



# OVERCOMING THE WORLD

## KINDOM PRINCIPLE STUDY KP3

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### READ THIS FIRST

In study KP 2 we learned that we are obliged to overcome the world, the devil and the flesh if we are to live as God's sons. In this study we examine the world system and the commands of Jesus to leave it and enter into the Kingdom of God. Key Scriptures are found in:

*Matthew Chapter 6*  
*Luke Chapter 6*  
*Matthew Chapter 10*  
*Romans Chapter 6*

### LEARN THESE STATEMENTS BY HEART

'Do not love the world or anything that belongs to the world. If you love the world, you do not love the Father ... The world and everything in it that people desire is passing away - but he who does the will of God (God's sons) will live for ever!' (*I John 2:15-17*).

'Don't start worrying about where your food and clothing will come from. Your heavenly Father knows what you need. Be concerned, above everything else, with putting yourselves in God's hands and serving Him - He will make sure that you have all of the other things that you need' (*Matt. 6:31-33*).

### GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS SONS IS THAT WE SHOULD BE DEPENDENT ON HIM AND NOT ON THE WORLD SYSTEM

Those of us who are called to be God's sons (by His grace and mercy) are called to live His life in the midst of a political and economic system which the Bible calls 'this present world'. This system has been created by Satan. It is part of his overall plan to deceive, enslave, and finally destroy us. The world system is built around political power. Satan himself is the supreme ruler; 'the prince of this world'. Under Satan are princely demons set over each nation. Under Satan's direction they plot and scheme against heaven, exerting great influence on political leaders - causing them to abandon God's laws in favour of laws keep people in bondage. It is a sad fact that in many nations today it is Satan and his dark spiritual forces that pull the strings and direct the programs. (In some part, this is due to the failure of God's people to pray for leaders and nations and to speak out when we have the opportunity to do so). Satan's complete influence over the nations is revealed in the final temptation that

he put to Jesus in the wilderness i.e. the offer of the kingdoms of the world if He would fall down and worship him. (*II Tim. 4:10, John 10:10, John 14:30, Daniel 10:13, 20, Psalm 2:1-3, Matt. 5:17-20, I Tim. 2:1-3, Matt. 4:8*).

Behind the world political system is the world economic system. It is this which gives the political system its power. The economic system of this world was developed at Babylon by Nimrod and his anti-Christ community at the same time as the foundations were laid for all false religion, the occult and other grand deceptions such as the theory of evolution (*Gen. 10:10, Gen. 11:1-8*). The world economic system is highly operative today - by it Satan controls the world and keeps it in poverty and subjection. The simplest way of describing this system is that, despite every honest effort made by concerned people, 'the rich continue to get richer and the poor get poorer!'

There is only one hope for us to escape from this system. As with all other problems in this life, such release is ONLY found in Jesus Christ our Liberator. For He has redeemed us (bought us back from the devil) and set us free to be God's sons (*Rev. 5:9*).

### DO NOT BE ANXIOUS

While He was on earth, Jesus paid a lot of attention to instructing His disciples as to how we might escape from the world economic system, and how we might receive what we need from our heavenly Father. He has revealed to us how we are to behave as God's children after we have come into the liberty of a relationship with our heavenly Father. (*Matt. 6:19-34, Matt. 7:7-12, Luke 6:27-49*).

At the heart of the devil's tactics to control the world through his economic system is man's preoccupation with trying to save him self by accumulating money or goods. The devil knows how to use our natural concern for ourselves and our loved ones so that it becomes either a consuming compassion for wealth or an overwhelming anxiety as to how we will cope in the future. Jesus said that this sort of anxiety is a main cause of people not being able to receive God's life and become His sons (*Matt. 13:22*).

Paul says that 'those who want to get rich fall into temptation and are caught in the trap of many foolish and harmful desires, which pull them down to ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a source of all kinds of evil. Some have been so eager to have it that they have wandered away from the faith and have broken their hearts with many sorrows... having loved this present world!' (*I Tim. 6:10, II Tim. 4:10*).

It is absolutely important that we, as sons of God learn not to be anxious about what we shall eat and what we shall wear. We must learn to be overcomers of the temptations of this world. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?

(*Matt. 16:26, Mark 8:36, Luke 9:25*).

Much of our early training by the Holy Spirit will be instructive experiences relating to deliverance from our dependence on the economics of this world. We will begin to learn how to be in the world but not of it. The Spirit will show us that to succeed in the world system we must use ungodly methods. James says, 'Don't you know that to be the world's friend means you are God's enemy? Whoever wants to be the world's friend makes himself God's enemy' (*John 17:16, Psalm 73:12, James 4:4*).

Moses is our example; he preferred to suffer with God's people rather than to enjoy the riches of this world. He reckoned it was better to suffer scorn for the Messiah than to have all of the treasures of Egypt! (*Heb. 11:25-26*). Paul also is our example: 'the world is dead to me by means of the cross!' (*Gal. 6:14*).

Jesus is, as always, our supreme example. Having only one simple robe as His sole possession, He walked and lived amongst us for the three years of His ministry in total reliance on His Heavenly Father (*Matt. 17:24-27, Matt. 22:15-22, Mark 6:30-44, Mark 8:1-9*).

### **JESUS COMMANDS US TO LEAVE THIS PRESENT WORLD AND ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

'Do not store up riches for yourselves... instead, store up riches in heaven... for your heart will be always where your riches are' (*Matt 6:19*).

