



# **Manifesting the Kingdom Of God**

An exhortation to the church,  
which if the body of Christ, to  
enter the Kingdom. To express  
the Kingdom of God now.

by

Khotso Mokoena

# Manifesting The Kingdom

## - Expressing the Kingdom of God, Now!

The church is a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valley. As a lily among thorns, so is Christ's beloved among all. (cf Song of Solomon 2:1-2) All of us together are like an army of flowers in Springtime and each of us individually is a warrior of the cross.

Flowers wither in seasons and new ones blossom, yet we are not of those who wither and perish because we have been born again of an incorruptible seed and the cross of Christ is not foolishness to us, it is life and power.

In Christ we are like flowers in Springtime, we are ever beautiful, ever glowing and producing sweet scent, yet, we militantly stand against sin and Satan. Yes, seasons change and storms come, yet Christ is always the same and He is in us. In Him we are like a tree planted by the water, that sends out its roots by the stream and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit. (cf Jeremiah 17:8) Yes, like that tree by the water we do not wither for Christ nourishes us.

The enemy prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, yet as soldiers each of us stands, even one for another against the enemy, having defeated Satan by death on the cross with Christ. In Christ Jesus and in His truth and virtues we stand as warriors of the cross.

“The Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink but of living a life of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve you too. So then let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.” (Romans 14:17&19)

The King who said, “My Kingdom is not of this world. If my Kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My Kingdom is not from the world,” (John 18:36) also said, “The Kingdom of God is in the midst of you and within you.” (Luke 17:21) The same King also said, “The Son of man did not come to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

After the King washed the feet of His servants, He said to them, “You call Me Lord and Teacher and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” (John 13:12&17)

We will do well to have the servant attitude of Christ: After supper when no one wants to wash the dishes, we wash the dishes, even though it was not our turn to wash the dishes. We clean the house, when it was not our turn. We serve and do not desire to be served. When we eat a great meal and we see our brothers hungry, we prefer them before ourselves, we call them in and share

even our very last meal with them. We obey the laws of the state and the authorities yet the final word in our lives is Christ. The first and the last authority in our lives is Christ. If we excel in the little things like these we will do good in reflecting the Kingdom of God in greater things.

Each tree bears the fruit of its seed. An expert might be able to differentiate a tree by looking at it, yet an ordinary person may not be able to identify a tree as it stands fruitless, dry and withered, but he will know which tree it is when he sees its fruit. He will only be able to tell that this is an apple tree from an apple seed when He sees the apple fruit. In similar manner we ought to reflect the Kingdom that is in the midst of us. If it is the Kingdom of light, we will reflect light. If it is a kingdom of darkness, we will reflect darkness; however we cannot reflect a mixed kingdom.

Christ said, “Among you it will be different. Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.” (Mark 10:43)

God, the Son, who is great above all beings and who deserves to be served, came not to be served but to serve, taking the form of a servant. He bled and died on the cross. He came to spend Himself, to sacrifice Himself. And it is the manner of His Kingdom where, voluntarily, the great become the least. The kings become servants! Fathers become like little children! Those who love to be first and to control, become nothing as they take their hands off and let the Lord lead, and voluntarily surrender to the Lord’s full control of their lives and of all things.

We will do good, if Christ becomes Lord of even the smallest details of our lives and if we take the form of servants. When a servant cleans His master's house, he does so, so that when guests come they may glorify the master for such a clean house. When the servant cooks the best meal, he does so, so that the visitors can honour the master for such delicious food. When Jesus Christ did His first miracle and revealed His glory, the honour went to the groom; he was applauded for giving the best wine. The servants who brought the miraculous wine were given no glory or honour (see John 2). It is not how God uses you to do such and such amazing things, it is that God does those things! It is that God is the doer of those things; the instrument is not what matters. It is not how great the guitar is, it is how great the player of the guitar is, even the maker of the guitar. It is God's word, His Spirit and power, It is God! Who are you that you should boast? Surely such boasting and pride does not come from God!

May God judge every foul spirit and may He silence every arrogant mouth within the church. May He disclose every lie, may the Spirit of Christ Jesus quickly prove every lie and root out every falsehood in the church. May all the works of Satan, and his workers who masquerade as servants of Christ, be quickly exposed by the light of God and in His truth! All power belongs to God. It is Him, It is who He is!

“The church is called to proclaim the wonderful deeds of the One who called her out of darkness into His marvellous light.” (cf 1 Peter 2:9) Yes we are made to reflect the person of our Lord and Leader, Jesus Christ, and our very lives are tailored to reflect His Kingdom.

John in his description of heaven saw the One sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones - like jasper and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled His throne like a rainbow. The streets of the city of God were made of pure gold. How that our lives would be pure gold!

Although heaven is wealthy and in our thoughts the Kingdom of God is associated with riches, perhaps when we think of God's Kingdom we imagine a white room with a golden throne and a gate of pearls. True as it may be, yet our thinking of such things might actually be influenced by the self-nature and not from the Spirit. Do we think of golden thrones because we want the gold for ourselves, thinking the Kingdom of God is about being rich and showing off those riches to the world? Do we imagine these things because we want to be rich!? Oh, that we would be rich with salvation, righteousness, holiness, love, forgiveness, tolerance, patience, meekness and humility, charity and obedience to the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit declares what the Kingdom of God is like. He says, "The Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17) Yes, the Kingdom of God is not a matter of material satisfaction but of spiritual abundance.

