



## *bloodline* *network newsletter*

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### **The Kingdom of God will come only in maturity!**

It comes not by observation – *For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear* – this is a maturing process.

For many years we have been looking for the culmination of events and the return of the full rule of God in the earth. When we see depravity and injustice our hearts cry out *how long oh Lord?* Like the disciples in the book of Acts we ask, *will you at this time restore the Kingdom?*

Is the restoration of the Kingdom in the power of God or in the power of God's people? Many act as though the manifestation of the Kingdom is determined by God to happen on a certain day and therefore what we do in the earth has no determination as to when that Kingdom will occur. Now we know that the Kingdom of God is already here in its spiritual manifestation but we are looking for its full appearing in this material world as well – *On earth as it is in Heaven.*

If we have something to do with it's coming, and I believe we do, then what are the requirements of it's appearing? Without getting into great details about the Kingdom and how it operates let me jump over much explanation and describe what will usher in the Kingdom. Jesus said, *if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God then the Kingdom of God is come unto you.* In other words the coming of the Kingdom is related to the power of God over the forces of evil in the earth.

The force of good must at some point obliterate the force of evil. *Be not overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.* The power to overcome and destroy evil is in the power of love. The Kingdom of God is the influence of God in the earth. Wherever His influence is felt – in the healing of the sick, in kindness toward another, in an expression of peace and justice – there is the Kingdom.

The love of God is the essence of this influence. We as followers of Jesus possess the ability to reveal the Kingdom by our willingness and power to love. Love however is measured. The fact that there is what the Bible calls "perfect love" means that there are levels of love that are less than perfect, nevertheless these less than perfect expression of

love are still love. We can love those who love us. It is love and even Jesus said the sinners have this level of love. There is also a love that allows us to even love our enemies and to do good to those who despitefully use us and means us harm.

When love rules the world is when the Kingdom will come in full manifestation. But the world does not possess the measure of love required to bring this to pass and unfortunately neither does the Church. Why? Why after two thousand years of Christianity is our love toward one another and toward the world so deficient that we only see glimpses of the great Kingdom of God? Why does it seem that the Kingdom of darkness still has not yielded control of the material dimension?

I think it has to do with what it is within each of us that limits the outbreak of the love of God. What condition limits our willingness to yield to the voice of the Spirit in difficult situation? What causes us (at least in our minds) to desire to repay evil with evil or to improperly judge the actions of others or to criticize and find fault?

Since perfect love casts out all fear then love and fear are counterparts. The more of one the less of the other. What is the chief characteristic of those with great love? – great maturity. What is the chief characteristic of those with great fear? – great immaturity.

A few words about maturity. The level of maturity is dependent on age. What would be considered mature behavior for a four year old child would be considered very immature for a 12 year old adolescent. Maturity is the sign of growing up. Those who never grow up, never mature. It is very important to realize that we possess different levels of maturity in different areas of our lives.

For example, I know a man who built a great business and is highly respected by his employees and his colleagues. He also is involved in his community and has made a huge beneficial impact on his world. He has even made some commitments that have turned out to cost him money, nevertheless he has kept the commitments because he gave his word. We would say these are signs of great maturity. Yet he has a son that was unwilling to follow him in the family business. Because of this he has refused to speak or have anything to do with his son unless his son becomes willing to take over the business he has built. We would say this is a sign of great immaturity.

A desire to grow in love will always lead us toward maturity but fear will forever keep us immature in whatever area it has control over us. This is why we discipline our children so that they mature. This is why God disciplines us. The church is in a perpetual state of immaturity which is why it lacks leadership and is ruled by the immature. *Isa 3:1-5; For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator. And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another,*

*and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.*

For the Kingdom to come the Church must mature. Governments and institutions of men can never bring this to pass. The church is under judgment. Throughout the bible we are admonished to “grow up”!

*Hebrews 5:14; But solid food belongs to those who are (mature) of full age, [that is], those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. We will always be focused on the word of babes (milk) until we mature. Immature people do not discern between good and evil because they are like little children who don't know if the person offering them candy is trying to be nice or trying to kidnap them.*

*Galatians 4:1-3; Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, (immature) differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed by the father. We are the inheritors of a great Kingdom but as long as we stay immature we are no different than those who are to serve us in the Kingdom but require teachers and rulers to provide for us. When Jesus said, *you have no need that any man teach you*, He was speaking to the mature who learn by the Spirit and not by the law.*

