

KINGDOM POWER

HOW TO DEMONSTRATE IT HERE & NOW



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GUILLERMO MALDONADO



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> The definition of supernatural is taken from Merriam Webster's 11th Collegiate Dictionary, electronic version, © 2003, s.v. "supernatural," "super-."

THE KINGDOM OF POWER: How to Demonstrate It Here and Now

(Spirit-Led Bible Study)

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About the Spirit-Led Bible Study Series

he Spirit-Led Bible Study series is a collection of diverse, stand-alone Bible studies designed for either individuals or groups. Each self-study course features either a scriptural theme or a particular book of the Bible. Readers can go beyond just reading the Bible to become engaged in its truths and principles, learning to apply them to everyday life in practical ways while growing in their understanding of God and deepening their relationship with Him. Jesus said, "When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). Readers are encouraged to recognize that it is only through the indwelling Holy Spirit that we may truly understand the Scriptures and exhibit the life of Christ in our lives, and that we must intentionally rely on the Spirit in all our reading and study of the Bible.

Introduction

God is the Supreme Ruler of the universe, including our world, and He wants us to be active participants in spreading His kingdom on earth. "The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). The kingdom of God is the life of God exercising its influence as the power of the Holy Spirit works through our humanity. Wherever God's kingdom governs, it is visibly demonstrated, and every work of Satan must depart because darkness cannot remain in the same territory occupied by God's light.

Many of us have heard teachings or read books 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.

The Kingdom and the Church

To understand the kingdom of God, we must first realize that it is not the same thing as the church. Jesus spoke of the kingdom more than one hundred times, while He referred to the church only twice. Following His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus 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.

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. God's invisible, eternal, and supernatural realm impacts the visible, temporal, and natural world by means of men and women who are born by the Spirit into His kingdom. The church is not the kingdom but rather the *agency* through which the kingdom is extended.

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

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 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. For example, each time Jesus announced the good news of the kingdom, sickness, sin, demons, poverty, and death could not remain.

The kingdom of God flows in us and through us by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, especially as we learn how the kingdom functions and as we act on its principles. We must light the way for people to see the kingdom of God, so they may experience the arrival of the kingdom in their own lives and receive personal transformation, healings, and miracles.

These Bible studies are not based on theories but rather on knowledge gained from personal experience. Everything that I teach in these pages, our ministry has experienced. Thousands of people have seen and heard the manifestations of God's kingdom through our ministry. In this course, you, too, will discover the nature of God's kingdom of power and learn how to enter into it so that you may see it demonstrated *today*—in the here and now!

How to Use This Study

Introduction

Welcome to *The Kingdom of Power*, one of the courses in the Spirit-Led Bible Study series. We are delighted that you have made the decision to dig deeper into God's Word. This course is designed as a stand-alone biblical study on the theme of God's kingdom in the now. The study may be completed independently by individual students, or it may be used in a group setting, such as a Bible study, a Sunday school class, a course on the foundations of the Christian faith, or a prayer group. For those who have read the author's book *The Kingdom of Power: How to Demonstrate It Here and Now* (Whitaker House, 2013), these studies will reinforce its major themes while providing further scriptural study and application of the topic.

Elements of Each Study

(Note: All the elements, combined, lead to a comprehensive understanding of the topics in the studies, so the student should endeavor to read and respond to each one.)

Scripture Verse or Passage

Each study begins with a Scripture verse or passage that highlights the topic.

Introduction

The author provides background, context, and/or other relevant information to set the stage for the lesson that follows.

Study Questions

Each study includes approximately 15 questions, with some questions having multiple parts. The questions are organized under sections that emphasize particular aspects of the topic. Each question is followed by a corresponding Scripture reference in parentheses that enables the student to answer it. If a Scripture reference has *a* or *b* after it (e.g., "John 3:16a" or "John 3:16b"), this means the answer is found in the first part of the verse, "a," or the second part, "b." The student should read the Bible verse or passage and then write the answer on the line(s) provided.

Reflections

Each lesson includes insights that the author has gleaned from his experiences with the kingdom of God in ministry or his study of the theme of the kingdom in God's Word. For example, the first study features "Reflections on the Kingdom as the Eternal Now."

Key Definitions

Definitions and explanations of key concepts related to the kingdom of God are provided at various points throughout the studies.

Thought-Provoking Statements

Periodically, statements for personal reflection are presented in bold italics.

Conclusion

At the end of each study, the author sums up the topic, provides additional information, and/or offers a challenge to the student.

