



But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides (Matthew 6:33 AMPC).

Dear Partners,

Praise the Lord! We are so honored and privileged to be called Children of the Most High God, who are called by His name and partakers of His kingdom and heirs together with Christ. He has called and chosen each one of us, including you dear friend, to work together and bring more souls into His Kingdom and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. We pray for each one of you and thank God that we are in this race together with you (Hebrews 12:1-3)! We will never take this precious treasure that we've been given for granted! The treasures that the Lord has given us, both here and in heavenly places, are not to be compared with anything else in this world (Matthew 6:20).

At the beginning of this year the Lord laid Matthew 6:33 on our hearts and we shared it in the last couple letters to you. As we are led by the Holy Spirit to carry it through the next few months and throughout the year, we are reminded of the importance of what it means *to really seek His kingdom and His righteousness first* despite all the challenges of the believer's everyday life.

We don't want satan to shorten our time here on earth by being consumed with earthly treasures and prematurely go to heaven before we complete our mission here on earth. We want to encourage you (and ourselves) to stay strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Eph 6:10) and stay on course so we don't fall into the category people in the last days from 2 Timothy 3:1-5, "...*There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.*" Rather, we want to become a people who hunger and thirst for His righteousness as Jesus instructed us in Matthew 5:6:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Seeking the Kingdom of God and being hungry and thirsty for His righteousness is a matter of the heart. Most Christians don't realize that God is after our hearts. When our hearts are not in the right place and in line with the Word, like the rich young man in Matthew 19 who asked Jesus how to inherit eternal life, we aren't able to seek His kingdom and righteousness **above all** else. Why was it so hard for the young rich man to let go of everything and inherit eternity? Because he made his earthly riches his treasures, not Christ, and it was difficult for him to let them go and choose the Messiah. We assume Jesus saw the position of his heart and that it was attached to earthly riches and that's why He challenged him to sell his possessions (Matthew 19:21-23). The love of the riches and treasures of this world cannot be compared with Jesus, which is the greatest treasure anyone could ever possess (Philippians 3:7)! In Matthew 22:37 Jesus instructed us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind.

Not only are we commanded to love the Lord with our heart, but we are to love Him with our mind. God wants us to have pure minds so we can love Him the way He desires to be loved. The way we keep our hearts pure, and strive to hunger and thirst for His righteousness is by renewing our mind. We know that our mind is the first place the enemy attacks. That's why it's vital for every believer to renew their minds *daily* in the Word and bring every thought (that isn't from God or His Word) under captivity to the obedience of Jesus Christ and not give it any attention. It only takes a tiny entertained thought for satan to barge right in and take advantage of the believer. And if we don't take care of the entertained thoughts, they will become little cracks that become wide open doors. Those wide open doors eventually become large open dams where the enemy can move from the mind to heart. You might think this is an extreme exaggeration, but if you only knew how many calls we receive from Christians who have entertained little thoughts that moved into their hearts, you would understand how serious these things are. If only these walls could talk! The enemy is a roaring lion who prowls around trying to take advantage of the believer and wreak havoc in their lives and eventually devour them (1 Peter 5:8). Be sober-minded! Don't give him any power in your thought life or your heart!

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Romans 12:2

Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5

We've been hungry and thirsty for His righteousness since God called us out of darkness and into His glorious light 54 years ago! Jesus is the greatest treasure we've ever been given! When I, John, gave my life to the Lord, He took away all the hatred, bitterness, anger, and unforgiveness that was hidden in the deepest parts of my heart! He cleansed my heart and transformed my mind and I will never be the same again. Everyday we strive to be after God's own heart, to do His will for our life and complete our mission here on earth. This month John is turning 70 years old and is more on fire for the Lord than ever before! We are so excited to see what God has waiting for us and the Ministry this year and many years from now, if Jesus should tarry, especially in reaching more souls for the Kingdom of God! For John's birthday this year, instead of gifts or flowers, we are asking you to pray and sow a special seed if you feel led of the Holy Spirit. *Your sacrificial gift will be used in the Ministry for His Kingdom and for HIS GLORY to win souls!*

*"But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon.
For they are transplanted to the LORD's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God.
Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green.
They will declare, "The LORD is just! He is my rock! There is no evil in him!"* Psalm 92:12-15

In His Service,
John & Alexandra