Part 1-The Ministry of Business

By Ron McGatlin

Every adult believer is involved in the business/ministry of Kingdom Life.

Business is a primary foundational part of the kingdom of God.

The foundational principles of Babylonian-style business are opposite to the New Jerusalem kingdom of God business principles.

All productive enterprise in the world can be qualified as either business or ministry. Almost every mature adult is involved in business. Some may own businesses, others work at jobs in businesses, others do the business of managing a household or family and everyone manages the business of his own personal life.

In the kingdom of God, both ministry and business have exactly the same basic foundational purpose. What we each do with our lives involves business/ministry. Before we consider how kingdom business is to be done we must consider God's purpose for our involvement in business or ministry. In the kingdom, the primary purpose of business or ministry is to serve God by providing for the needs of mankind and the world around us.

Kingdom business or ministry is caring for God's people and managing the resources of His earth.

God's love is the primary motivational force of all kingdom business and ministry. Through love, people serve one another.

The love of God will cause us to lay down our lives for our brothers. We will **seek to provide** for our brothers' needs. Jesus' love coming forth in us will cause us to **serve one another**. We become humble servants and not proud rulers. We keep His commandments to love God and love one another.

Galatians 5:13-14: For you brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love - serve one another.** For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

In the kingdom both ministry and business exist for the primary purpose of meeting needs. The only distinction between ministry and business is the type of needs met.

Ministry generally seeks to meet spiritual needs of people. Business is focused mostly on meeting physical needs. However, there is much overlap and both may meet mental and emotional needs. **All areas of kingdom enterprise are important to God.**

The desire to serve stemming from love is the foundation of kingdom enterprise. We serve Jesus as we serve mankind by providing for peoples' needs. We are able to do a good job of providing because love has ordered our lives. Love brings unity and cooperation

that enables greater production. We are to do good to all people but especially to the people of God.

Gal 6:10: Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

The Sheep and Goats of Business/Ministry

In the parable of the sheep and the goats, the only factor considered by the Lord when dividing the sheep from the goats was whether an individual had provided for the needs of the brethren. Those, who had provided for the needs of the brethren, were told to "come inherit the kingdom" (Matthew 25:31-46).

No one can provide food for the hungry or clothes for the naked unless they first acquire food and clothing. We cannot supply what we do not have. Someone must grow, transport and process food; one must obtain fiber, process it into cloth, and then sew it into clothing. Or, one must, through production of some sort, obtain money to pay others for food and clothing. Obviously, the sheep in the above parable were involved in industry--the production and distribution of goods and services.

The kingdom principle Jesus is teaching here is greater than just giving away some of our surplus to the needy. The principle is that, because of the love of God, we desire to serve and because of the gifts and power of God working with us, our lives become productive. We become highly productive in business activities of manufacturing, farming, building, education, transportation, processing and a myriad of other enterprises providing for the needs of people.

What does my job, business/ministry do to meet the needs of mankind and the world around us?

This concept is hard for most people living in heavily populated areas to grasp. In the modern setting the importance of what our production does for others is sometimes lost because of a disconnect in seeing the end use of what we do and how needs are met by our labors.

For a moment, imagine life in a small, godly, frontier village that has no access to outside provisions. The people of the village would all know one another and care about the well being and the needs of each other. The different people would develop their God-given gifts into various skills to help supply the needs of the people of the village. Someone might be adept at growing certain needed food or animal feed items. Someone else might become good at raising and providing poultry products and others beef or pork products. Someone else might be a dairyman and provide milk products to their neighbors. Someone else may be good at cabin building and woodworking, and another at blacksmithing and so on. When a need in the village arises, someone will seek to meet that need for the people. Working together, they will provide for one another and will be happy to trade the produce of their skills and labor for the produce of others to meet their needs and the needs of the others in the village.

In this small village no one tries to get rich at the expense of others and no one seeks to hinder or harm another. Loving concern for one another causes industrious activity (business) producing goods and services to meet needs. The love of God brings order and

cooperation. Now, expand the view in your mind from the small village to nations and then the world and God's plan for business in the kingdom begins to come into view.

The more our love leads us to provide for the needs of mankind, the more we will reap. The law of sowing and reaping never fails. The more we provide, the more we will receive. Our needs will be provided for and we will have more to use to provide for the needs of the brethren and the world.