*Romans 8:18-20 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the (maturing) manifestation of the sons of God. The manifestation of the sons of God happen when their level of maturity allows perfect love (mature love) to rule in their hearts and in the world. The suffering of this present time (the time before maturity) is the discipline God uses to mature us. We do not have to suffer, as other suffer, forever but only until we are matured. Once we are matured “the suffering of this present time” ceases. It does not mean that life no longer has any problems but that we are freed from the fear and immaturity of those problems.*

*Eph 4:11-15] And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting (maturing) of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect (mature) man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness (his maturity) of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, (immature) tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up (grow up) into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: The five-fold ministry are the tutors and governors of the church. Like Galatians 4:1-3, the church is under this rule until maturity. It is like children being under the rule of parents until the “age of maturity”. The immature are *ever learning*. Failure to submit to God ordained authority will keep a person in a perpetual state of immaturity. It is not a person but the people of God who become the mature man. Until we get a body consciousness we will never bring forth the Kingdom of God.*

The Church, and indeed the whole world, is looking for answers. We are in a great state of flux. Change is everywhere and most lack any sound anchorage or a life roadmap for direction.

Trusted institutions can no longer be counted on. Education is increasingly based on opinion and not factual knowledge. Many students are routinely graduated into adulthood and life without even the fundamentals of a fifth grade education two generations earlier.

Businesses, such as Enron, that at one time were considered blue chip, grade A stocks have vanished almost overnight as corruption has been exposed. World governments seem increasingly divided and inept at dealing with even the most basic issues. The statement, “the full faith and credit of the United States” was relied on by nations and peoples around the world for its economic and political strength and stability but even this confidence was recently shaken as American bonds for the first time in modern history have been downgraded. Nations and denominations are rising against one another.

Most churches, once the source of direction and inspiration, have become manipulators without a concrete source for their most fundamental beliefs. Jesus’ rebuke, *my house should be called a house of prayer but you have made it a den of thieves*, seems as fitting today as when it was first spoken two millennium ago. Like Pilot, most appear perplexed by their circumstances and ask, what is truth, without ever receiving an answer. *The truth shall set you free*, but what truth? How do we find it?

Many are asking, what is happening? Why are our institutions in such disarray? Why has a quest for material accusation and comforts increased while at the same time respect for life and common servility are plunging to unprecedented lows? Why is our society, and that of the world, becoming more and more sexualized at younger and younger ages? Why do gangs secure increasing territory in our cities of all sizes and the hearts of growing numbers of young people? And why is common courtesy, respect for the law and for the personal and property rights of others in such decline? Why in the great explosion of the internet, can pranksters and thieves cause the loss of millions of hours of labor and billions of dollars of protections and remedies to prevent information theft, viruses, worms and the like?

### **Stuck in Human Wisdom Seeking the Power of God**

*However we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory. 1 Cor. 2:6-7*

What many call godly wisdom is little more than human wisdom masquerading as divine wisdom. There is a wisdom that the Bible calls, a wisdom after the flesh and it is based upon a human understanding of life and its operation. Many who do not know or

care little about God are wise in business or in their ability to answer objections with skillful responses. Though they possess a measure of human wisdom they have little comprehension of God's perception or His operation in the earth.

The wisdom of God can only be understood by those who are mature. The word mature, as used above, means to be complete or whole, lacking nothing. In other words the wisdom of God belongs to those who have acquired a depth of maturity in every area of their life so that nothing can hinder their ability to understand or walk in this wisdom. While some gauge their wisdom in God by their amount of bible study or prayer, others use noteworthy manifestations or religious accomplishments or religious pedigree as a measure of this wisdom.

To the spiritually mature however belongs the wisdom of God. This is why at times very unassuming Christians can exhibit far greater godly wisdom than many lifelong Christians or even those in the clergy. Maturity is progressive and although it is often related to age, age is not necessarily an accurate measurement of maturity.

### **Acting Your Age**

There are four major progressions to human maturity. We label these four progressions, infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood. All human life progresses through these four stages and they form a pattern for spiritual maturity as well.

The ability to assume increasing degrees of responsibility, as we age, is one measure of maturity. An infant is lacking of all responsibility. Though we would not call a newborn child immature because they don't feed themselves or clean up after themselves if they were five years old and still demanded to be spoon fed that would be a mark of immaturity.

The fact that your 15 year old teenager has a part-time job and is unable to support himself is not a sign of immaturity because having a part-time job and attending high school, at age 15, is in line with what normally responsible adolescents do. If however, he continually cut classes, stayed out all hours of the night and did not respect the rules of the house we would, at the very least, call that immature behavior.

So we have a right and a responsibility to expect that all people "act their age". Irresponsible people are immature and the source of many of society's ills. In the church spiritually immature, organizations, leaders, and church goers are likewise the source of the churches impotence and inability to influence society with the truth of God's word.

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