**Truth Sowers Life Group**

August 19, 2012

**God’s Secret Kingdom – Part Three**

To understand how God’s Kingdom works, we must realize that God Himself has entered into a partnership with redeemed man, that means YOU if you are a born-again believer. This partnership is called a “covenant.” God has promised certain things to you through this covenant. We, like beggars, have absolutely nothing we can give that is worthy of this incredible covenant. All God requests is that we believe and obey.

Because of this covenant, we can walk in God’s power just like Jesus did. We can lay hands on the sick and see them recover, we can see the dead rise up and live again! We don’t have to live in poverty and lack any longer. We are the head and not the tail! We are the children of the God of the Universe and we should live like we are children of the King!

Illustration: T.L. and Daisy Osborn were young ministers who felt a call to the mission field. They went to India and,,,

“Things did not go as planned for the couple. People were kind, but since they did not believe the Bible was the Word of God, they wanted some other evidence that proved that Jesus was really the son of God. The Osborns could not produce the "evidence" they were looking for and so there was no fruit in their efforts. They lasted less than a year in India. They returned home with both T.L. Sr. and Jr. being extremely ill.”

They began to seek the Lord about this and someone told them about a lady that was teaching on “Seeing Jesus.” They went and,,,

 The next morning at 6:00 am T. L. Osborn woke up and saw a vision of Jesus that changed his life forever. Osborn testified that Jesus stood in front of him and his senses were completely overwhelmed. His body became immobilized and tears poured out of his eyes as he lay before the Lord. The experience drove one point home - Jesus was the Lord of Osborn's life and Osborn would be His forever. He truly understood that the Lord loved him and had a plan for his life. Old ideas of success dropped away and from that point on he wanted only one thing - the glory of Jesus.

The Osborns decided to read the Bible in a new way. They read about the miracles and the fact that ***Jesus gave His disciples the authority to do what He did***. T. L. fasted all food and water for three days as he sought God's presence. The Lord spoke to him and said ***"As I've been with others, so I will be with you. Wherever you go, I will give you the land for your possession. No demon, no disease, or no power can stand before you all the days of your life, IF you get the people to believe my Word."*** They began to hold healing meetings at their church***. Immediately*** they began to see healings and miracles.

After this, the Osborns went throughout the nations preaching the Word of God to tens of thousands at a time and they saw tens of thousands of people saved and healed.

For the complete testimony, [**click here**](http://healingandrevival.com/BioTLOsborn.htm).

T.L. and Daisy began to understand their “Covenant Relationship with God!”

1. What is a “Covenant?”
	1. Covenants are not generally understood in Western society.
	2. The closest thing we have is a contract but it is not close enough.
	3. Specifics of a covenant
		1. There must be at least two “Covenant Heads.”
		2. Blood must be shed.
			1. Christianity is NOT a bloodless religion.
		3. There are certain RIGHTS and OBLIGATIONS that go with a covenant.
		4. Each Covenant Head can request the other’s possessions at any time.
		5. Each Covenant Head can request the other’s help at any time.
		6. The covenant lasts until both Covenant Head’s die.
		7. The families of the Covenant Heads are under the covenant.
		8. If one Covenant Head dies, then his family continues the covenant with the other Covenant Head.
		9. Each Covenant Head is obligated to help protect the other and in case of one being murdered, the other is obligated to revenge the murder.
		10. As covenant partners, they are considered “Friends.”

**John 15:13-15**

*Greater Love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from my Father I have made known to you.*

