

# INTRODUCTION



# TO THE KINGDOM

*Study Outline*

JACK HAYFORD

# INTRODUCTION TO THE KINGDOM

by Jack Hayford

## OUTLINE

*This outline is related to the four-message DVD / CD album of the same name. These teachings comprise the four plenary sessions delivered by Pastor Jack Hayford at The King's College and Seminary's 2008 Autumn Leadership Conference, "Proclaiming the King and His Kingdom."*

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## **THE DEFINITION OF THE KINGDOM, PART 1**

Text: Acts 1:1-8; 19:1-10; 20:22-32; 28:30-31

The first works and witnesses of the Church from its birth flowed from their continuance in proclaiming the message of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Founder: “Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel’” (Mark 1:14-15). The same message, with the same attendant evidences of the Holy Spirit’s confirmation, was commissioned by Christ to be their obedience: “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs” (Mark 16:19-20, see 14-18).

The purpose of our larger study is to revisit things pertaining to “*the Kingdom of God*,” to examine its revelation within the Word of God, to expound basic truths essential to discipling others, and to experience the Holy Spirit’s refreshing as we open to His presence in exalting the King among us.

This outline is introductory, reflecting my discovery of essential points of clarity that must be set in place when a pastor or leader seeks to grow disciples in an understanding and unto a practical daily life and ministering of “The Kingdom.” To do this was the practice of Jesus with His own followers from the beginning, and continued with the Church as it is recorded in the New Testament. To some degree, today’s leader has the added challenge of recovering the simplicity of the NT truth from the blindness born of human habit, and at times persisting for that truth beyond the resistance of religious tradition.

Let me offer *six reasons* it is necessary to establish a foundational definition of “The Kingdom of God” in the heart, mind, and spirit of believers; beginning with ways this central message has become diluted or confused.

1. Most people have become imprinted with unclear or unreal definitions of the term, “The Kingdom of God.” The vast majority of Christians see it:
  - ...as being “Heaven,”
  - ...or, as being “the Church,”
  - ...or, as being “the Millennium.”
2. It (the message of “The Kingdom of God”) is too seldom perceived as (a) the *concept* underlying all Jesus’ ministry, (b) the *central theme* of Jesus’ preaching, and (c) the *core* teaching and message for our discipling others.
  - a. Matthew 28:18-20 — “...make disciples...teaching them all things I have commanded you.”

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- b. John 14-16 — “When the Comforter/Helper/parakletos comes,” Jesus said the Holy Spirit would reveal, refine, and release a replication of Jesus’ own Person, not only into their midst and their lives, but also through our life and service. This is essentially what “the anointing” implies; the transmission of the same enablement that Jesus received, being God yet choosing to live as man.
3. Central to understanding “this present evil age” (“world,” or “world in which we live”) is to perceive the Kingdom of God as:
- a. God’s original, benevolent intention for humankind;
  - b. Deceitfully and destructively intruded upon by the Evil One;
  - c. Forfeited by the “first Adam” but now restorable by the “second Adam”;
  - d. Available to all who believe and receive “Jesus the Christ,” the anointed King, delivering Messiah and Restorer from all human loss.

*Reasons 4-6 follow in Part 2*

## THE DEFINITION OF THE KINGDOM, PART 2

Text: Acts 1:1-8; 19:1-10; 20:22-32; 28:30-31

4. Pivotal to understanding the Church's mission, message, and ministry is to "see" and "enter" the Kingdom (John 3:3, 5); to recognize "the way of God more accurately" ("perfectly, completely"—Gk., *akribes*—*exactly, carefully*). [This is most significantly seen in Acts 18:24-28, and probably signals the essential drift and occasions age-long separatism on "Kingdom" issues.]
  - a. Mission—To extend a "Kingdom," but not of this world's structures.
  - b. Message—To proclaim a King, whose entry frees from the world-spirit.
  - c. Ministry—To see confirmation of the message, and to disciple ongoing "replications" of the Incarnate Word (Jesus) indwelling and overflowing His followers with the same qualities of His lifestyle and works.
5. Foundational to understanding the dimensions to which the Church is called and privileged to pray, the present reality of the Kingdom as a "*realm, rule, and reign*" of the King needs to be perceived: "seeing the invisible" is pivotal.
6. Living worship with abiding vitality and clarity of purpose requires, first, that those who lead gain and train others as to the place, power, and pathway of living worship; understanding that "*exaltation*" is our worthy entry point (joyful submission), but it is intended unto "*expulsion*," the driving out of the spirit of darkness, and "*extension*," the inflow of the Spirit of God.

