

KINGDOM LIVING ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Matthew 7:24–29 (NKJV)

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²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

²⁶“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

²⁷and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

²⁸And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

²⁹for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

- *Jesus concluded His teachings of the Sermon on the Mount with the words, “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine...” Then He added a final parable illustrating the way to build a foundation that will endure.*

Matthew 5:2–3 (NKJV)

²Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- *When Jesus began His teaching in Matthew 5, the first principle He taught was, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*
- *The Sermon on the Mount is not so much an evangelistic message as one that teaches believers how to live in the Kingdom of Heaven.*
- *Once we put our faith in Christ and are born again we have become part of the Kingdom of Heaven. However, that is not the end of our journey of salvation, but the beginning.*
- *God has much more for us to experience and receive.*
- *Salvation is so rich and wide and deep. It is not simply having our sins forgiven and going to Heaven, although that in itself is indescribably wonderful.*

John 10:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

- *John 10:10 provides us with a couple of foundational truths to help us evaluate our lives.*
- *First, we learn that Jesus Christ has “come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*
- *The Greek word for “abundantly” means, “beyond, extraordinary, superfluous, pertaining to a quantity so abundant as to be considerably more than what one would expect or anticipate.”*
- *The second thing we can learn from John 10:10 is that “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.”*
- *Jesus came to give us an extraordinary life overflowing with an abundance of fruitfulness. In sharp contrast, the devil is a thief whose sole purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy.*
- *Jesus’ teachings not only show us the way to salvation, but how to see the grace of God released in our lives, so we can experience abundant overflowing life.*
- *The Sermon on the Mount is the first teaching of Jesus and it is found in the first book of the New Testament, in the Gospel of Matthew.*
- *The Sermon on the Mount is almost like the table of contents to the entire New Testament. It summarizes and provides an overview of everything that will be taught in the rest of the New Testament, beginning in the Gospels and continuing in the epistles.*
- *Just as the Ten Commandments are the table of contents for the teachings of Moses and the Old Covenant, the Sermon on the Mount is the table of contents for the teachings of Jesus Christ and the New Covenant.*
- *Once a person receives Jesus Christ they became part of His kingdom, but now they must learn how to live in God’s Kingdom.*

- *Just as there are natural laws that one must abide by to prosper as a citizen of an earthly kingdom or country, there are spiritual laws we must live by in order to prosper and live an abundant life in God's Kingdom.*
- *When a person puts their faith in Jesus Christ, eternal life does not begin when they die and go to Heaven. Eternal life began at the moment they received Christ.*
- *The Sermon on the Mount touches on every aspect of how to live in the Kingdom of Heaven right now.*
- *Learning to live in the Kingdom of Heaven and to walk in victory is a process.*
- *When we experience victory in certain areas of our lives we can joyfully recognize that we are living according to Kingdom principles that release God's grace.*
- *When we experience struggles, setbacks, and failures we need to recognize there may be certain Kingdom principles we have failed to understand or embrace, and which the thief uses as an open door to steal, kill, and destroy.*
- *This doesn't mean that every time we experience struggles or hardships there is an open door for the thief to enter and wreak havoc. It may be that we are moving forward and taking new land from the enemy and he is resisting.*
- *However, when we live according to the Kingdom principles and the teachings of Jesus, the thief is fighting a losing battle for "the gates of Hell shall not prevail against" the Church of the Living God. (Matthew 16:18).*
- *The Sermon on the Mount touches on every aspect and relationship of life including prayer, fasting, giving, forgiveness, faith, freedom from cares and worries, covetousness, marriage and divorce, our relationship with the world, our relationship with fellow believers, our relationship with our enemies, to dealing with hardship and persecution ... to name just a few of the highlights.*
- *Jesus concluded the Sermon on the Mount by teaching about how we must respond to His teachings, the Word of God.*
- *Jesus gave two illustrations, referring to two types of foundations and two different ways that believers can respond to His teachings.*

Matthew 7:24–29 (NKJV)

²⁴“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

- *The first illustration is about a believer who “hears these sayings of Mine, and does them.”*
- *Jesus compares the person who hears His teachings and does them “to a wise man who built his house on the rock.”*
- *Scripture refers to Jesus figuratively as “The Rock” numerous times, so it is very significant when Jesus says that he who hears and obeys is like one who builds his life upon the rock.*
- *The Greek word for “rock” used to describe Jesus means, “a large massive rock, bedrock,” something that is neither moveable nor changeable, something that can be relied upon.*
- *In life we will all encounter storms, but what we have built our life upon will determine how we will weather those storms.*
- *When we put our faith in Jesus Christ and choose to obey His Word then we will find that Jesus is enough no matter what we have to face and no matter what the devil tries to do.*

1 Corinthians 10:3–4 (NKJV)

³all ate the same spiritual food,

⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

- *As Israel journeyed through the wilderness from Egypt to the Promised Land, Jesus sustained them with spiritual food and spiritual drink.*
- *Living water poured from the Rock and manna appeared from Heaven.*
- *During those times in our lives when we are going through a wilderness experience we can turn to Jesus to refresh and strengthen us. Then we can*

continue our journey with strength until we reach the Promised Land where we will inherit all His blessings and promises.