As we grow in the business of producing and providing for the brethren, more people are required to help with the enterprise. This means productive employment for more people. Jobs are created and people join together to work in the enterprise of providing for peoples' needs. All this comes from the root of love that causes a desire to provide for the needs of people and the planet.

The sheep that serve by meeting the needs of the brethren **inherit the kingdom of God** quality of life (true prosperity). The goats that do not serve by meeting the needs of the brethren have only continuous lack (real poverty).

The thing that divides the sheep from the goats is the love and life of Christ Jesus in the sheep.

The sheep inherited the kingdom of God because they produced. They became productive kingdom servants/rulers as they met the needs of the brethren. Love motivated them to cooperate with and serve the brethren. The goats were motivated by unlove to use what they had only for themselves. The goats do not enter the kingdom. They are separated from God's heavenly blessings in this life.

Life is the presence of God and serving His purposes. The kingdom of God lifestyle is abundant life, eternal life, now and forever. **Death is separation from God and His purposes.**

The end of Babylonian business/ministry is death (separation from God and His purposes).

The Babylonian system has perverted the purpose of business in the minds of most people, including Christians. The perverted purpose of business has also infested ministry. Love is not involved in business in the Babylonian-patterned world. Unlove is assumed in all business transactions in the Babylonian world system. Need and greed are the primary motivational forces behind business and work.

The primary purposes of business in Babylon, is to control in order to meet personal needs and gain personal wealth. People, in the Babylonian system, work at a job or business to get money. They normally give little or no thought to what the job they are working at does to serve God by meeting the needs of mankind and the world. Generally, work is a tiresome dread for them because they are doing something that they don't want to do but must do to get their paycheck. They have become as harlots--selling themselves to provide for their needs and wants. For the most part, this is considered normal in Babylonian-style business.

Christians caught in this system may believe it is God's design for them to work at their jobs to get money and that church and church-related things represent their only opportunities

to serve God. They also may believe that paying a tithe, plus some offerings, from the produce of their labors satisfies God and makes it all acceptable. Being a good slave and obeying your master is commendable and about the best that can be done in Babylonian captivity. Even in captivity, being a good servant can lead to ruling. God can bless those who remain faithful to Him even in captivity. However, we all need to know that **in the kingdom work and business are vital parts of serving God.**

God is not leaving His people captive in Babylon. God is delivering us into His marvelous, heavenly kingdom of light and love. We are learning the ways of New Jerusalem in every facet of our lives, including our families and businesses.

The greater principles of kingdom life and business found in the Bible are becoming more ingrained in the hearts of God's people as we continue to move toward the kingdom of God life on earth.

Keep on Pursuing Love It Will Never Fail,

Part 2 – Managing Kingdom Wealth

Money and wealth are viewed and managed in a very different manner in the heavenly kingdom lifestyle than in Babylon.

In Babylon, money was diligently sought after to meet needs and then to fulfill desires for more material things and social status. Whether through working at a job or owning a business, the people sought to accumulate money and the things it would buy. **Seeking money or seeking to meet our own needs was never God's perfect design.**

Jesus brought forth much teaching on kingdom order because it had been lost through the ages of Babylonian-style rule. Seeking to meet our own needs and to get more stuff created a greater stress on people that God ever intended for mankind to experience. In seeking money we become the servant of money. Jesus clearly spoke God's instruction as He explained the kingdom way. In God's order, we seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness and things are added to us.

Mat 6:24,32-33: No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

The concept of seeking the kingdom and God's righteousness has been very misunderstood and misapplied by most Christians. Seeking the kingdom first has been viewed largely as doing religious church-type things, which were considered holy. "Secular" type things, such as work and business were considered unholy. In the Babylonian system a false distinction has been made between holy and secular.

Secular is not the opposite of holy. Profane is the opposite of holy. Both business and church things can be holy or they can both be profane.

The kingdom of God includes all of life and all is to be holy (set apart to God). Seeking the kingdom means seeking God's rule for all of life. And seeking His righteousness means seeking His purposes and order in all things. Righteousness is His right way of being and doing. It is being in perfect alignment with His instruction and desire. If we seek first the kingdom and righteousness, then "all these things" will be added because we will become productive and useful servants in meeting the needs of mankind and the world around us. This is not a magic or supernatural thing. It is a basic reality of natural kingdom life. Our treasure really is where our heart is.

