

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like - Card 1

By Edmond J. Gleazer, Sr.

I trust we all believe in the literal establishment of the kingdom of God on the earth. I also trust we believe that the God of heaven, in preparation for the establishment of the kingdom, made possible the restoration of the gospel and the reorganization of this church. Since I was converted to this work I have believed the reason this church was organized was that there was no other organization at that time qualified, equipped, and empowered to bring to pass the kingdom of God.

Equipped to Build = I should like to distinguish between faith and belief. We are told by our Lord that even devils believed and trembled. But faith goes beyond belief. Faith is dynamic to this extent: those of us who have it will move forward to accomplish that which we believe—in other words, that which we envision we will accomplish...this church is fully equipped to bring to pass the kingdom of God on earth...Revelations (12) makes it very clear that the church which God would organize in this dispensation of time would eventually bring forth the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

God Depends on Us = The fact is God has just done about all he can do to bring to pass the establishment of the kingdom...**It is necessary, therefore, for those of us who would become his children to exercise the principle of faith**...I believe that this principle of faith has been neglected and this neglect is one of the basic reasons why we have not yet realized the kingdom of God.

God's Promises = The first two verses of Psalm 50:1-5 have to do with history. It was a fact that out of the perfection of beauty, God has shone. We've heard it said, over and over again, **"What has been, can be."** Some tell us...the kingdom of God cannot be realized in this world...God would never require from us that which is impossible for us to accomplish. Furthermore, he has told us over and over again that he will lead in the accomplishment of any service which is required on behalf of his people.

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I am glad people are thinking of the second coming...the Psalmist said: *“Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence; a fire shall devour before him and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.”* Forces having the same effect of fire are moving through the world. This is a tempestuous period, a time of trial and tribulation, a period of judgment.

Our task = *“Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”* (Psalm 50:5)

Those who have made a covenant with God by sacrifice shall be gathered to Independence and the regions round about. Those who qualify to enter into such an arrangement of Christian brotherhood, where the will of God shall be expressed in all of their daily affairs, are to come. I also hold that there are in the church sufficient spiritually qualified men and women who, if they were brought together in community relationship, could even demonstrate the effectiveness of the kingdom of God. Some of us are going to be held responsible for any part we have failed to play in giving leadership and incentive to this type of movement.

Joint Task = There is no man in this church exempt from playing his part in the Zion project. That is why I'm attempting to emphasize the principle of faith. First, we must exercise faith to the extent that we believe Zion can become a reality. I am disappointed when I hear people say we're not good enough to bring to pass the kingdom of God. Well, maybe we're not good enough, but God requires that we *become* good enough. And it's possible to become good enough as a people to produce the righteousness of his kingdom. It requires faith in the project.

Gathering of Prime Importance = When we as a church reach the place where we fail to believe in the Gathering, we'll be in apostasy and become just another church. We must have faith, not only in the project and in God, but in each other.

The Kingdom Will Come = Jesus taught his disciples to pray after this manner: “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven.” Would anyone say that he taught his people to pray for a myth? Jesus knew the possibility of man's bringing forth the kingdom when he counseled his disciples: Seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God and to establish his righteousness.” God would never have said to the prophet, “Gather my Saints together unto me,” if such a thing were not practicable.

If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible for you.

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Dynamic Faith Needed = I'm conscious of human weakness and human limitations, yet where men are responsive to the Spirit of God, he can and does move through them. If I'm going to have faith in the kingdom idea, then I'm going to have faith in God and in my fellow men...Too many people in the church want someone else to make the venture. Either they lack faith in God or they're lacking faith in their brothers...I think what we need today is faith = in God, in the project, and in each other = faith that will move us forward.

Our Power Plus = It is going to take all of our power plus the powers of heaven to bring to pass the kingdom on earth. In the 12th chapter of Revelations, where the church is pictured as a woman traveling in pain waiting to be delivered, she went down into the valley of the shadow of death to bring forth the kingdom of God. I wonder to what extent we as a people are traveling in pain to bring forth the kingdom?

Obedience to the Law Needed = We observe today what a lack of faith and disobedience is doing to the civilized world. I'm wondering how long we're going to have to wait on those who have named the name of Jesus Christ and professed discipleship to prove what faith and obedience can bring to pass. No people on this earth are charged with a responsibility such as we are...if we do not learn obedience any other way, we shall learn by the things that we suffer. There will be enough who will respond. There will be enough who "travail in pain" so that the kingdom will be a reality. The Lord has never asked the accomplishment of any task that can't be realized, for he has provided means of its accomplishment. We are not dealing with individuals alone, we are dealing with Divinity and Divinity eventually will reach a sufficient number of men and women who will be obedient.

May God help us to recognize as never before that a lack of faith will postpone the establishment of his kingdom. A lack of faith – is damnable. If we believe in God, then we would work with him to bring to pass his purposes so that we'll be in a position to make a contribution to the nations of this earth in harmony with prophecy.