'You cannot serve God and money... that is why I tell you do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive. And why worry about clothes? And don't worry about tomorrow either, it will have enough worries of its own!' (*Matt. 6:24-34*).

'Love the Lord your God with all of your heart... soul... and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself' (*Matt. 22:36-40*).

'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who mistreat you' and 'give to everyone who asks... and do not ask for it back... lend, expecting nothing back... you will then have a great reward and be the sons of the Most High God' (*Luke 6:27-30*).

'When you give a lunch or a dinner do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your rich neighbours; they will only invite you back again... instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind for they cannot repay you. But God will repay you on the day of judgment'. NOTE: The call of Jesus on our lives is NOT a poverty call - it is a call to GIVING, which brings its own special blessing. (*Luke 14:12-14, also Deut. 14 & 15, Psalm 15:5, Rom. 13:8, Isaiah 58:1-12, etc.*).

'Give and it shall be given unto you, a generous helping, all that you can hold, the measure that you use for others is the one that God will use for you' (*Luke 6:38, Malachi 3:6-12*).

God is looking for giving vessels through whom He can BLESS THE WORLD with the things that it needs. The devil has cornered the market by causing us to store up goods out of fear for the future when we should be giving out to those in need. God will always honour a giving vessel: 'to him that hath will it be given but to him that hath not it shall be taken away even that which he hath' (Jesus speaking). We must lose our lives in order to save them. (*Matt. 10:39, Matt. 16:25, Mark 8:34-35, Luke 9:24*).

### **TWO BIBLE STORIES**

Compare the story of the rich young ruler that came to Jesus with that of Zaccheus. Salvation came to Zaccheus's house when the Lord of Glory came in, but he only began to **receive** it when he abandoned his security in the things of this world. We cannot experience God's provision while we still hold on to our security in the world system. (*Matt 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-27, Luke 18:18-30, Luke 19:1-9*)

### **FAITH IS OUR POWER TO OVERCOME THE WORLD**

To many people the commands of Jesus seem impossibly hard. But John says, 'His commands are not too hard for us because every child of God is able to defeat the world. And we win the victory over the world by means of our faith. Who can defeat the world? ONLY the person who believes that Jesus is the Son of God!' (*1 John 5:1-5*).

Now faith is to be sure of what we hope for and to be certain of things that we cannot see. Faith is **not** trust. **Faith is an active verb; it comes to us when we hear what God is saying to us in a given situation.** This is the 'word' that the Father gives us is the New Covenant relation. It is not given to us by human agents, although God may use the words of others to help us hear His word from time to time.

When, God speaks within our innermost being we are filled with vision, confidence and the power to trust Him. We are no longer fearful or anxious; the allure of the world no longer claims us. We are filled with God's peace even though we have not yet seen what we hope for, even though things might still look hopeless to human eyes. We KNOW that our Father has spoken and that He is absolutely faithful! (*Heb. 11:1, Rom. 10:17, Matt. 16:17, Habakkuk 3:17*).

### **THE HUMAN FAMILY IS OFTEN THE HARDEST PLACE TO BE GOD'S CHILDREN**

For the young Christian learning that God can be His Father and supply all of his/her needs the place where

he is most likely to find opposition to his changing life style is in his own home. Families are the depositories of a mixed cultural life; some of it comes from primal times and some of it is dictated to us by the world system. To follow the commands of Jesus at home can be an open invitation to warfare! Jesus warned us that this would be so. He also warned us that to place families or involvement in the things of this world above our loyalty to him would disqualify us from being His disciples. By His own example he taught radical discipleship, i.e. following Him even when it meant breaking human family ties and traditions. (*Matt. 10:34-39, Luke 12:51-53, Luke 14:25-27, Matt. 12:46-50, Mark 3:31-35*).

He also showed us that the rewards of the Kingdom are worth more than any sacrifice. There are special rewards for those who will place Jesus's call above family. 'I tell you the truth: anyone who leaves home or wife or brother or parents or children for the sake of the Kingdom of God will receive much more (one hundred fold) in this present age and in the world to come!' (*Matt. 19:27-29, Luke 18:28-30*).

#### **BAPTISM: A SIGN OF OUR EX-COMMUNICATION FROM THIS WORLD**

In water baptism we recognise that we are baptised into union with Jesus our Liberator. We are baptised into union with His death, so that we might also have His life, the Life of our Father. This Life sets us free from being slaves to the world system so that we can be entirely surrendered to God as sons of righteousness for holy purposes! (*Rom. 6:1-23*). 'Thanks be unto God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ'. (*I Cor. 15:57*).

#### **THE EARLY BELIEVERS WERE NOT OF THIS WORLD**

The group of believers was one in mind and heart. No-one said that any of his belongings was his own; they all shared with one another everything they had. There was no-one in the group who was in need those who owned fields and houses sold them, bringing the money from the sale and turning it over to the apostles; the money was distributed to each one according to his need (*Acts 4:32-35*).

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#### **QUESTIONS**

1. Why is it true that no-one can serve God and money?
2. Describe what you understand to be 'this present world'.
3. How has the Lord provided for us so that we may be delivered from anxiety about the future?
4. Write down some Bible statements that show us God's ideas about how to handle money.
5. What did Jesus mean when He said: 'A man's enemies shall be those of His own Household'. Can you describe any instances of this in your own life?
6. After prayer, and being as honest as you can, where do you stand in this matter of being separated from the system of this world? Are there any specific things that you believe should be attended to right now? (Remember *Isaiah 52:11-12*).

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*Post your answers to:*

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