

Pastor Nathan P. Searles

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS NEAR

PREPARE THE WAY

We are called to “Prepare the way” for the Kingdom of heaven to operate here on earth and in people’s lives.

Matthew 3:1-3 (NKJV) *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’”*

Matthew 4:17 (AMP) *From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins, live your life in a way that proves repentance; seek God’s purpose for your life], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

Matthew 4:23 (NKJV) *And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.*

Matthew 10:7 (NKJV) *And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’*

Mark 6:13 (AMP) *And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many who were sick, and healing them.*

- Jesus wants to take you further than you could ever go, doing what you have never done!

FAITH ALONE PLEASURES GOD

It takes faith to do what He has called us to do

Hebrews 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

➤ FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

- **Matthew 11:12** (AMP) *From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize].*
- **1 Timothy 6:12** (AMP) *Fight the good fight of the faith [in the conflict with evil]; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and [for which] you made the good confession [of faith] in the presence of many witnesses.*

➤ FIGHT & LIVE AS CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

- **Philippians 1:27** *Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, **fighting together for the faith**, which is the Good News.*

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- LIVING BY FAITH MEANS NOT GIVING UP NO MATTER WHAT YOU MAY “SEE”
 - **Hebrews 11:13-16** (NLT) *All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. 14 Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. 15 If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. 16 But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*
- The list of heroes in Hebrews 11 “Hall of Faith” includes blemished characters such as Samson and Rahab, triumphant winners such as David and Gideon, and then a whole list of anonymous "failures" who faced torture and persecution. Yet at some point all of these people displayed the kind of faith that pleases God.
- Know your true opponent
 - **Ephesians 6:12** (AMP) *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places.*

JESUS PRAYS FOR ALL BELIEVERS – THAT’S YOU!

John 17:20-26 (NKJV) *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And **the glory which You gave Me I have given them**, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. 24 “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that **they may behold My glory** which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 And **I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it**, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”*

- Blue and Red make Purple – This is what it means to be one in Him although we are separate when joined together we make something new!
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17** (AMP) *Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], he is a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].*

REMEMBER – WE WIN!

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Revelation 12:10 (NKJV) *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.”*