



I have been sharing for the last two weeks on actualizing the kingdom in our lives. Actualize means to exist in fact, current, existent, present. Often we can know things from an intellectual level but never really experience them in our lives. I sensed that God gave me seven practical keys to seeing the kingdom actualized in my life. I want to share them with you in this devotional and I would ask that you take some time to sit before the Lord and let Him massage these thoughts into your heart.

**Key # 1:**

*Learn to live fully present* - to often we are somewhere else in the moments of our life. It may be thinking about our last mistake or about what we are going to do tomorrow but we are not in the moment so we are unaware of what the Holy Spirit may have for that moment in our life. *Are you living fully present? Why or why not?* (Read: Ephesians 5:16, Mathew 6:34)

**Key # 2:** *Learn to live full of the Holy Spirit/fully conscious of His presence* - we need to live aware of the presence of God in the moment. He is in every second of our lives. *Are you aware of His being here right now?* (Read: Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:25)

**Key # 3:** *Learn to live ready to minister to others* - as we gather in the sacred assembly of believers, as we are in our work places or schools, as we are in the marketplaces and our neighborhoods we

should learn to be attentive to Holy Spirit opportunities to minister to others. *What are your thoughts as you gather in the believer's assembly on Sunday or other days? Are you looking for ways to minister?* (Read: Ephesians 5:18-21, I Corinthians 14:26, Ephesians 4:16)

**Key # 4:** *Learn to live with persistent faith* - we need to learn not to give up but press through until we see the kingdom promise actualized. The account of the friends of a paralytic bringing him to Jesus is powerful. They met resistance. The house was too crowded to get their friend to Jesus so they lifted him to the roof and cut a hole in it to let him down through. This is persistent faith. They saw the kingdom manifested in his life because they persisted in faith. *Is there somewhere in your life you need to persist in faith?* (Read: Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-19)

**Key # 5:** *Learn to recognize and cultivate divinely ordered relationships* - there are divine relational connections God wants us to make so that we can actualize His purpose in our lives. One example in scripture would be the relationship between Elijah and Elisha. God ordered this relationship. He spoke to Elijah about Elisha and Elisha was drawn to Elijah when he felt Elijah's mantle/anointing affect his life. There are people God wants us to connect with so that we and they grow in the purpose of God. Howard Hendricks shared at Promise Keepers that every person needs the following three relationships in their life, a Paul/elder speaking into their life, a Barnabus/peer for friendship and accountability, and a Timothy/son or daughter who they are pouring into. *What are the divinely ordered relationships in your life?* (Read: I Kings 19:11-21; 2 Kings 2:1-15, Titus 2:1-6)

**Key # 6:** *Learn to live in community* - there is something gripping about the community you see displayed in the book of Acts. Did they have their difficulties - yes but there was a dynamic released by their love and care for each other. It seems that community was a key element for the demonstrations of power and grace in the church. *Have you embraced the community of believers God has placed you in? If so how? If not are there reasons?* (Read: Acts 2:42-47, Acts 4:32-33, Romans 12:10-13, I Peter 4:8-9)

**Key #7:** *Learn to live as a community of praise and thanksgiving* - God has not called us to be murmurers or complainers but praisers. As we praise He inhabits (is enthroned upon) the praises of His people. Paul tells us to speak to one another in psalms (a sacred ode), hymns (to celebrate), and spiritual songs (supernatural chants/odes). We are to interact as a community of praisers. *Do you see yourself as a praiser? Why or why not?*

I have listed the key and a short thought for the sake of brevity but also to allow the Holy Spirit to take the thought where He would like to in each of our lives. The questions at the end of each key are just to provoke thought not any form of accusation or critique. I pray that Holy Spirit minister His grace to your heart as you actualize Kingdom reality in your life.

A fellow journeyer,

Pastor Ron