- *However, if a believer does not learn to turn to Jesus for all their provision they will find their strength failing them when faced with the difficulties of life.*
- *The believer who does not build his life on the Rock by learning to consistently obey God's Word may even complain, "Jesus isn't enough for my needs." The reality is that they didn't build on the Rock as they should have.*

Romans 9:33 (NKJV)

³³As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

- *Jesus is that Rock for both those who believe and also for those who reject Him.*
- *For those who put their faith in Him and build upon the Rock, their lives will be firm and immovable and what they build will be eternal.*
- *They will not be ashamed before men as they live out their lives serving God and obeying His Word. Nor will they be ashamed before God at the Judgment Seat of Christ as they hear the words, "Well done good and faithful servant."*
- *Jesus Christ is the Rock and He is immovable and unchangeable regardless of what men choose to believe. For those who reject Him, the Rock that was meant for their salvation will become the source of their judgment as He becomes a stumbling stone and a rock of offence.*

1 Peter 2:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."

⁷Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"

- *For those who not only put their faith in Christ, but also choose to obey His Word fully will see Him as the chief cornerstone of their lives.*
- *A cornerstone is a pivotal building block that positions and underpins the house. The remainder of the house is constructed around the cornerstone.*

- *When Christ is our chief cornerstone, every decision we make and the direction of our lives will continually be guided by His teachings and the leading of His Holy Spirit.*
- *As believers, if we disregard some of Jesus' teachings we will eventually be sadly disappointed when we find what we built with our lives did not turn out as we had hoped.*
- *“Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious” – When believers continue to walk in faith and obedience, our love for Jesus continues to grow and deepen. As we see how immensely precious and invaluable His Word is, our appreciation for His Word grows as well.*

Daniel 2:34–35 (NKJV)

³⁴You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

- *Daniel interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's prophetic dream regarding the future of all the kingdoms of the earth as represented by a giant statue made of iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold. Daniel described the most wonderful things, “a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image,” which was so pulverized that no trace of it remained, and then “the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”*
- *Jesus Christ is that Rock, which was cut out without hands, for God the Father so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.*
- *Jesus' entrance into this world was not man's doing, for this rock was not cut out by human hands. It was the hand of God that sent Jesus to come as a man, to redeem mankind and put an end to the destruction caused by Satan, rebellious man, and sin.*
- *However, Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and glorious resurrection not only brought an end to sin and the corrupt kingdoms of this world. Jesus will yet establish His everlasting kingdom that will fill all of creation.*

- *What great joy for us to obey Jesus Christ fully and to build our lives upon the Rock that will be an everlasting kingdom that will fill all creation.*

Matthew 7:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

- *“the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house” – This part of the parable reveals three things we must face at different times in our lives.*
- *I see “the rain descending” as speaking about judgment, just as Noah’s flood portrays the judgment of God coming down upon the earth.*
- *Satan is referred to “as the accuser of the brethren.” (Revelation 12:10). When we have unconfessed sin or disobedience in our lives he heaps accusations on our heads producing shame, guilt, and condemnation.*
- *However, if we are obedient to Christ and His word, then there is no opportunity for the devil to bring accusations against us or heap shame and condemnation on our heads.*
- *The remedy is to confess our sins, repent, and receive forgiveness. so we are no longer pummeled by the storms of condemnation and shame.*
- *Shame and condemnation make us feel like fleeing from God instead of running to Him as our refuge, which He truly is.*
- *When a believer has not been walking closely with God, the shame and condemnation can cause him to become spiritually disorientated and flee from God instead of coming to Him for forgiveness and restoration.*

1 Corinthians 11:31–32 (NKJV)

³¹For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

³²But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

- *There is one more point to the “rain descending” and that is when we are not judging ourselves, but choosing to continue to walk in willful sin, then God as our loving Father, helps us by dealing with our unrepentant sins.*
- *When God our Father judges His children, it is not for the purpose of condemnation, but for the purpose of chastening us, so we will not continue to walk in willful sin and be condemned with the world.*
- *If we have built strongholds rooted in rebellion, disobedience, and the flesh, God pours down the rains of His chastisement upon us.*
- *The rain of his judgment descends upon us, not to destroy us, but to wash away and destroy those things we have been building that are contrary to His will and destructive to our lives. Unfortunately, in the process we can experience great loss as those things are washed away by the rains.*
- *“God loves us just the way we are, but He loves us too much to leave us that way.”*
- *After the rain, the second thing to come against us is “the floods.”*
- *I see “the floods came” as speaking about the circumstances of life that just happen and are the reality of living in a fallen world.*
- *The rains descended, speaking about things coming down from above. However, the floods of this life are those things around us that just happen as part of ordinary life.*
- *The floods could be small things that try to set us off such as our car breaking down when we are late for an appointment to very large and imposing problems such as facing a serious illness.*
- *These circumstances of life try to overwhelm us and cause us to feel like we are drowning in the problems of life.*
- *The third thing that comes against us is “the winds.”*
- *I see “the winds blowing” as speaking about spiritual attacks.*
- *Satan is described in Ephesians 2:2 as “the prince of the power of the air.”*

