

## Striving for the Kingdom of Heaven

### **Main Bible Verse:**

(Matthew 11:12) From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of God has been forcefully advancing and forceful men will take a hold of it.

### **Summary:**

#### Matthew 6:33

- God's kingdom is His revelation, authority, and wisdom.
- If you seek His kingdom, everything else will be added onto you.
- The kingdom of God is within our heart.
  - You will love God when the kingdom of God is within you.
  - You will have a heart of worship and praising the Lord.
  - You will also deny yourself, pick up the cross, and follow Him.
  - The key to the kingdom of heaven will be given unto us.

#### Matthew 16:18-20

- Church is the body of Christ and has God's authority.
- The key to the kingdom of heaven is the authority from heaven.
  - v(Matthew 16:19) "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven"
- When you put God before yourself, the kingdom of God is in you.
  - You will receive the authority from heaven.
  - The heavenly doors will be opened for you.
    - Commission and revelation will be given to you.
    - God will help you when you pray.
    - He will send people to help you.
    - Your prayers will have power.

#### Matthew 11:12

- You must consistently come to church and praise Him.
- "The kingdom of God is forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it."
- Salvation is a gift from God by grace through faith.
- When you confess that God is your Lord and are willing, the salvation will be given to you.
- You must strive for the kingdom of heaven.
  - Deny yourself, take up the cross, and follow Jesus (Matthew 16:24-25)
  - Deny yourself
    - No self, no ego, no calculations, no conditions
    - Pure and empty heart before God
    - Humble yourself and adopt God's agenda
      - To gather on Sunday's for service
    - God's will become your will
  - Carry cross

- To sacrifice for Jesus

### Matthew 5:3

- Tells us the perfect way to deny ourselves
- To be poor in spirit
  - No self-desires and be selfless.
  - Poor in “spirit”, the “spirit” here is your heart.
    - Your heart must only seek God and put Him first.
  - The Kingdom of heaven will be given to you.
  - Heaven will open for you.
  - Our hearts must be empty of ourselves (Depart from our own thoughts and feelings)
  - Fill our hearts with the word of God.
  - Ruth is a good example.
    - She denied herself because the kingdom of heaven was in her.
    - Her obedience also brought many other blessings into her life.
- We must follow the way of the Holy Spirit.
  - Pray daily and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit.
  - No matter what we need, the Holy Spirit will guide us.
  - Pray in the Holy Spirit through tongues.
  - You will receive the strength to obey.
- The anointing from God will tell you your way and will give you strength.
- You will be successful when you do everything according to the Holy Spirit.

### Matthew 5:10

- Those who are persecuted because of righteousness are those who take up the cross.
- To sacrifice for God is to take up the cross.
- No matter what other people do to you, keep with God, and this is your sacrifice.
- Be willing to share the love of God.
- Dare to speak the truth no matter the repercussion.
  - Do not be afraid.
- Walk with Jesus and always have him in your heart.
- Worship God, walk with God, and follow God daily.
  - This is how to truly following Jesus.

### Proverbs 20:27

- The spirit of man is the heart of man.
- You must be willing to empty your heart for God.
- How much you are willing to empty yourself for God, that is how much you will receive the kingdom of heaven.
  - You will get as much revelation from the Holy Spirit as you empty space in your heart for it.
- The light of God will guide you when you have the kingdom of God in you.