

Understanding the Internal Kingdom

There is an internal, invisible Kingdom that we must understand and comply with. This is an essential component of the Kingdom which cannot be neglected. Jesus talked about this in straightforward terms – “the Kingdom is in us”:

Luke 17:20-21 (AMPC) – *Asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He replied to them by saying, the kingdom of God does not come with signs to be observed or with visible display, 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].*

Jesus demonstrated the manifestation of this component of the Kingdom¹ and his parables² outlined the outworking of the internal Kingdom's presence³. This means that the presence of the King must be allowed to work through us so that the Kingdom is displayed on Earth.

What does this really mean?

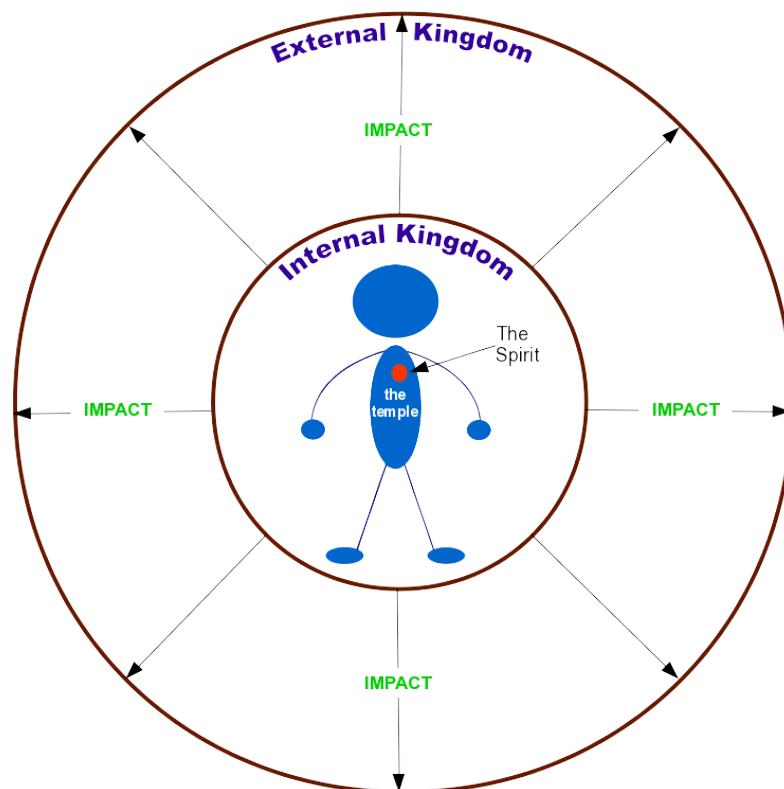
“There is an internal Kingdom and an external Kingdom. The internal Kingdom is the rule of God in Christ in our heart. The external Kingdom is the demonstration and the product of the internal Kingdom.

Until God brings us to the stature of the fullness of Christ, which is to say, to the full development of the internal Kingdom, there will be no external Kingdom through which the peoples of the Earth can be blessed.

Perhaps the most intense focus of the Holy Spirit today, as far as the Christians are concerned, is that of replacing our self-will with the will of Jesus Christ. God permits Satan to put us in one sort of prison or another that our self-will might be destroyed and the will of God exalted in our life.

*If we are to be the Kingdom of God, the perfect rule of Christ must be established in our heart.”*⁴

So what do these 2 components of the Kingdom on Earth look like? Here's a representation to help visualise it:



1 – Matthew 12:28

2 – Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8

3 – Geerhardus Vos “The Teaching of Jesus Concerning the Kingdom of God and the Church” (Free PDF)

4 – Trumpet Ministries (2008) “The Gospel of the Kingdom” (www.wor.org/book/3945/the-gospel-of-the-kingdom)

We tend to focus on the external, visible Kingdom – i.e. the manifestation of it – instead of both the internal and external, which we are required to do. This is an example of external focus:

- VIDEO: “Rethink: A True Picture of the Kingdom” (Influent)⁵

This is in contrast with the church system which focusses on the internal Kingdom because they believe the external Kingdom only comes when Jesus returns.

There are others (evangelicals) whose focus is on Jesus’ presence within them, which is the internal Kingdom, and the reason for their focus is their biblical “Christ is all”⁶ centrality. This is their emphasis, and it’s not wrong to view this as the most important aspect of the Kingdom on Earth. This keeps them rightly focussed on the King, but the impacting external Kingdom is not pursued in culture, other than evangelism (the Gospel of Salvation) and good works (the Social Gospel). This is an example of internal focus:

- BOOK: “Insurgence: Reclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom” (Frank Viola)⁷

Frank shows where his focus lies in one of his blogs:

“Like most of you, I’m on social media and I keep seeing “Christians” getting sucked into the political dialogue, parroting the talking points of either the Conservative Right or the Progressive Left. Every month, there’s a new hot button issue. And every month, my feed is packed with “Christians” echoing — often with great fervor — what they’re hearing on Conservative Media on the one hand or Liberal Media on the other.

