kingdom of God had arrived, and, again, the people's hearts had to be ready to receive it. Being born again takes place only by repentance.

Repentance is the unalterable condition for preparing to receive the kingdom and for being born into the kingdom.

In the economy of the kingdom, we must humble ourselves before we are exalted, we must give in order to receive, we must serve in order to be great, and we must die in order to live. (See, for example, Matthew 23:12; Luke 6:38; Matthew 20:26; John 11:25.) Accordingly, we must die to our own "government"—to our selfish desires, opinions, and personal "vote"—surrendering ourselves to God, so that we may truly live in Him and in His kingdom.

What Should We Repent of, and Why?

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all.

(Isaiah 53:6)

As we will see in chapter 2, every problem and difficulty we face began when the first human beings departed from God's government and tried to live according to their own ways. God called this departure "iniquity," "sin," and "rebellion." All human beings have inherited this nature of iniquity, sin, and rebellion. The only solution for our problems is to reenter the kingdom. Yet there is so much rebellion today that many people do not even want to hear the word *government* in relation to God. They don't view the arrival of the kingdom of God as good news because they don't want to repent, or change their wrong thoughts and ways.

Iniquity is equivalent to rebellion and all of its consequences.

True repentance involves a new frame of mind that reflects a change in attitude. This change is evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit upon a person's heart, which eventually results in a new way of life for that person. Repentance is not an emotion, although it may also be expressed through the emotions. Rather, when we realize our true, bankrupt spiritual condition before God and the rebellious nature that has led us away from Him, repentance is the decision we make to turn 180 degrees and walk in the opposite direction—toward Him. Repentance also indicates our decision not to rule ourselves any longer but to be ruled by God, according to His government. Thus, repentance causes sin to die. Although repentance is required for entering the kingdom, we must also constantly seek to renew our thoughts and ways in accordance with God's thoughts and ways and daily submit our lives to Him, so that we will continue to walk in the right direction.

Every human being is a rebel by nature, expressing that rebellion through thought, choice, and deed.

You might not be a thief, a liar, an adulterer, a killer, or a perpetual evildoer, but the instant you entered this world, you did so with a rebellious nature; you were born in iniquity. (See Psalm 51:5.) The Bible says "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). In one sense, committing iniquity is inevitable for us, because iniquity comes through our bloodline. However, God has also given us a conscience and the ability to reason, which help show us right from wrong. More than that, He offers us His own Holy Spirit to live within us and enable us to obey Him. We can choose to live in iniquity, or we can repent and enter the kingdom of life. We have to come to our senses by recognizing the truth about ourselves and our sinful lifestyle. Then, we must turn around and go the other way.

"Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red

like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land." (Isaiah 1:18–19)

What Does It Mean to Repent Wholeheartedly?

To repent wholeheartedly means to recognize that we have lived independently of God. Basically, this means that we have ruled ourselves and gratified our sinful nature by living as we pleased; by doing, thinking, and feeling what we wanted, as well as by prioritizing our own desires and standards for personal gain and satisfaction. We became our own authority, deciding what career path to follow, what business to start, where to live, whom to marry, and so forth, without consulting God. This is why many of us go from failure to failure, wondering why we were born and if there is any meaning to life. We wonder why we are depressed or why so many young people choose suicide, believing it will end the terrible void in their lives. The "freedom" to live as we want to, which we fight so hard to defend, has left us without purpose in life.

For our repentance to be genuine, we must place ourselves, from this day forward, under God's authority and government, allowing Him to have full reign in our lives. Every decision we make must be based on kingdom principles and commandments. Because we now live to please the King, we will not do anything without His consent, authority, and guidance. This is true repentance!

The evidence of repentance is change, and change is not change until there is genuine transformation.

Many people in the church today have never truly repented. Their condition is evident by their constant rebelliousness and their bouts of anger, depression, selfishness, and so forth. They lack peace and cannot fully receive the righteousness that God has provided for them in Christ. The power of the kingdom is available to those who have fully repented and renounced their rebellion against God. Then, and only then, can they claim His promises of salvation, healing, deliverance, righteousness, peace, joy, and prosperity. We must also realize that our freedom and supernatural

provision in Christ are not an excuse for us to live as we wish. Rather, they enable us to enjoy the benefits of the kingdom at the same time as we minister them to others.

In my more than twenty years of experience in dealing with people in ministry, I have come to the conclusion that most people's problems are caused by a lack of wholehearted repentance. When people are led to repent fully, many of their problems cease to exist, because an individual who repents no longer resists God. Instead, he says, "Lord, here I am. I will do whatever You ask me to do." Whenever we teach people about God's kingdom but neglect to tell them about obedience, submission, and being under His government, we have failed to communicate the essence of the kingdom.