## **WHEN THE HEAVENS ARE TORN ASUNDER:** *The Breakthrough For Which We All Hunger!*

**Text:** Mark 1:9-45

Rather than enunciate a theology, I want to underscore a pathway. A pathway is the proven road to effective leadership and fruitful ministry—via the dynamics that beget spiritual breakthrough.

### *The Possibilities of a Breakthrough*

Seven vignettes demonstrate “breakthrough” ministry:

1. An anointed servant in conflict... v. 12-15  
*Breakthrough:* A new “word” of power!
2. A fledgling group of followers... v. 16-20  
*Breakthrough:* A committed team for ministry.
3. A confrontation with a demonic presence... v. 2 1-28  
*Breakthrough:* Smashing of a stronghold.
4. A filling of the home with health... v. 29-31  
*Breakthrough:* Servant-hearted respondents.
5. A citywide impact of health and wholeness... v. 32-34  
*Breakthrough:* A silencing of demon voices.
6. A constancy in passionate prayer... v. 35-39  
*Breakthrough:* An expansion of mission scope.
7. A divine flow of compassion for untouchables... v. 40-45  
*Breakthrough:* Healing of the incurables.

### *The Pathway to Breakthrough*

- Discerning the Savior’s paradigm for penetration:
- Acknowledging an hour: “It came to pass in those days...”
- Choosing a voluntary submission: “Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized...”
- Receiving the Holy Spirit’s overflow: “And the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove...”
- Gaining supernatural insight: “And...He saw the heavens parting...”
- Serving with a new identity: “This is My beloved Son...I am well pleased.”

## **“KINGDOM KILLERS”**

### *The Frightening Power of Human Blindness, Presumption or Self-Will to Neutralize the Release of God’s Sovereign Power*

Text: The Lord’s Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13)

Fundamental to this teaching, and I believe to the revelation of God’s Word also, is the assertion of three concepts without which (a) human destiny is solely at the will (or whim) of Deity’s random choice; (b) the importance of human choice is merely a meaningless pretension; and (c) prayer, or “life” for that matter, is simply our participation in a cosmic game of chance. The three concepts are these:

1. The God of the Bible is Creator and Sovereign over all things seen and unseen, known and unknown. His power transcends all, His wisdom knows no bounds, and His knowledge exceeds and embraces all time, space, and actions.
2. At the creation of Adam’s race, God delegated to humankind the oversight and administration of all things pertaining to Earth. This was God’s sovereign choice and, it being His chosen will, is an irrevocable covenant by which He—by His sovereign will—has *not* limited His power but restricted its release and blessing *only* when and where His appointed administrators (humankind) invite His hand of grace and power. (This statement presumes the general benefits afforded all Earth-dwellers due to the residual mercies of God’s creational covenants, prevenient graces, and overarching patience and love.)
3. The redeemed through Christ are called to the privileged priesthood of prayer, that having been restored to the possibilities of a recovered “administering role” over Earth’s affairs, they are described as having been given “the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven”—literally, the responsibility to serve as either *releasers* or *restrictors* (“binding or loosing”) of what God “in Heaven” wills to do “on Earth.” Our priestly role may become effective, limited, corrupted, or death-dealing, according to our patterns of acceptance of responsibility, obedience, or neglect of our call as His.

In that light, let us note at least *four responses* to which the flesh is “*heir*,” which the Holy Spirit seeks to remove from our lives (refine and purify), to sanctify us as part of “a holy priesthood.” These are sins *capable of “killing” or neutralizing the life-releasing possibilities* of Almighty God’s ready and willing workings, which sin can and does restrict. This, in effect, produces a “not Thy will but Mine be done on Earth as it is in Heaven,” whether we realize it or not, when I—intended as a redeemed partner of the Father’s, restored to the originally intended role as “an administrator” of Earth-side affairs—fail to “do business until I come” (Jesus), and either live life “business as usual” (passivity) or “business on my terms” (self will).