And Jesus Christ and His kingdom are left out of in the cold.

(The only times He’s mentioned in these conversations are along the lines of, “What would Jesus do?” — a question that Insurgents don’t ask, for we recognize that Christ is alive and well, and He’s creating His own alternative civilization outside the political structures of this world.)

Yet out of the social media feed the heart speaks.

The people I’ve described above aren’t using their time and energy (limited commodities) in spreading the gospel of the kingdom or creating kingdom outposts. Instead, they’re chewing up both in propagating the agenda of the Right or the Left.

Thankfully, there is a growing number of people who have cut their ties to both the Left and the Right — and the world system which they both represent — and are using their social media platforms to present the gospel of the kingdom of God, exalting the Lord Jesus Christ, and seeking others to form kingdom cells.

Their allegiance and passion isn’t to a cause or the latest news controversy. It’s to HIM!”⁸

For some, the Kingdom is only a theology, while for others it’s something they talk about but never experience. These miss the reality of both the internal and the external Kingdoms, as well as the foundational requirement that the King must rule and reign in the life of every believer, by over-ruling our self-will through our submission to him:

“The Kingdom has become just another Christian cliché, rather than a subjective power and demonstration of the Spirit. The legal system of Heaven and the laws of the Kingdom must still come into the ‘born again believer’ to accomplish an inner work of discipline and change. The “I”, “me”, and “my” principle that remains must be put to death.”⁹

The internal Kingdom is the presence of the King – his spirit actually – within us and it’s this that releases us to manifest the Kingdom in the world. As we have learnt, our works must always come out of our relationship with the Trinity, otherwise they are ‘works of the flesh’ and of little to no eternal value.

5 – www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJnW8S7ykG4

6 – Colossians 3:11

7 – www.amazon.com.au/Insurgence-Reclaiming-Kingdom-Frank-Viola-ebook/dp/B07933R33B

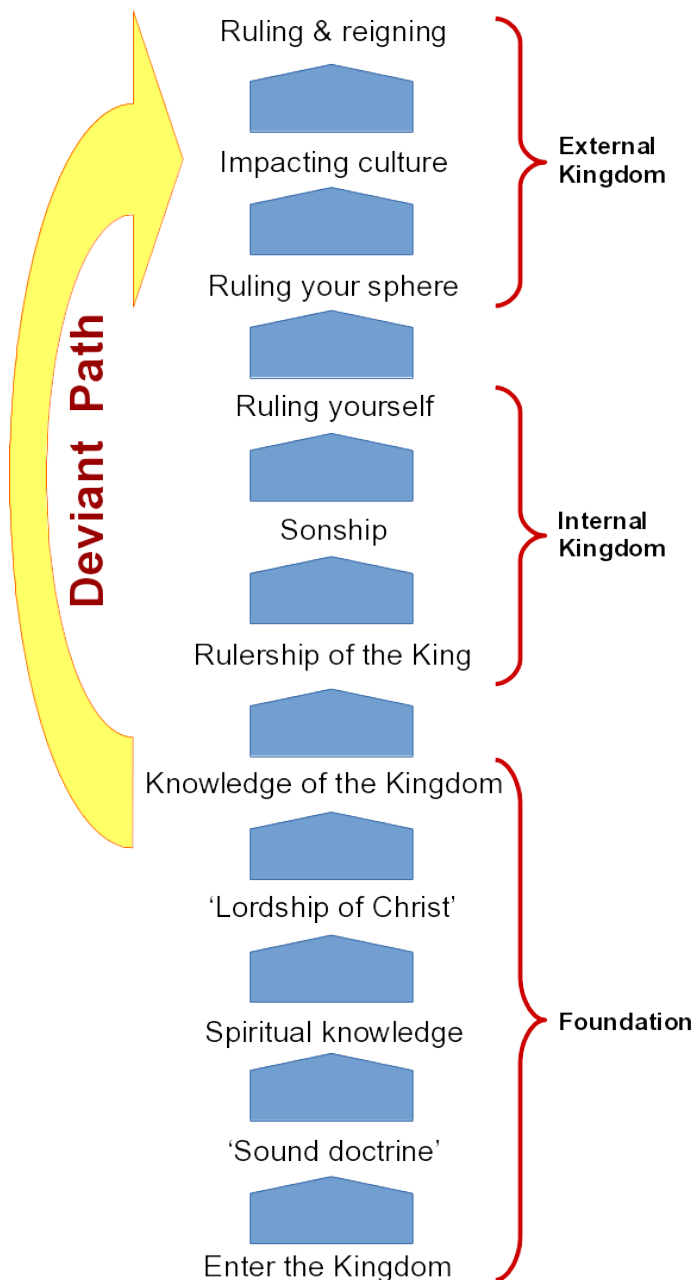
8 – Frank Viola (11-10-2018) “This Has to Be Said (Offensive)” (frankviola.org/2018/10/11/offensive)