* + 1. In some societies, the blood of each Covenant Head was mingled. (Blood Brothers).
		2. In the Old Covenant, God and Abraham were partners. In the New Covenant, God and Jesus are partners.
			1. Abraham as man was not a good covenant partner because he repeatedly broke the covenant through sin.
			2. Jesus is the perfect covenant partner because He never sinned.
			3. Through Abraham, the Hebrews/Jews were brought under the covenant.
			4. Through Jesus Christ, we, as believers, are brought into the covenant.
1. What is God’s Side of this Covenant?
	1. We have many promises extended to us in the Bible.
		1. Salvation - Ephesians 2:8,9; John 3:16, etc.
		2. Healing – Mark 16:18; James 5:14, 15; 1 Peter 2:24
		3. Prosperity – Deut. 8:18; Mark 11:24; 3 John 1:2;
		4. Long Life – Ephesians 6:3; Deut. 5:33, 6:2
		5. Answered Prayer – Mark 11:24; John 14:13, 14
		6. Peace – John 14:27, 16:33
		7. Spiritual Gifts – 1 Corinthians 12 – 14.
		8. Wealth – Deut. 8:18; Psalm 112:3; Prov. 3:16, 8:18, 8:29, 15:6
	2. Why do we refuse to accept these precious gifts?
		1. Some churches, ministers and believers no longer believe in healing.
		2. Some churches, ministers and believers no longer believe in spiritual gifts.
		3. Most Christians do not understand the significance of the covenant and that it is our right to receive all of these blessings.
		4. Would you be offended if you offered your best friend a wonderful gift in their time of great need and they refused to take that gift?
		5. How do you think God feels when we refuse His precious gifts?
		6. The way we please God is by “FAITH!”

**Hebrews 11:6** ESV

And **without faith** it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

1. How Do We Receive These Gifts?
	1. First we have to BELIEVE.
		1. We have all been allotted “the measure of faith.”

**Romans 12:3**

*For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.*

* + - 1. We are not to think more highly of ourselves than we should.
			2. Most of us don’t think highly enough of ourselves and the Word of God.
			3. Each one of us starts out with a “measure of faith.”
		1. It is our responsibility to GROW our faith.

**Romans 10:17**

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

* + 1. God will hold our hands for a time but then expects us to walk by faith and not by sight.

**2 Corinthians 5:7**

*,,,for we walk by faith, not by sight.*

* + 1. We also need to realize that **God’s Kingdom is HERE and NOW!!!**
	1. Then we SPEAK the Word!

**Mark 11:12-14; 20-22; 23, 24**

*12 The next day, as they were coming back from Bethany, Jesus was hungry.13 He saw in the distance a fig tree covered with leaves, so he went to see if he could find any figs on it. But when he came to it, he found only leaves, because it was not the right time for figs.14 Jesus said to the fig tree, No one shall ever eat figs from you again! And his disciples heard him. 20 Early next morning, as they walked along the road, they saw the fig tree. It was dead all the way down to its roots.21 Peter remembered what had happened and said to Jesus, Look, Teacher, the fig tree you cursed has died! 22 Jesus answered them,* ***Have faith in God****. 23For verily I* ***say*** *unto you, That whosoever shall* ***say*** *unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he* ***saith*** *shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he* ***saith****.24Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire,* ***when ye pray****, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

1. **God uses the spoken word to translate spiritual energy – sheer power – into the natural.**

Conclusion: God’s Kingdom is HERE and NOW! God, because of His great love for us, has made this covenant under which we live. We have the choice to let all of His blessings pass us by or we can reach into His Kingdom and SEIZE and TAKE these blessings.

**Matthew 11:12 (KJV)**
*And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*

**Literal translation**

*From the time of John the Baptist, continuing through this present time, the Kingdom of Heaven is being pressed into and seized by the enthusiastic, energetic Christian who violently plucks and takes away those promises by violently plucking and taking them away.*

God has offered you these blessings; salvation, healing, prosperity, long life, answered prayers, peace, spiritual gifts, wealth. God **WANTS** you to take them from the Kingdom of Heaven. They are there for the taking! Will you believe what God says and reach into the Kingdom to take what is yours because of the covenant that we are a part of? We need to learn to EXPECT God to do what He says. He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8). God cannot lie (Num. 23:19; Rom. 3:4)!

Pray this with me, “God, I believe Your Word! I consciously choose to believe what You say. No matter what my situation looks like, no matter how bad it looks, You are my Father! I am in a covenant with You! You call me your Friend! Your Word says that my needs are met (Phil. 4:19)! Your Word says my house is full of riches (Prov. 15:6)! You said that by Jesus’ stripes, I am healed(1 Peter 2:24)! You said you would do EXCEEDINGLY, ABUNDANTLY ABOVE all I can ask or even think (Eph. 3:20). Lord, I EXPECT You to do what You say! Your Word is absolutely true and I receive what I need NOW, in Jesus Name!