## ***The “Four Killers”***

1. UNFORGIVENESS – “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us” (Matt. 6:12). “Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you [*kata*—something ‘coming down on you’], leave your gift there before the altar.... First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift” (Matt. 5:23-24). “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” (Eph. 4:32)
2. UNSUBMISSION – “Therefore humble yourself under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time” (1 Pet. 5:6). “Keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit...submitting to one another in the fear of God.” (Eph. 4:18, 21)
3. LYING or ANGER – “Therefore, putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with His neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry, and do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your wrath. Nor give place to the devil.” (Eph. 4:25-27)
4. PRAYERLESSNESS – “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you.” (1 Sam. 12:23)

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Despise not prophecies.” (1 Thess. 5:16-20)

“I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men...” (See 1 Tim. 2:1-4.)

“You lust and do not have. You murder and covet, and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.” (James 4:2)

“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” “These things I have spoken to you that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.” (John 14:13, 14; 15:11)



## APPENDIX 1

### Resources Related to This Study

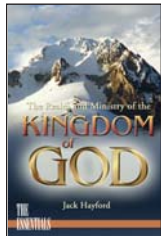
The following resources may be ordered from **JACK HAYFORD MINISTRIES** by clicking on the links below, or visit our online Bookstore at [www.jackhayford.org](http://www.jackhayford.org). You may also call toll-free **1-800-776-8180**. (Outside the U.S., please call **1-818-779-5593**.)



#### INTRODUCTION TO THE KINGDOM - *Companion to this Guide*

Addressing the ministry and theology of the Kingdom of God, this series of four teachings by Jack Hayford relates practical truth about the Kingdom in ways that people can understand, live in, and apply. Companion Album to this Study Guide.

DVD Album SC829DVD • CD Album SC829CD



#### THE REALM AND MINISTRY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Understand the mindset inherent in Jesus' words: "Repent...the time is fulfilled... the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." Learn what it means to be a Kingdom person, called to reign through Christ, the King. Four messages.

CD Album ESS08CD • Cassette Album ESS08



#### KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

Open to a deeper, more powerful walk with God by utilizing the Kingdom keys of song, worship, Calvary, God's Word, and fasting. Five messages

CD Album SC574CD • Cassette Album SC574



#### ADVANCING THE KINGDOM

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done" is central to Jesus' teachings. Learn to establish God's Kingdom by moving in the power of His Holy Spirit.

Six messages.

CD Album SC579CD • Cassette Album SC579



#### AN UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM

The unshakable nature of God's Kingdom equips us to become anchor people in a breakable, shakable world. Two messages.

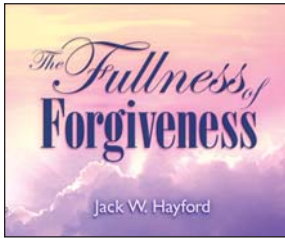
CD Album SC716CD • Cassette Album SC716



### THREE KEYS TO RELEASING LIFE

In this series Pastor Jack Hayford covers three important topics that will aid in leading the believer into wholeness and freedom in Christ. Forgiveness, praise, and giving are the keys to a liberated life. Three messages.

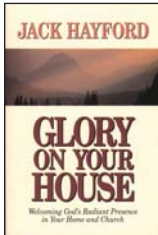
DVD Album SC742DVD • CD Album SC742CD • Cassette Album SC742



### THE FULLNESS OF FORGIVENESS

This classic series of eight messages, based on the story of the prodigal son, provides the listener with an understanding of how completely Father God receives and accepts us as His children, and how we can learn to forgive ourselves.

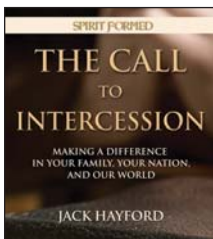
CD Album SC021CD • Cassette Album SC021



### GLORY ON YOUR HOUSE

God wants to display His glory through you. God's glory is no private manifestation for a few but for all who will stand under the shower of His radiance. As you learn to "apply" it, you will find yourself extending the boundaries of God's blessing around you.

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### THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

In this three-part series from the *Spirit Formed TV* broadcast, Pastor Jack Hayford teaches on the intercessory role of the Church, the call and challenges of being an intercessor, and how to effectively pray and intercede for your family. Three messages.

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### THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU!

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is key to the replication and multiplication of Jesus' ministry through us. Gain a comprehensive look at the Person, power, and work of the Holy Spirit. Learn how Jesus calls us to receive the Holy Spirit and to launch out in spiritual language that we might have the same power source for everyday life and service that animated Him in His ministry. Four messages.

CD Album SC732CD • Cassette Album SC732