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The Kingdom Expansion in You

The purpose of this book is to help you tap into some of the revelations that God has shown my wife and me over the past few years. He is truly leading us in His ways and by His Spirit. The churches, orphanages, schools, ministries and people that have been built or transformed through the International Church of Las Vegas are a testament to His involvement in our lives.

I often feel like Apostle Paul, "*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells,*" with the exception, of course, of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. (Romans 7:18) I'm amazed at what God has done in and through us. At the age of 20, I wanted to die. Caught in a world of anger, depression, alcohol and drugs, I searched for the true meaning of life.

When I couldn't find it in friends, family, success, achievements, pleasure and all that the world had to offer, I became despondent. Once the party was over, I was still empty. Drugs, alcohol, entertainment, possessions and pleasures are only opiates designed to numb the pain of a Christ-less soul.

All of these memories are easily accessible to me. I don't have to look far to remember how I felt then, and how desperate I am now, without the favor of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Remember that He saved us *from* something *for* something. Without His daily presence and our surrender to His will, we can easily slip back into a shallow life. Do I have to mention the names of men and women who were once greatly used by God, but somehow their lives became a shambles due to pride, presumption, ego, lust or greed?

In his first epistle, John warned of three forces that can trip any one of us if we stray from His Lordship:

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world (1 John 2:16).

Those three forces can shipwreck anyone that doesn't surrender to the daily leading of His presence. God, help us to scream out the prayer that You taught us more than 2,000 years ago:

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one (Matthew 6:13).

Take a moment and speak this entire prayer in your own words, expressing its incredible intent. This is what my prayer sounds like:

Hey, Dad, I love you so much. You're my real Father in heaven. Every time I think of You I feel humbled and amazed that You love me. Even the mention of Your name still gets to me. Father, wow. What a privilege it is to me to be in relationship with You.

Hey, Dad - I don't like the way this world is going. Please have Your will in my life and this world. Please use me to establish Your Kingdom power, principles and laws in strategic places that You have sent me to. I really want Your Kingdom to infiltrate every kingdom of this world.

Hey, Dad, You know that I have physical, emotional, financial and spiritual needs. Please supply all my needs with superabundance so I can be generous on all occasions.

Hey, Dad, forgive me for all the stupid things I've done, said and thought. Forgive me for the times I failed to do the good that I could do. Forgive me for ever grieving the Holy Spirit. Cleanse me and show me Your grace and mercy over my life, family and church.

Hey, Dad, I choose today to forgive all those that have offended, hurt, cheated, lied to, or angered me in any way. I also forgive all those who have hurt the ones I love. I hand them over to You. Please don't hold it against them. You've been so gracious to me.

Hey, Dad, You know that I still struggle with temptations. I don't really trust myself that much, but I do trust You. Would You do me a big favor? Would You lead me away from that stuff? In 1 Corinthians 10:13, You promised me a way of escape. Wow, thanks. I really need that assurance.

Hey, Dad, while I'm representing You today on this earth, and while I'm being used by You to establish Your Kingdom, please deliver me from the counter attacks of the evil one. He really has it in for my family and me. Please protect my wife, kids and grandkids. I know that I can count on You.

Hey, Dad, by the way, You are awesome and incredible. You deserve all the praise and glory of every kingdom and every soul. There is no way to measure Your worth or give You enough praise. I guess that all I can do is give You all of me, all of my kingdoms. Take me today and use me for Your glory and praise. Amen.

Application:

Take a moment to write out your prayer.

Friends, we don't have to use fancy words to talk to our Father. Jesus wasn't concerned with perfect prayers, but with a clean heart in relationship with the Father. He welcomed us into that intimate relationship. Wow. Can you feel this truth?

The other ingredient that we so desperately need is the power to accomplish His will. Yes, first we need to *want* His will. Then we need to *discover* His will. And then we need to *accomplish* His will. Bringing God's will to the earth in the same measure that it's being done in heaven isn't easy. We'll have to displace principalities and powers in high places. We can't accomplish this with just a good plan or lots of personal charisma. It has to come by the Holy Spirit and His power through us.

In my book, *The 5 Powers of God*, I biblically establish that God has five distinct powers which He wants to deposit into your life to help you accomplish the mission that He's given you. In Mark 16:15, Jesus gave us our marching orders when He said, "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*" Most Christians call this the great commission. Notice the word that is used, "co-mission." Hence, we have a mission that can only be successful if we do it with Him; i.e., *co-mission*.

Although the great commission is for every believer, God has unique assignments for each of us. The commission is fulfilled when we fulfill our individual and corporate assignments. The five powers of God are available to us in order to accomplish our assignments for His glory.

These are the five powers of God to accomplish our mission:

Dunamis is the miracle working power of Jesus. It's available for miracles, breakthroughs and healings.

Exousia is the power of authority. It's useful for us to overcome fear and intimidation and is required for spiritual warfare and expansion.

Energeia is God-energy that flows through us to accomplish various tasks. It's also present during times of worship or prayer when people say they "feel" His presence.

Kratos is God's dominion power. Ultimately, He wants to reign and rule over all of His creation. We need kratos power to bring the Kingdom of God down to the earth. Whenever His Kingdom expands on Earth, we're looking at His kratos power dominating the scene.

Ischus is the strength sent from God for times when we are weak or tired, or when temptation knocks on our door. Ischus helps us to resist.

The Keys of the Kingdom builds upon this revelation of the five powers of God. I hope and pray that, through these pages, you'll be thoroughly equipped to fulfill the will of God in your life, ministry, business and family.

Are you ready to embark on a new journey? Don't forget that revelation always leads to transformation.

Questions:

- 1) Do you know God's will for your life?
- 2) What do you enjoy doing?
- 3) What gifts and talents do you have that God could use?
- 4) Have you ever experienced the power of God?