- *These demonic attacks can take on many different forms from the enemy attacking our emotions and trying to beat us down with discouragement, to placing thoughts in our minds in an attempt to sow doubt and confusion.*
- *The enemy can also try to overwhelm us with fear and worry. However, when we are strongly grounded in the Word of God and not only understand His Word, but are obedient to His Word, then the belt of truth keeps our faith unshakeable.*

Matthew 7:25 (NKJV)

²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

- *The intensity of these three things that come against us is described using the word “beat on that house.”*
- *The Greek word for “beat” is προσπίπτω (prospiptō) and it means, “to strike against, slam against something, to rush upon,” emphasizing the force and ferocity of the attack.*
- *However there is another primary meaning of this Greek word προσπίπτω (prospiptō) and it means, “fall down in reverence or fear; to prostrate oneself in supplication or homage.”*
- *The Greek word προσπίπτω (prospiptō) is found eight times in the New Testament and only once, in Matthew 7:25, is it used to mean “to beat against something.” In every other instance, it means “to fall down in reverence or fear, or to pay homage.”*

Luke 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”

- *When Peter saw the miracle that Jesus performed with the great catch of fish, he realized that Jesus wasn’t just a great teacher, but that He was God. So, Peter fell down in fear recognizing his own unworthiness.*

Acts 16:29-30 (NKJV)

²⁹Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.

³⁰And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

- *At midnight as Paul and Silas were sitting in a prison bleeding from just being beaten, they were singing, praising, and worshipping the Lord. Suddenly, the prison was shaken, Paul and Silas’ chains fell off, and the prison doors swung open.*
- *The jailor, who just a few hours before had shown disdain and indifference to their plight, now responded by falling down before them and paid homage by asking the most important question he could ever ask, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”*

Luke 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!”

Mark 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, “You are the Son of God.”

- *Whenever Jesus Christ confronted demons, all they could do was fall down before Him, pay homage, and cry out, “You are the Son of God,” “You are the Son of the Most High God,” or “I beg You do not torment me!”*

Matthew 7:25 (NKJV)

²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

- *When a believer is fully obedient to the Word of God, following the teachings of Jesus and submitting to the leading of the Holy Spirit, there is nothing that can defeat him or her.*
- *After the rains descend, the floods come, and the winds blow, and nothing is able to move them, then the demons, the world, and even creation itself must fall down and pay homage to God and declare the glory of Jesus Christ is manifest through His people and through His Church.*

Revelation 12:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

¹¹And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

- *The accuser of the brethren has been cast down for they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony and they did not love their lives to the death. Even the devil and his demons will have to acknowledge what Jesus Christ has accomplished in us and that He alone is Lord.*

Matthew 7:26-27

²⁶“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

²⁷and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

- *Jesus contrasted those who hear His teachings and do them to those who hear His teachings but do not do them.*
- *Those people who have the Word of God, but do not actually obey it are called “foolish,” because foolish people know what needs to be done and choose not to do it.*
- *Those who do not obey the teachings of Jesus are compared to those who build a house on sand.*
- *Sand is composed of fragmented bits of rock which are not cohesive or solid.*
- *Sand is made of the same material as rock. The rock is solid while the sand has no strength.*
- *Knowing God’s Word does not make us fruitful, stable or strong. Obeying His Word is what produces fruitfulness, stability, and strength.*
- *“and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house” – Another contrast with the house that was built upon the rock is that when the rain, floods, and winds beat upon the house a different Greek word is used for “beat.”*

- *The Greek word used in verse 27 describing the attack on the house built upon the sand is προσκόπτω proskoptō and it means, “to strike; to stumble against something,” so it can mean to accidentally trip over something.*
- *While the attack on the house built upon the rock is described in a powerful way, the attack on the house built upon the sand is described in a less intense way, with the possible implication that it was not such a concerted attack by the enemy, but was merely a random occurrence.*
- *People who build their spiritual house on the sand and found it by disregarding Christ’s commands will often bemoan every little problem as an earthshaking attack against them. In reality, many of their problems are nothing more than the circumstance of life that we all face daily.*
- *“...and it fell. And great was its fall” – The end result of building a spiritual life on a foundation of lack of obedience to God’s Word and a disregard toward the leading of the Holy Spirit will find life filled with disappointment and loss.*
- *A house is to be a place of refuge, providing safety against storms or enemies, and a place where our valuables are stored. The one who builds his house on the sand finds himself exposed to attacks, feeling insecure, and losing the things he considered precious.*

Matthew 7:28-29

²⁸And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

²⁹for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

- *The final verses of the Sermon on the Mount really sum up beautifully the difference between Jesus’ words and teachings and those of everyone else and every other religion, “The people were astonished at His teachings, for He taught them as one having authority.”*

Three things we must ask each person (from Barry Moore)

1. *Do you want to change? (Some do not want to change and if that is the case we need to stop there until they want to).*
2. *Do you want to obey Christ? (Some want to change but only their way or using human effort.)*
3. *Are you willing to follow Christ at any cost? (Are we willing to take up our cross and follow Him.)*