The Kingdom of heaven is displayed in our changed attitudes, our changed behaviour, changed beliefs - what we believe, our changed lives - how we live, and what we say. The Kingdom of God is displayed in who we are, not what we have!

In His daily life and in His parables Jesus illustrated what the Kingdom of God is and is like. Jesus Christ, preached, demonstrated and practiced the Kingdom of God. He said to the Pharisees, the Kingdom of God is not there or there, but the Kingdom of God is in your midst. (Luke 17:20.21)

Right there, standing in the midst of the Pharisees was Christ - and Christ was in the Kingdom of God. We look at Him and we see those qualities of the Kingdom of heaven; we see the Kingdom of God manifested. For each believer and the whole church to manifest the Kingdom of God, is to express Christ Jesus and His teachings in our daily lives - by observing everything He taught. In one of His parables concerning the Kingdom, Jesus teaches about a merciful king who shows mercy to those who are in debt to Him, and then He instructs us, in like manner to have mercy and show forgiveness. (Matthew 18:21-35)

Jesus Christ teaches about humility as part of the entrance to the Kingdom of God. He equates those who are of the Kingdom to little children. In the Kingdom of the Father, those who are as humble as little children are the greatest. (Matthew 18:4) Selfish ambitions, self-centredness and pride are not to be found in the Kingdom of God. The self-nature is not permitted in the Kingdom because the self-nature is hostile to God and it can never obey God. Such things as these belong to Satan, who is a liar and a murderer, who despises anything godly. It was his pride that led to his downfall. (see Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28)

Oh, the blessed Christ who shamed Satan by way of the cross, who took the form of a servant and laid down His life in love and rescued us from death and evil. How marvellous is the blessed Lord, who did not think of equality with God as something to grasp but died for undeserving corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes and thieves! Oh, the blessed Christ that took all our sins away.

Once I thought of Christ as something not important. In my pride and selfishness and self-righteousness, I thought I was important. But love revealed my nakedness and how lost I was. In an instant a miracle happened and faith filled my heart. The Holy Spirit revealed Christ to me and I repented. How shameful are the deeds of darkness; how marvellous is the light of Jesus Christ. When I think of God becoming a man and dying for me, the wretched man that I was, how could I ever repay Him? What amount can I give to Him, at what value can I measure His sacrifice? The One who is high above the heavens taking the place of one that is low - beneath the surface of the earth. He lifted me up; yes, Christ lifted me up. A dog such as I was made holy, righteous and acceptable to God and acceptable in the Holy of Holies where no sin and imperfection is permitted. How great is the Christ who shed His blood to cast away my sins.

Such is the power of the Kingdom of God, that I am a new man in Christ Jesus my Lord. The old is no more, He has taken me from the domain of darkness into His marvellous light. What can I give to such a Saviour, but all of me? What is enough for me to give? Nothing,



except all of me! For what once was, is no more, the old has passed away and the new has come!

What did I do to deserve all this fathomable gift of life? Nothing! Nothing, but the blood of Christ Jesus did the work. How then can I remain in deeds of darkness any longer? How can I return to my vomit? How can I, a living person, embrace a thing that is dead? Unless Christ means nothing to me!

A kingdom is represented by its laws, and obedience to such laws are mandatory. In like manner obedience and voluntary consecration is mandatory in the Kingdom of God because the flesh is hostile and cannot obey God. But the flesh was taken to its death in Christ on the cross. Believe in Christ, turn to Him and turn from your evil ways, surrender to His rule over your life and you will live. By His Spirit observe His teachings and follow Him - keep in step with the leading of the Holy Spirit and you will live.

God the Son is King of all the earth, His Kingdom is, and will be everlasting. However, those that are of this world have not broken free from the power of Satan and by the flesh with its evil desires. God's rule is eternal so humans must choose to submit to the eternal, righteous and perfect rule of God. Today, we can choose to be ruled by God, to be guided by His Spirit and to submit to His authority over our life!

To express the Kingdom of God is to express His rule over our lives, by voluntarily choosing to obey Christ's Spirit and to live according to, and to observe all His commands. One day all kingdoms and rulers and gods

will fall. However, God's "Kingdom is an everlasting kingdom." (Daniel 4:3) "He has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all." (Psalm 103:19)

Every system, every culture, every rule, every dominion, will one day soon collapse. But God's eternal word will last forever; His rule will stand forever for His Kingdom is unending.

Today some are like a mixture of manure and a wedding cake; they are both sweet and bitter, both beautiful and horrible. With their mouths they praise God but by their own traditions and rules and way of life they deny Christ. With their mouths they say Jesus is Lord, but with their hearts they trample upon the Son of God. By their words they say Jesus Christ is their wonderful Saviour yet by the way they live they say He is dirt. Their very lives illustrate that to them Christ never died and He has never existed. Why do you say, "Lord, Lord," yet you do not do what the Lord says? (cf. Luke 6:46)

Repent and let Christ's light shine on you. He will empower you and will give you grace to live according to His will.

His eyes search all the earth to see, whose hearts seek Him. He will never fail those whose hearts truly seek Him. Today, choose who your Lord is! If it is Christ follow Christ! No man can have two lords and no man can be of two kingdoms.

If you are of the Kingdom of light reflect the light that is in you!

The God of our Lord Jesus Christ be gracious to you. May His light flood our hearts. May His mercy be abundantly supplied to you and may His peace rule your hearts. Amen.

Khotso Mokoena - 2017