There is contentment and excitement in serving God with our whole lives and doing things His way. Whatever our service or work happens to be, it is rewarding and easy to do with our whole hearts. Not at all like the burdensome, worrisome striving of seeking money. What we chased after and could never have enough of comes to us when we stop seeking it and start seeking the real kingdom of God and His righteous way of doing and being.

We know the Lord is our source and strength. Love motivates us to serve more, but it also causes us to be content with what we have. **Our contentment does not rest in what we have, but in Who we have.**

Philippians 4:11: Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.

Hebrews 13:5: Let your conduct be without covetousness, and **be content with such** things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Covetousness and self-seeking is the desire for and reaching for more than I already have. Materialism is one of the most common idols in the Babylonian system. It is important to understand that wealth and material things are not inherently evil. Money is not the root of evil. The love of money is the root of evil. Having wealth is not evil. Receiving profit is not evil. However, it is wrong to seek wealth or money rather than seeking the kingdom of God and trusting Him to meet our needs.

Matthew 6:33: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be **added** to you."

1 Timothy 6:5-8: ...useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

Godliness + Contentment = Great Gain.

Godliness (God-seeking, God-serving) is righteous obedience to God, which aligns us with His universal laws and purposes. **Contentment** is not desiring more than I already have.

Those who seek after money can never keep or enjoy wealth.

1 Timothy 6:9-11: But those **who desire to be rich** fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the **love of money** is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

James 5:1-3: Come now, you **rich**, weep and howl for your **miseries** that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are **moth-eaten**. Your gold and silver are **corroded**, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.

Who are the rich people that these miseries are coming upon?

"Rich" is a relative term. A brother in one of the developing nations would consider many of you reading this rich. If you ask a man with one million dollars, "Are you rich?" He would probably say, "No, I'm not rich at all," and would point toward the man with more and say,

"He's rich." A rich person is one who owns any amount of wealth that is not given over to God's control for His use.

Garments that are being worn do not become moth-eaten; gold and silver coins that are being used do not corrode. Riches that are being used to meet the needs of mankind will not destroy the one who possesses them. If our lives are wholly given over to God's control, all of our possessions will be His and will be used in His kingdom. In a very real sense, no matter how much God has placed in our possession, we have no riches. **They all belong one hundred percent to God.**

We do not seek wealth. We become wealthy while seeking to serve. We do not hold back any part for ourselves. However, because of our obedience, He will give us a portion as our own to enjoy. He will give us the power to eat of it and to rejoice. We must seek His direction for His goods at all times. We must not take it upon ourselves to keep some of His wealth for ourselves.

Luke 18:24b: "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God."

Ecclesiastes 5:10,13: He who loves silver **will not be satisfied** with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity. There is a severe evil which I have seen under the sun: **Riches kept for their owner to his hurt.**

Only the God-seeking, God-serving person can enjoy wealth.

Proverbs 10:22: The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.

Ecclesiastes 5:19: As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor- this is the gift of God.

1 Timothy 6:17: Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to **enjoy**.

God desires for His people to possess and manage His earth with all its abundance for Him.

We must be managers of God's goods and not owners.

God gives a portion of His creation into our hands to manage for Him. We grow in wealth as we do a good job of managing what He has given us to manage. God adds more to us as we become faithful and wise managers of the portion He has placed in our hands. If we do not manage it well, it will be removed from us and given to one who will manage it in accordance with God's heavenly kingdom wisdom and instruction.

Luke 19:12-13,16-20,22a, 24-26: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'

"Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.' And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a **very little**, have **authority over ten cities**.' And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.' Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'

"And another came, saying 'Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief.' And the master said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant.' And he said to those who stood by 'Take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas'. But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas.'

"For I say to you, that to everyone who has more will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

Matthew 25: 14-I 5, 19-21, 24a, 25-26a, 28, 30: "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own **servants** and delivered **his goods** to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

"After a **long time** the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

"Then he who had received the one talent came and said, '...and I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant...' Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. ...And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

We are given the Master's money to do business with until He calls for it. If we manage His money in alignment with kingdom principles, we will have a good report at our accounting time. The most profitable way to do business is according to God's instruction and in accordance with His kingdom principles.