Prayer of Activation

A prayer is provided to activate the student to live out the principles in the lesson, being spiritually empowered to serve God and expand His kingdom in the world. Group leaders are encouraged to offer the prayer on behalf of the students, while the individual student is encouraged to pray the prayer for himself or herself. (Individual students should adapt the prayers to the first-person singular.)

Action Steps

Action steps are listed to enable the student to apply the lesson to his or her life in practical ways.

Encounters with God's Kingdom

Each study concludes with a testimony about someone who has had a life-changing encounter with the power of God's kingdom. These testimonies come from the author's church, King Jesus Ministry, in Miami, Florida; affiliated churches; or the author's other ministry experiences.

Study Helps

Bible Version

The main Bible translation used for this study is the New King James Version. Other Bible translations are used periodically, and they are designated as follows:

(кJv): King James Version

(NIV): New International Version

(NLT): New Living Translation

Answer Key

At the back of this book, answers to the study questions are listed under the titles of the studies in the Answer Key section. In addition, the various section titles for each study are included for easy reference. The student's answers should reflect the content of those provided in the Answer Key, although the wording may differ in varying degrees, depending on the nature of the question.

Study 1

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU

"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

Introduction

A 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 manifested on earth, and it is a reality that we can receive and enjoy today. It is His dominion and 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 earthly 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 promote his realm of darkness in the world to counteract God's kingdom of light. Jesus brought God's kingdom to earth, and God calls believers, as the church, to continue to expand His reign in the world through our authority in Christ and our power in the Holy Spirit.

Study Questions

1. What was the message Jesus proclaimed as He began His ministry? (Matthew 4:17b)

Part I: A Kingdom Bestowed from Heaven

2.	God's kingdom and Jesus' kingdom are one and the same. What did Jesus say about His kingdom, revealing that it did not have its origins in an earthly realm but in a heavenly, supernatural one? Complete the following:
	(a) John 18:36a: "My kingdom is

	(b) John 18:36b: "My kingdom is
whic (NAS	CEY DEFINITION: The Greek word for "kingdom" in the New Testament is basileian has been been been been the rout word basileus, which relates to the idea of a "foundate of power" (STRONG, G935).
3.	What did Jesus say is our heavenly Father's good pleasure to give us? (Luke 12:32)
4.	When some religious leaders asked Jesus when the kingdom of God would come, what did Jesus reply? (Luke 17:21b)

REFLECTIONS ON THE KINGDOM AS THE ETERNAL NOW

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

When Jesus preached about the kingdom, He referred to it mainly in the here and now, saying that it "has come upon you" (Matthew 12:28), "has arrived among you" (verse 28 NLT), or "is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). 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 now! Being forgiven of our sin through Christ is just an entryway into God's kingdom, which is infinite, eternal, and of unlimited power. 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.

8.	What are three characteristics of God's kingdom? Complete the following:				
Eacl	b 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.				
	(b) Acts 2:22a:				
6.					
	In what ways did Jesus demonstrate the kingdom as He taught and preached? (a) Matthew 4:23b:				
					When the apostle Paul brought the "gospel of the kingdom" (Matthew 24:14) to the Thessalonians, he did not bring it in "word only" but also in three other ways. What were they? (1 Thessalonians 1:5a NIV)
	II: Qualities and Character of the Kingdom of God				
		the kingdom to a treasure in a field. In another, He compared it to a pearl of great price. How did the main characters in these two parables respond toward what they had found? (Matthew 13:44b, 46b)			

Part III: How to Enter the Kingdom of God

Be Born Again

(a) What must happen for someone to enter the kingdom of God? (John 3:5)			
(b) To be "born of the Spirit" is to be "born of God." (See John 1:13.) What is our role in this process? (Romans 10:9)			
(c) Complete the following:			
John 1:12: "But as many as [Jesus], to them			
He gave the right to become children of God, to those who			

REFLECTIONS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN GOD'S KINGDOM

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

When we put our faith in Christ, God gives us the gift of His Holy Spirit, and we become carriers of the kingdom of God, which is revealed in us and through us by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Administrator and Executor of the kingdom. Without the Holy Spirit, there is no kingdom or government of God on earth. 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.) Righteousness, peace, and joy are possible only where He operates.

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. 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.

+	Repent Wholeheartedly	
10.	There is a corresponding step we must take in this process of being born again and entering God's kingdom, which both John the Baptist and Jesus proclaimed. Complete the following:	
	Mark 1:15b: ", and believe in the gospel."	
	Matthew 4:17b: ", for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."	
11.	(a) What did Jesus say is a requirement for entering the kingdom of heaven? (Matthew 18:3)	
	(b) What quality about the child did Jesus commend—a quality that would make a person "greatest in the kingdom of heaven"? (Verse 4a)	
KEY DEFINITION: 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 involves a new frame of mind that effects a change in attitude and lifestyle.		
	Repentance is the unalterable condition for preparing to receive the kingdom and for being born into the kingdom.	

