

SPIRITUAL QUALITIES OF THE KINGDOM-CARD 1

By Russell Ralston (taken from The Kingdom of Heaven is Like)



There has been considerable discussion throughout the years as to whether the kingdom of God was to be a physical reality or would exist spiritually only. We believe the kingdom will have definite organization, produce physical results, and bring physical blessings to mankind; however, its reality will be the result of obedience to the spiritual principles which are basic to the kingdom itself. A close study of teachings concerning the kingdom leads one to the inevitable conclusion that the kingdom is both spiritual and physical.

The time has come when we must realize that the potential of the kingdom is within us in proportion to the degree of our acceptance of Christ and his way of life. The kingdom can only come through lives that have been transformed by the Spirit of God. No one can participate in the building up of the kingdom nor enjoy its fruits unless repentance has worked in his life, causing an adjustment of his way of life to the Christ way. The potential of the kingdom is resident within every person who has been touched by the Spirit and gospel of Jesus Christ.



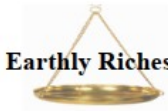
When the power of God comes into our lives through the first steps of obedience to his gospel, it is indeed a grain of mustard seed and unless it is nourished it shrivels and dies. **However, if we care for this seed and through further obedience offer it opportunity to grow, we will find that it will become the greatest and most moving factor within our lives-one that empowers our every thought and deed. Not alone will it affect our lives but its influence will reach out, just as the branches of the mustard tree, to bring comfort and peace to those whom we come in contact.** Within the individual this kingdom potential when magnified means much. **Within a society of men this kingdom potential, if magnified, will bring the affirmative answer to the hopes of God and man throughout the ages. Sin, pain, injustice, inequality, and all the plagues of mortal life shall cease. Through Him we shall become victorious.**



Spiritual Riches

SPIRITUAL QUALITIES OF THE KINGDOM-CARD 2

By Russell Ralston (taken from The Kingdom of Heaven is Like)



Earthly Riches

Apostle Paul emphasized the eternal values of the kingdom in a letter to the Romans: *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy, in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17)*. Here Paul challenges men to live a life with a new sense of values. He did not say meat and drink were unimportant nor that they would not be found in the kingdom. But he did say the kingdom was more than these. He knew that it could not be built up by things material; rather it must be the result of lives lived in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. [Paul's teachings are well supported by the words of Christ who, in his lifetime, had consistently called upon men to come up higher.](#)

In his sermon Bro. Ralston lists several qualities needed for Kingdom building:

Trust: Christ said, *"How hard it is for them who trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God (Mark 10:23)."* Let us note that it is not riches but the fact that *men trust in riches* which keeps them from the kingdom. [Perhaps the most important detriment of all is that those who trust in riches do not trust in God.](#) **Since the kingdom exists by the power of God, complete trust in Him is essential.**

To Become Like Little Children: The basic qualities of the kingdom way of life are typified by little children, for Jesus said, *"Of such is the kingdom of God (Mark 10:12)."* **Their qualities of loving, sharing, forgiving each other (Jesus said to forgive 7x70), trusting, and living humbly are the qualities of life so evident in the Master himself.** In our lives they must become fruitful, for they are the basics to the kingdom itself.

Righteousness: The quality of righteousness must likewise become a vital part of our lives, for it is basic to the kingdom. [Let us recall the statement quoted earlier...*For the kingdom of God is...righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost \(Romans 14:17\)*.](#) If we are to build the kingdom and establish his righteousness, **we must become intelligently obedient.** This goes beyond submission, for it requires of us that we magnify the intelligence he has given us and utilize all our faculties constructively for his purposes. (Continued on March, Card 3...)



SPIRITUAL QUALITIES OF THE KINGDOM-CARD 3

By Russell Ralston (taken from The Kingdom of Heaven is Like)

Brother Ralston, in this card, continues to give us more **Eternal Values needed to bring forth God's Kingdom:**

Peace: Peace is the result of the quality of our lives and the spirit thereof. Jesus promised his disciples peace that the world could not give. With this peace he challenged them, *“Let not your hearts be troubled (John 14:27).”* This peace can come only to lives and peoples who have placed such trust in God that their contact with him has caused all things to become new unto them and they themselves have become new creatures in Christ. We have examples of this. In the sacred record of the early people of ancient America, we find a people who began to be intelligently obedient to the laws of God and in their closeness to him found this peace (Alma 1:40-47). A remarkable statement is made concerning them, *“And thus they began to have continual peace again, notwithstanding all their persecutions.”* The qualities of their lives had made this possible. Their peace was not the result of their environment, for they were being persecuted. Their peace came from within, for they had the joy of the Holy Ghost. ...My wife and I experienced this peace at the passing of our little daughter. For the first time in our lives we were truly broken hearted. We came to the reality that in this world there was no source of real help or strength in spite of the wonderful expressions offered by friends...We found that there was only one source of peace and strength and we turned to Him...He heard our prayers and in our time of greatest turmoil came our sweetest peace. **Such peace is not physical, but is spiritual, lifting man above the woes of life and giving him a taste of blessings yet to come.**

The Holy Spirit: The kingdom can only become triumphant when we so live that his Spirit can dwell within us and **make us new creatures**—creatures filled with infinite qualities of loving, forgiving, sharing, trusting, learning—who live humbly before man and God...Living in the Joy of the Holy Ghost. The kingdom triumphant can only come...when our visions have been cleared and our sense of values lifted by the challenge of the eternal. *In this day of sin and pain, injustice and inequality, there is yet much hope, for the challenge of the kingdom calls us on. Let us go forth with unflinching faith, blessed with the knowledge that three things shall be: A loftier race than ever the world hath known shall rise, With flame of freedom in their souls, and Light of knowledge in their eyes.*