

The Holy Spirit is NOT 'The Kingdom'

There is a teaching around that the Holy Spirit is The Kingdom.¹ This gains acceptance due to the interpretation of scripture that misses full understanding. Like Replacement Theology that states that the church has completely replaced Israel as God's chosen people and therefore completely abandoning the Jews as his special people, this teaching about the Holy Spirit ignores some salient truths.

There is no direct scripture which states that the Holy Spirit is the Kingdom. This teaching comes from an analysis of scripture which is not 'sound'.

Firstly, before starting, it must be realised that the following are the foundations of any kingdom:

1. 'Kingdom' means 'King's domain'
2. 'Kingdom' includes a King, subjects and a sphere of influence
3. 'Kingdom' is about sovereignty
4. 'Kingdom' is about governance

The most likely starting point for the construction of the belief that the Holy Spirit is The Kingdom is Jesus' statement that the Kingdom is inside a person:

Luke 17:21 (NKJV) – *nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.*"

The Amplified version expands on this and gives the understanding that the Kingdom is among and around us as well.

Luke 17:21 (AMP) – *Nor will people say, Look! Here [it is]! or; See, [it is] there! For behold, the kingdom of God is within you [in your hearts] and among you [surrounding you].*

The presence of the Spirit is an indication that the Kingdom of God is present, not that it is the Kingdom itself. It is an indication of Heaven on Earth: where the Kingdom of Heaven manifests in the natural. The gift of the Spirit who transforms us and lives inside us is proof that we are citizens of the Kingdom. So, it's not that the Holy Spirit is the Kingdom, but that wherever the Kingdom is in the natural realm, the Spirit is always there indicating the Kingdom's presence.

Holy Spirit's identification of us as Kingdom citizens is just like a passport or an identification badge which identifies us. It's our proof of identity and is the means by which we can pinpoint those who are ring-ins or spies. Of course, this is under the proviso that we are operating outside of the religious system when spirit-filled people are present.

Remember: a badge is only a representation – the reality is what it stands for.



- Police have a badge that identifies who they are. Police swear an oath and are commissioned and empowered to do whatever the law requires. This is backed by the full weight of the country's legal system. The badge isn't the primary thing, it's the power behind the badge that's important.
- A passport identifies the country a person comes from, but the booklet isn't their country. The country is the reality: the passport is only an identifier. What makes a genuine Australian is what's in them – in their heart, mind and soul –



¹ – e.g. Orthodox Church in America, Kingdom Ruling ministry.

it's not even the country issuing their passport. This fact is exemplified when Aussies are overseas. There, they are drawn to each other. When they migrate and collect in a group, they reproduce an Australian community wherever they are. This is an Australian by action, not by their passport which denotes who they are.

In like manner, it's the Spirit in us ("Christ in us"²) that makes us Kingdom citizens³ and causes us to want to be together. Holy Spirit generates a Kingdom community when we gather.

The Kingdom is Not "in the Holy Spirit"

Also, the Kingdom is not IN the Holy Spirit either. Bill Johnson makes the assertion that "the Kingdom is in the Holy Spirit"⁴ using a direct quote from scripture rather than from an understanding of the text. This comes from:

Romans 14:17 (NKJV) – *for the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

The Greek word 'en' (ἐν) translated 'in' in this verse in most English bibles can actually have these meanings depending on the context: 'in', 'by', 'with', 'on', 'at', 'among'.⁵

Interestingly, the true meaning of this verse in Romans becomes obvious when someone explains what it means to another person. They say that when the Holy Spirit is active in a person's life they will produce the fruit of righteousness, peace and joy. This indicates that the use of 'in' in the English translations is an archaic throw-back and should read something like 'by', as do a number of translations⁶:

Romans 14:17 (ISV) – *For God's kingdom does not consist of food and drink, but of righteousness, peace, and joy produced by the Holy Spirit.*

So, the verse is saying that the important thing about the Kingdom is not religious actions as the Jews, Romans and Greeks were used to. Instead, it's about developing fruit from being in the Kingdom, which the Holy Spirit produces in a person's life. The Living Bible puts it that way quite nicely.

