

BJ15 Pressing Into The Kingdom Of God

Luke 16:16 KJV The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

Philippians 3:13-14 KJV Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, [14] I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

1986 – After a long time of prayer, I asked the Lord if He would explain to me what was happening while I was praying that day. The Holy Spirit answered and said concerning me that ... *My spirit man is pushing through the veil of my flesh. I am not content to live in a world of religion, playing church, with no power.*

Therefore, the Lord is leading me in the paths of reality. Reality of the Spirit, that controls all material things. It is a painful process. "Through much tribulation we do enter the kingdom of God." We are born again, but this speaks of walking in that supernatural realm, where the living Christ can flow through your flesh to meet the needs of a dying, sick, and hurting humanity. To enter that kingdom there is a pushing, and a bursting through, and an exploding forth of the spirit through the veil of the flesh. It is a work of My Spirit, and a work of My grace, and not your efforts. No amount of self-appointed, holy actions on your part will ever produce those things that your heart desires. But only this growth process, whereby you let Me, as the Potter, mold the clay.

This is the process. I am doing those things that are needful to bring to pass those deep desires and longings of your heart, sayeth God. Trust Me during this growth process. Let the Maker have his way with thee, and trust Him. You are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who are applauding and cheering, saying, "We too had to go through this growth process." The instrument being prepared shall be used mightily of the Lord.

THIS IS THE PROCESS! Did you notice that? What was I doing at the time? I was spending long hours meditating the Word of God, praying in the Spirit, and spending some time in worship ... and in those days ... a tiny little thimble full of fasting. (I do much better now.) But God did not call those things works, or self-

appointed holy actions on my part. No, on the contrary, it was me yielding to the transformation process that God Himself had established for disciples of Christ.

When Pastor Dave Roberson would teach on this, he called it the process of edification and mortification. It edifies, builds up, matures your spirit man. Then it mortifies the deeds of the body as you impose the mind of Christ over the lusts of the flesh. Sound easy? Try it. Try it in earnest. Not just for a day. For a lifetime. It is not easy, but it is the path to maturity.

Notice the phrase, "*... this speaks of walking in that supernatural realm, where the living Christ can flow through your flesh to meet the needs of a dying, sick, and hurting humanity.*"

This is precisely what Jesus said:

John 14:12-14 KJV Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. [13] And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. [14] If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

This is precisely how Peter described it at the healing of Aeneas:

Acts 9:31-34 KJV Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied. [32] And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda. [33] And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy. [34] And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

Peter absolutely understood it was "Christ in him" doing the works. That brings me to the next thing the Holy Spirit said to me.

1986- *The King and the Kingdom are within you. Receive the revelation of:*
a. How great is that King within you.

b. *How great is His willingness to use His power on your behalf and on the behalf of others.*

When these two things are realized: the power flows. The revelation of God in a greater way is now imparted to your spirit. Cast yourself with utter abandon on the arms of My Spirit, sayeth God. You have nearly left reasonings now. You have nearly seen the futility of reasonings. Keep coming. See My face. See Jesus walking on the water. Walk towards Me.

How great is this king who is within us?

Ephesians 1:16-21 KJV Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; [17] That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: [18] The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, [19] And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, [20] Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, [21] Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

How willing is He to use His power on our behalf?

Matthew 8:2-3 KJV And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. [3] And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Jesus Himself does not grow in us. Jesus Himself is fully mature! That's why the gifts of the Spirit can be manifested in us from the moment we are born again. Paul told the Corinthians they were such babes in Christ, he could not give them meat, only milk. Yet Paul said they came behind in no gift. Paul told them to be grateful and to earnestly covet the best gifts. Thank God for the gifts of the Spirit. But Paul then said,

1 Corinthians 12:31 KJV But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

In the next chapter, Paul speaks of them about not remaining children, but growing up to maturity in Christ.

1 Corinthians 13:11 KJV When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

When I became a man = When I grew up. The subject is maturing into the love of God because God is love! Faith is great. Hope is great. But the greatest of these is love. There is no bypassing the maturing process.

Mark 4:26-29 KJV And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; [27] And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. [28] For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. [29] But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

You cannot be born again without the Word of God being sown into your heart. Jesus says it comes in like a seed. There has to be a maturing process for it to begin producing fruit. We truly "know not how" it happens, but it happens.

I can tell you from experience, when the Word begins to come to maturity in you, your relationship with the Word changes. He who is the Word, becomes very personal to you. You begin dealing with a person, not somebody you read about in a book. The words of Christ in a book become the words of Christ, the God-man, and He is speaking directly to you. It is no longer something you read in a book. It is something He Himself is saying to you.