9 – JesusOne.com “The Internal Kingdom” (www.jesusone.com/biblestudies/theinternalkingdom.htm)

“[T]he Kingdom also comes to us redemptively. It comes to us to change us and rectify us to fit into the eternal Kingdom of Heaven. Kingdom redemption is more than being forgiven of past sins. Redemption means to be bought back for the original purpose. To be reclaimed. To regain full possession by purchase. Jesus paid our redemption price, to buy us back, so God can take full possession of us for His original purpose.”¹⁰

The internal Kingdom must be the ‘furnace’ that powers our Kingdom lives, not our enthusiasm or our desire to be changing the world. This is critical.

“Now the inward Kingdom is not designed to lay dormant and have no expression in outward life and ministry. All who have the inward Kingdom life have the potential for outward Kingdom ministry. If the outward Kingdom ministry is the result of God's inward work, then ministry is not a matter of one person teaching another the fine points of ministry. Ministry is the spontaneous outflow of Kingdom life...If the Kingdom is comparable to leaven, then the Kingdom must do an inward work until spirit, soul and body are leavened with the subjective Kingdom. It seems clear that the Kingdom must do an inward, transforming work in us.”¹¹



When we talk about hearing from the Spirit, aligning with Heaven, partnering with Heaven, intimacy, relationship with Jesus, being about Father’s business, sonship, etc., we are alluding to the internal Kingdom. This is where everything happens, or is supposed to happen. This is where we must begin in our Kingdom training. If we don’t, our priorities will be wrong and we will deviate from the path we need to travel on and we don’t become who we were meant to become in the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

Opposite is a diagram of growth and development in the Kingdom. This is not the order every believer travels, but it is a summary of the steps needed to reach the point where we rule and reign on Earth as was intended (i.e. God’s plan A, as he doesn’t have a plan B).

There are foundations that need to be laid so our knowledge builds on solid precursors. This includes the ‘Lordship of Christ’. This phrase is the summation of “Christ is Lord”¹² in a person’s life. He must be our Master before we can be useful for training as a son.

We must eventually come under the rulership of the King. This is referred to as *rex lex*¹³—the King is law. As citizens of a democratic nation we have to be reprogrammed so we submit to the King’s every wish, happily and without objection.

10 – JesusOne.com “The Internal Kingdom” (www.jesusone.com/biblestudies/theinternalkingdom.htm)

11 – JesusOne.com “The Internal Kingdom” (www.jesusone.com/biblestudies/theinternalkingdom.htm)

12 – Luke 2:11; Acts 2:36; Philippians 2:11

13 – See canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Rex-Lex.pdf

The diagram also shows where the internal and external Kingdoms are to become realities. If we lose track of the vital need for the internal Kingdom, there will be a propensity to skip it and jump straight into working on impacting the world (the 'Deviant Path' in the diagram). This is where it is so easy to go astray because we have come out of the religious system and are very used to doing things for God. We need to have this desire cauterised so we live constantly as the Spirit leads our development through the process of transformation.

IMPORTANT: Until we rule ourselves we cannot be trusted to progress to ruling our sphere of influence properly. Until we rule our sphere of influence properly we cannot be trusted to rule in the wider domain of the world and impact culture. Like those who run with a prophecy before they are released to enter into it, the outcome will be problematic, even disastrous.

FINALLY: The internal Kingdom is the centre of the Kingdom for each of us. We must not neglect it.

LISTEN TO THESE AUDIOS

- “The Internal Kingdom - Part 11 – 08-26-2018” (Terry Bennett)
soundcloud.com/terrybennettministries/the-internal-kingdom-part-11-82618 [00:00-20:15]
- “The Internal Kingdom - Part 14 - 09_16_2018” (Terry Bennett)
soundcloud.com/terrybennettministries/the-internal-kingdom-part-14-91618 [01:55-19:00]

Laurence

22-9-2018

(www.CanberraForerunners.org)

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RESOURCES

- “The Internal Kingdom - Part 11 – 08-26-2018” (Terry Bennett) [0:00-20:10]
soundcloud.com/terrybennettministries/the-internal-kingdom-part-11-82618
- “External, Visible Kingdom: “RETHINK: A True Picture of the Kingdom” (Influent)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJnW8S7ykG4
- “The Internal Kingdom ”
www.jesusone.com/biblestudies/theinternalkingdom.htm
- “The Gospel of the Kingdom”
www.wor.org/book/3945/the-gospel-of-the-kingdom
- “The Invisible Kingdom of God, Part 1” [PDF]
immanuelbcmarion.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/12-3-17pm-the-invisible-kingdom-of-god-part-1.pdf
- “The Teaching of Jesus Concerning the Kingdom of God and the Church” [PDF - early 1900's book]
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