Romans 14:17 (TLB) – *For, after all, the important thing for us as Christians is not what we eat or drink but stirring up goodness and peace and joy from the Holy Spirit.*

The Source of the Confusion

The problems with these asserting statements comes from people's technique of using scripture. The basis for their method is usually: 'The bible is the inerrant word of God'. Because of this, they read most scriptures literally without checking translation or considering the original source. The scriptures must be understood in literary context and also cultural context, not spoken or written verbatim.

Bill Johnson, Myles Munroe and other Kingdom teachers show by their books and their audio-visual teachings that they are still in the religious system. This colours what they teach and so great care should be taken to discern the Kingdom realities from the religious content they contain.

Holy Spirit's Role

If the Kingdom isn't in the Holy Spirit, what else is his role?

2 – Romans 8:9-11

3 – Philippians 3:20; Ephesians 2:19

4 – Bill Johnson (2011) "Face to Face with God", Evangelical Literature Service: Chennai p:79

5 – Thayer's definition (www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongsg=G1722&t=KJV&ss=1)

6 – viz. ISV, NLV, VOICE.

Holy Spirit brings the presence of the Kingdom; he empowers the Kingdom; and he gives the authority of the Kingdom to Kingdom citizens.

Guillermo Maldonado calls him “The Administrator and Executor of the Kingdom”. He describes his work like this:

“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.⁷ 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?”⁸

Myles Munroe calls him “the Governor of the Kingdom”, as do others.⁹ This comes from an understanding of what a governor does. Myles writes:

As I conversed with these two distinguished leaders, one on either side of me, I realized once again the principle of kingdoms and their impact on their colonies. It refreshed my perspective and reminded me of my personal experience as a citizen of a former colony of the kingdom of Great Britain. There I sat between the crown and the colony, the governor and the administrator, the authority and the power. The governor was sent from the kingdom to live in the colony, among the people, to represent the Queen and execute her wishes and will in the colony. His primary purpose was to maintain the kingdom’s influence and presence in that territory.¹⁰

He goes on:

“The transformation of a colony into the culture of the kingdom didn’t happen automatically. A purposeful development was involved. The king didn’t usually directly extend his influence to his colony by physically going there. He administrated his will through his personal representative, called a governor or regent. He sent his representative to physically live in the colony in his place. Therefore, the royal governor was the presence of the absent king in the colony.”¹¹

When Holy Spirit is present he determines what goes on, which is a governing role. Of course, we humans have free will and can refuse to follow the Spirit’s leading, but that doesn’t change his role. Those

7 – See, for example, 1 Corinthians 2:11-12

8 – Guillermo Maldonado (2013) “The Kingdom of Power: How to Demonstrate It Here & Now” Whitaker House: Miami, FL p:257

9 – bodynetwork.org/monthlymessagearchives.htm

10 – Myles Munroe (2007) “The Most Important Person on Earth: The Holy Spirit, Governor of the Kingdom” Bahamas Faith Ministries International: Nassau, Bahamas p:26

11 – Myles Munroe (2007) “The Most Important Person on Earth: The Holy Spirit, Governor of the Kingdom” Bahamas Faith Ministries International: Nassau, Bahamas p:34

who are true Kingdom sons submit to the Spirit governor as much as they do to the King. Myles writes:

*“I emphasized earlier that, in a colony, in order for delegated authority to function, it had to have an open channel of communication to the king, as well as the power to perform its responsibilities in accordance with the king’s wishes. This is why the Governor—the very Spirit of the King himself—was given to humanity.”*¹²

*“We see therefore that the Creator-King’s intent was to rule the seen world from the unseen world. He desired to rule the visible world through the spirit of man. And the Holy Spirit, as Governor of the human spirit, was humanity’s bridge to the home kingdom; he was the direct channel of communication between the spirit of man and the government of heaven.”*¹³

It should be clear now that Holy Spirit in us is an indicator of the presence of the Kingdom and the one that connects us to the Kingdom. He is the one who brings the Kingdom and who administrates what goes on in the Kingdom.

The Spirit is not the Kingdom.

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12 – Myles Munroe (2007) “The Most Important Person on Earth: The Holy Spirit, Governor of the Kingdom” Bahamas Faith Ministries International: Nassau, Bahamas p:52

13 – Myles Munroe (2007) “The Most Important Person on Earth: The Holy Spirit, Governor of the Kingdom” Bahamas Faith Ministries International: Nassau, Bahamas p:53