There are many principles to be considered and there are always balancing principles in God's kingdom. We must seek God's direction by the Holy Spirit. **Principles are like "road signs" to assist our hearing and provide valuable understanding. But we must hear God's direction.**

One of the major principles is to use money to do good. If we put money to work creating activity (commerce, industry, etc.), which will put people to work meeting each other's needs, then we are headed in the direction of kingdom prosperity. We will do more long-term good by this type of investing, than we would have done by giving away all the money to meet an immediate need.

What we do with the money we have is more important than how much money we receive. How we use what we have today determines what we will have tomorrow. Many of us have not understood that God gave us money to use to do business. We erroneously thought it was all for us to use for our own desires and needs. We have thrown away our financial future by increasing our lifestyle just because we had more money. We have used money to make us feel better. Babylon's business pattern is to "get all you can, and can all you get".

Do not serve money, but serve God with money. Do not hide it or consume it. Do not give it away if God has not said to. **Use it to do kingdom business that meets needs.**

Seek God's direction and further understanding of His principles about how and where to do business.

If we diligently use all God has given us to serve Him by doing business, we will be given more. It will be added to us. All that we possess should be available to be used to meet the needs of mankind, and especially those of the household of faith.

Man has three basic areas of need: those that relate to his spirit, those that relate to his soul (mind, will, and emotions), and those that relate to his body. Anything that God leads us to do with the resources He has given us to meet needs in any of these three areas is **doing business**. Whether it is preaching the Word, growing potatoes, or teaching physics, if it meets the needs of the brethren, it is doing business in the kingdom of God.

Ask God, How does what I do meet the needs of mankind? And what can I do better to add more value to mankind?

Start with what you have. A warm smile and an encouraging word can meet a need in a person's soul. A prayer and a thought from the Word can meet needs of the spirit of a person. Doing that **extra** amount on the job with a good attitude can meet someone's needs. Cooperating with the boss and speaking a good word about him can meet more needs than complaining and giving a bad report. Consider what you have, what is in your hand, what gifts and talents you have. Then, ask God how they may be used to meet the needs of others.

Would investing that extra \$25 in someone's kingdom business or ministry help meet their need for capital so they could meet more needs? Could contributing your talents and abilities to help a ministry or kingdom business meet needs? Could improving your own skills enable you to meet more needs?

In <u>Babylon</u>, people go to school to get more education so that they can get more money, so that they can have more power and more things they want. **In the kingdom**, **we sharpen our tools by getting more education and training so that we can meet more and greater needs of others.** The more skilled we are, the more we can do. The more we do, the more we will be blessed in return. The more we are blessed, the more we have to use. Love causes us to make the best we can of ourselves and of what we have.

Two dimensions of meeting needs

There is more than one dimension in meeting needs. There is both **quantity** and **quality**. You can meet a little need for a lot of people, or you can meet a great need for a few people. Manufacturing chewing gum can put a good taste in millions of people's mouths; doing brain surgery can greatly impact a few people. The total amount of value added to mankind could be the same in either case. **So, if you can't do something big, do a whole lot of the little things that you can do, while at the same seeking to improve your skills so that you can do more.**

Loving-kindness In Kingdom Business

Loving-kindness in kingdom business replaces pretended affection and pandering in Babylonian business operation. In **Babylon**, most customers expect to receive an offer of help or service by a businessperson. Underlying their question, "Can I help you?" is their

real thought of, "Can I get some of your money?" Customers do not expect a businessperson to really care about them beyond what they can get from them. Once people learn that in the **kingdom**, the businessperson really cares about them, and not just about their money, they develop a whole new attitude. If they know that you really care, they will trust you with their business. Whether we are supplying a spiritual need or a physical need, love will cause us to really care about others' needs and well being. Loving-kindness cannot be faked in the kingdom of God. A phony will be spotted.

Love cares about fellow workers, including the boss. Love causes employees to feel a great sense of security and loyalty because they care about one another and know the boss cares about them and has their interest in mind. Love cares about the quality of product or service being provided. Love is the key to increased productivity, quality and efficiency.

The essence of God's love permeates every aspect of kingdom-life. The thirteenth chapter of 1st Corinthians draws a picture of what love is. It teaches that, no matter how great our gifts or works are, they are meaningless without love. Love makes it happen and keeps it in order in the kingdom.