	(a) What did Jesus teach us to pray to God the Father concerning His kingdom? (Matthew 6:10)		
	(b) To underscore the meaning of the above statement, where should we ask that God's kingdom should come and manifest? (Verse 10b)		
	The kingdom of God is His will and dominion exercised on earth as it is in heaven.		
13.	(a) What did Jesus say we must seek first in our lives? (Matthew 6:33a)		
	(b) What will be the result if we do this? (Verse 33b)		
	(c) What kinds of "things" did Jesus indicate that God the Father would "add," or provide, for us—things that people often worry about obtaining? (Verses 31–32)		
14.	What kind of kingdom are we receiving from God? (Hebrews 12:28a)		
15.	(a) To whom did Jesus compare the person who hears His sayings about the kingdom and does them? (Matthew 7:24)		

•	b) In this Scripture passage, the rains, floods, and winds depict the trials, emptations, and adversities of life. What happened to the house of the man who
Ь	uilt on the rock, and what happened to the house of the man who built on the sand? Matthew 7:25b, 27)
(1	viactife w 1,256, 21)
_	
-	
	True Christianity is the power of God visibly manifested through His children.

Conclusion

God's kingdom is a reality that can be lived here and now. We, His children, are to manifest His will, lordship, and dominion on earth wherever we go. Heaven is the pattern, or model, that we need to bring to our environment. We are to "seize" whatever is in heaven and bring it to earth: health, deliverance, peace, joy, forgiveness, miracles, healing, prosperity, and so much more! As we depend on the realm of God, we can visibly bring forth whatever is needed. 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—all of our needs will be supplied. Receive the revelation in this Bible study and dare to make the advancement of the kingdom of God your priority, in the name of Jesus, and you will see miracles begin to take place. The invisible kingdom will manifest in the visible realm, bringing transformation to people's lives.

At my church and in my ministry travels, I have seen Jesus heal people of cancer, AIDS, hepatitis, arthritis, diabetes, lupus, bipolar disorder, 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. In the name of Jesus, people have been delivered from homosexuality, pornography, thievery, abandonment issues, witchcraft, and addictions, such as those to alcohol, prescription medications, and illegal drugs.

I encourage you to make a decision 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!

Prayer of Activation

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. The Bible says "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). 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.)

God wants His kingdom to manifest in you. He wants His realm to extend 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 (see Isaiah 1:18–19), pray the following 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 "born of God." Let Your kingdom manifest in my life. Use me to spread Your kingdom wherever I go. Amen!

Action Steps

- Daily ask God to give you a revelation of His kingdom, with its power and characteristics, so that you can demonstrate it to the world.
- Repentance is an essential part of entering into and participating in the life of God's kingdom. Even if you have already received Christ, take time now to examine your life and repent wholeheartedly before God. Begin by thinking of ways in which you have lived independently of God by gratifying your sinful nature and living as you pleased—prioritizing your own desires and standards for personal gain and satisfaction. The power of the kingdom is available to those who have fully repented and renounced their rebellion against God. Then, and only then, can you claim His promises of salvation, healing, deliverance, righteousness, peace, joy, and prosperity. Constantly seek to renew your thoughts and ways in accordance with God's thoughts and ways, and daily submit your life to Him, so that you will continue to walk in the right direction. 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. When we live to please the King, we will not do anything without His consent, authority, and guidance. This is true repentance.
- Read Matthew 10:7–8 and begin to demonstrate God's kingdom! Throughout the New Testament, we read of the kingdom being brought to earth. You are a carrier of God's kingdom who is able to visibly manifest His power here and now. When you encounter people who are sick or in need of deliverance, remember that sickness and oppression do not exist in heaven. Therefore, "pull" the kingdom of heaven to earth, with its health and freedom in Christ, so that God's power can manifest and people can be healed and set free in the name of Jesus!

ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD'S KINGDOM

The Creative Miracle of a Brand-New Eye

Apostle Maldonado was ministering 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 King Jesus 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 Apostle Maldonado's book *How to Walk in the Supernatural Power of God.* One Sunday, he was moved by God to play a recording of one of King Jesus Ministry's services, which he downloaded from the ministry's Web site. He had remembered Apostle Maldonado 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, Apostle Maldonado 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!