Whether you are a Christian or not, and whether you attend church or not, if you identify with this rebellious lifestyle of separation from God and see yourself as lost and directionless, not knowing the purpose for which you were born; if you feel you want to end it all because life seems too much for you; if you are sick and medical treatment has not brought relief or healing—it is time for you to experience the kingdom of God, here and now, with the manifestations of His power. Repent of your past lifestyle; renounce sin, iniquity, and rebellion against God; and return to Him. He wants His kingdom to manifest in you. He wants His realm to spread to others through you, bringing righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. If you desire to be reconciled to God and are willing to submit to His government, you can pray this prayer of repentance and receive forgiveness so that you may enter into the kingdom of God in all its fullness:

Heavenly Father, I recognize that I am a sinner, and I repent of my lifestyle, which is contrary to You and Your kingdom. I turn away from all my sins and rebellion, and I desire to follow You wholeheartedly. With my mouth I confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and I believe in my heart that You, Father, raised Him from the dead. In the name of Jesus, I am saved. Let Your kingdom manifest in my life. Use me to spread Your kingdom wherever I go. Amen!

The Priority of Seeking the Kingdom

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

We have learned that there is no righteousness or peace outside of God's kingdom, because rebellion produces only chaos and destruction. The only way to be righteous is to receive the righteousness of Jesus by faith and to be in submission to the kingdom of God. Every need that arises will be supplied if our priorities are in order. When I focus on and align myself with the priorities of the kingdom, God's order comes into my life, and His promises to supply me with food, drink, clothing, a bed to sleep in, a roof over my head, money, and more are activated. I have proven this principle in my own life and ministry for many years.

We are to manifest, or bring forth, the reality of God's will, lordship, and dominion to earth wherever we encounter those who are experiencing hard times. Sickness, oppression, poverty, sadness, divorce, depression, crimes, wickedness, and murders do not exist in heaven. To end or prevent such things in the life of a person, family, church, city, or nation is to establish the kingdom of God on earth. When something is not aligned with God's will, depending on what it is, we must make it a priority either to realign it or to remove it.

I practice kingdom living in my daily life, but I am not the only one! I am constantly training and equipping disciples to take the kingdom everywhere they go. In our family and ministry, we see thousands of people receive salvation, deliverance, and restoration through my wife and through our ministers, elders, deacons, mentors, and House of Peace (the church's home fellowship ministry) leaders, as well as through the pastors under our spiritual covering and our disciples around the world. In the name of Jesus, they deliver people from homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, pornography, masturbation, incest, theft, abandonment, witchcraft, and addictions, such as those to alcohol, prescription medications, and illegal drugs.

We have seen Jesus heal people of cancer, AIDS, hepatitis, arthritis, diabetes, lupus, bipolar disorders, schizophrenia, and much more. Many people have experienced creative miracles, such as receiving new organs

where they were missing them, and the restoration of cleft palates. Why is this happening? Because we believe that heaven is a reality that can be lived here and now.

Two of my spiritual children are pastors of a church in Spain, and they do the same supernatural works that I do. A young lady named Gabriela Asencio, who is now a bank consultant and humanities student, visited their congregation. She told them she was living in "hell" due to anorexia, bulimia, a bipolar condition, and severe depression. In the past, she would often hurt herself and had tried several times to commit suicide, and she also had been in a psychiatric ward several times. The doctors told her that she would never get better and would have to take prescription medication for the rest of her life. This medicine made her drowsy and sometimes even caused her to lose consciousness. When she woke up, she would again lose control.

These pastors in Spain ministered inner healing and deliverance to Gabriela, and the power of God delivered her! Now, she is completely healed and full of the Holy Spirit. She testified, "My life revolved around my sickness. I couldn't enjoy anything and had no dreams, plans, or projects. I felt alone and would spend days planning how to hurt and kill myself. I hated my family. I would often not eat because I felt guilty, and if I ate, I couldn't control my desire to vomit. During the worst times of anorexia and bulimia, I couldn't buy clothes for myself or even look at myself in the mirror, not even to clean myself. I couldn't study, relate to people, or forgive or love anyone." Now, Gabriela studies, works, serves, and loves the Lord and other people. She is a mentor who ministers deliverance and affirms others.

If you decide to receive the revelation in this book and dare to make the establishment of the kingdom of God your priority, in the name of Jesus, you will see miracles begin to take place. The invisible kingdom will manifest in the visible realm, bringing transformation to people's lives.

I encourage you to make this decision and to manifest the kingdom everywhere you go. Where there is spiritual darkness, remove it; where there is sickness, cast out the spirit of infirmity. The kingdom of power is within you. The only thing you need to do is to demonstrate it here and now!