Love is the greatest mystery in the world. There is no other force or power in the world as great as love. Love will cause us to give up our very lives. Only after love motivates us to die to our self-focused life, can we know resurrection life. Just as Jesus gave up His life for others and was resurrected to a far greater life, we will experience a far greater life now on earth as love motivates us to selflessly serve. The Babylonian-style world cannot comprehend the value of the love of God. It is a mystery to the people of Babylon.

Keep on Pursuing Love It Will Never Fail,

Part 3 - The Business of Kingdom Building

All business in the kingdom of God has some part in bringing forth and sustaining the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Can I really be transformed into a pure and holy kingdom builder? Can I really be a part of bringing forth the kingdom of God to actually change the world?

The second greatest mystery of the kingdom is only overshadowed by the first greatest mystery, which is LOVE. The first greatest mystery is the source of the power that causes the kingdom to exist, to be ordered, and to be held together. The second greatest mystery is the means by which the kingdom from heaven is implemented to function and grow into the earth.

If we receive the revelation of this second greatest mystery, we will have the ability to bring forth the fruit (production) of the kingdom of God in our lives and into the world. All things will be possible. We are about to uncover the practical, spiritual kingdom principle that is the spiritual mechanism to bring forth the will and plan of God into our lives and into the world. This principle involves man's part in the business of establishing and maintaining the kingdom of God from heaven on earth.

For a number of years, I lived a "back to nature" type of lifestyle. I lived in a log cabin, grew vegetables and fruits, and raised chickens, cattle, and hogs for food. I would go out to the garden and gather sweet corn, onions, tomatoes, green beans and dig some potatoes and gather other tasty vegetables. Earlier in the spring I had planted the seeds for these vegetables in the soil of my garden. Before planting the seed, I spread manure on the soil and tilled it. I planted the different kinds of seeds where I wanted them to grow.

I chose the seeds and planted them, but <u>I</u> did not grow them. The <u>soil</u> grew them. (Here is the mystery.) I cannot explain how the seed became a growing, producing plant; nor can I explain how the soil grew them. But, I could go into the garden at harvest time and gather the fruit.

Jesus said the kingdom of God is like my garden. He said the heart of man is the soil that can "grow" the kingdom of God seed.

From the parable of the sower, we see the heart-soils that could not grow the kingdom seed to fruition--the hard-pressed wayside soil of the wounded and hardened heart, the stony soil of our fixed preconceived convictions, and the thorny soil of caring for the things of this life.

Hopefully, we have each dealt with these conditions in our own lives. Now, we must receive the greater hidden light--the revelation of the production of the kingdom of God now on earth through the good heart-soil. This is a very important principle and is the intended focus of this key parable. Understanding this parable is fundamental to fruitful kingdom business production and multiplication.

"But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear let him hear!" ~ Jesus.

"But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word (of the kingdom) and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." ~ Jesus

We must have an ear to hear. Not everyone will hear the great mystery hidden in these parables. Only the good soil, the emptied, healed, purified, humble heart will clearly hear it.

Many great men of God from the past have sought to know and hear these mysteries and could not. The time is now for those who are pure in heart to hear. If there are yet needs and impurities remaining in our hearts, the great impact of this revelation will not appear to us. If, however, our once-hardened heart-soil is healed, freed from rocks and thorn bushes, we may hear and continue to hold onto the powerful understanding of the production of the kingdom of heaven on earth. Nothing will be impossible to us.

And He said to them, "**Take heed what you hear.** With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

Jesus is the Word of God and the Truth. He is the Seed of God, sown in our heartsoil, producing the life of Christ Jesus in us, ruling and reigning with us now. The authority to do kingdom business is Christ Jesus in us by the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 1:22-23: Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in the sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.

Jesus Christ is the Word of God, the express image of the Father sent out from God. He was the original source of creation. It was through Jesus that all creation was made and by Him all creation continues to exist. Jesus, Who is in His saints, has authority over all creation.

John 1:1-4,10: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made by Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made**. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. He was in the world, and the world was made **through Him**, and the world did not know Him.

Colossians 1:16-17: For by Him (Jesus) all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Jesus became the seed, the Word from God, sown into the hearts of men and is reproducing His life in the lives of His people through the Holy Spirit. Jesus, living in us now, will produce the plan and rule of God on earth. Jesus in us has all authority over creation. Jesus, planted in the soil of the heart of man, can grow into the abundant, fulfilling, powerful, and peaceful kingdom of God life. Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, can enrich our heart-soil with the supernatural, spiritual nutrition of the powers of creation.

The heart soil of man under Jesus' control is the creation center for God on Earth. God can bring forth anything He desires on Planet Earth through the Jesus-filled

child of God. He need only plant the seed of His desire into the yielded, cleansed, and prepared heart of a man or woman, and the natural growth processes will of themselves grow His plan into the earth.

A seed is a living pattern that grows. Only in recent decades have scientists begun to learn about genetics. It is known that every living organism has something called DNA or genetic coding, an extremely complex series of chemical coding that completely describes and determines the organism. Millions of different genes in different arrangements determine what the organism is, what it will look like, the coloring, potential size, intelligence-level potential, and every characteristic for each individual. A complete living pecan tree is within each pecan. Somehow in the meat of the pecan, which we may choose to crack and eat, is the whole living pecan tree with all its characteristics coded genetically within the seed.

As it is in the natural, so it is in the spiritual. A word from God is a spiritually, genetically coded seed. It is living and completely defined within the seed or word. As the life within a natural seed is dormant until the seed is planted in the soil, so also a word from God to us is dormant until planted in the soil of our heart. A word from God is a seed (a living pattern that grows). God furnishes the seed; that's His part. Man's part is to plant the seed in good soil. The seed is a word. A word is a vision, picture, thought or an idea for changing creation to conform to God's desire. A seed is a living design from God for changing the earth and things on the earth.

God speaks (sows) His word into the heart of man through the receiver in man's heart (the ear to hear). Thus, a word (seed) from the spiritual realm is received into the physical or natural realm. If believed (received and planted) into the heart-soil of man, it can sprout and grow into the physical realm.

THE EARTH EGG

In addition to growing a garden, I also raised chickens. I would gather eggs and select some to put in the incubator. The others were taken to the house and put in the refrigerator to be eaten. When I cracked the eggs to put them in a cake or perhaps to scramble some for breakfast, a shapeless glob of clear matter with a round yellow part in the center would fall out. The glob had no form and, apparently, no life in it. If, however, that same egg had received a seed from a male chicken and had been placed in my incubator or brooded over by the female chicken, it would have taken on form and identity and become a living, breathing, baby chick, with all kinds of intricate systems for life. It would have eyes to see, a little beak to peck with, dainty feet to walk with, tiny toe nails to scratch with, and even a built in peep-peep.

The chick will grow to be like his father who supplied the seed and his mother who supplied the egg. (Male and female he created them). The egg is a mass of raw material waiting for a seed to define it. If the seed came from a large, black rooster, the genetic coding would probably cause the egg to turn into a little, black chick, which would grow into a large black chicken. If the rooster had been a small, red one, the chick would probably become a small, red chicken. The earth and all it contains are like the egg. Without a defining word from God, it is a formless glob. When God speaks a word, a multitude of spiritual, genetic coding is released to bring form and order to the glob of creation. The male part of creation is God's part (the genetically-coded, spiritual seed); the female (wife) part is our part (the good soil).

The earth was without form and void. It was like an egg. The raw material was there; but it had no specific shape or form and no identification. An egg is just a mass of runny, white stuff and a glob of yellow matter. You may have had one this morning for breakfast splattered out and then fried or scrambled. The earth, like an egg, was brooded over by the Holy Spirit then **GOD SAID**. The word of God (the seed) came, and the earth took on form and intricate systems of life. Multitudes of spiritual, genetic coding came forth as God spoke forth creation.

Are you hearing the mystery yet?

What is planted in the hearts of people is what will come forth in their lives and the world. This is what determines what our lives become and what our businesses will produce. This is why one person may be able to overcome extreme obstacles and achieve great and noble accomplishments and production. While another man with equal or greater potential cannot seem to accomplish anything of significance in the kingdom. Regardless of how hard he tries, he is unable to overcome and unable to be powerfully used in the kingdom of God.

The answer is not more intelligence, better education, better breaks, noble birth, mere chance, harder work, devious scheming, fate, or any other natural circumstance. Who we are by birth, where we came from, and what breaks we get are not the primary factors that will determine our production in the kingdom. The answer will be found in the revelation of the mystery of the natural growth of a thought (idea, word) in the heart. It is what we hear. What we really listen to and believe will shape our life and affect the world around us. The thoughts (words) that we receive and allow to remain in our hearts will create who we are and what we do, which will determine our ability to overcome and fulfill our God-given destiny in life.

We do not have to know how it works. We do not have to know how it will be done. But, we must listen to, hear and believe what God is saying. Then the goal He has for our life will grow into being. "...for it is God Who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

Who can know how a glob of clear matter in an egg can become a living, breathing being with instincts, intelligence, and personality that can hear, feel, smell, taste, and see? Consider all the tiny organs, nerves, blood vessels, etc., that must be perfectly formed to sustain life. By some miraculous process, the DNA of the seed defines all these things and in only 21 days of brooding, the transformation is complete. How does the tiny heart begin pumping? What turns it on or starts it up?

If you will tell me exactly how all of this happens, I will tell you how a word planted in the heart of man can transform the things of earth.

When we speak of a word, obviously we are not just talking about letters arranged together on a page. A word is a thought, an idea, a vision, or picture. A vision or dream may contain a series of pictures with many thoughts and feelings. When God spoke all growing and living things into being, He had to express an immeasurable amount of minute details. Everything was defined in what He said--the spiritual DNA or genetic coding emanating from Him.

A word, thought, idea, or vision is a seed. It has the power to define life and grow into the natural world. A word is alive and potentially very powerful if received into the heart. The seed must be planted in the soil or in the egg. The Bible calls this process of receiving and planting "faith".

After God completed the work of creation and placed all the universal laws that govern it in place, He created man in His image and gave man dominion on earth. Man has the supernatural creative potential to grow whatever seed is planted in his heart-soil into being in the world.

Every work or accomplishment of man begins with a thought, an idea. Every great building in our vast cities of today began with a thought. Every great ministry, business, or any other work of man was, at one time, a seed or word. Without a doubt, every invention, scientific discovery, or work of art began as a thought, an idea - a word.

When the seed (vision/word/thought) that is planted is from God, the result will be God's plan growing into the world and the kingdom of God being established in the world. If the seed is from another source, another kingdom will grow into the world.

Jesus, the greatest miracle worker, once said, "The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do." Where and how did He see the Father doing things? The Father is Spirit. Jesus was in a natural body. He saw by the Spirit within Him. He heard and saw words, visions, and ideas from the Father by the Spirit.

The second greatest mystery/principle is receiving the seed from God and growing it into our lives and then into the world through the creative power of Christ in us.

The second greatest kingdom business/ministry mystery principle is **FAITH**.

Keep on Pursuing Love It Will Never Fail,

Part 4 - Kingdom Business Natural/Heavenly Growth

In the kingdom we cannot build a life, a business or a ministry. We cannot build the kingdom of God. Everything of the kingdom of God must grow from a seed from God through a heavenly natural growth process. We must receive good seed in good soil and let the earth grow it. Indeed, this is a great mystery.

We will become what we hear and believe (receive) in our hearts. "As you believe, so be it unto you." "Your faith has made you well." "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." "With God all things are possible." "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he."

Natural things are often pictures that can be used to show us spiritual things. Consider the natural growth process of a stalk of wheat that begins with a dormant seed. The seed placed in good soil sprouts and soon grows roots below ground and a small green blade breaks through above ground. The green blade grows and becomes a stalk. Then, a head begins to form on top. Next, the grain begins to grow in the head. The mature seeds in the head are seeds like the one that was planted. The seeds left alone will dry and eventually fall upon the ground and begin the process over again except there are a multiplied number of seeds.

A **seed** (word, thought, vision) planted in our heart-soil becomes a **belief** as it sprouts. The belief becomes a **conviction** as it grows a blade. A conviction becomes our **attitude** as it grows a head. Our attitudes become our **actions** as the full grain in the head becomes seeds (words & actions) sown from our lives into the world to sprout and grow into the natural world.

This is the supernatural natural process of bringing the desires and plans of God from heaven into the natural world. By this process, spiritual seed/word/vision from heaven becomes natural reality in the world. Through this growth process the world can be changed to become as it is in heaven.

Mark 4:26-32: And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

And He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air can nest under its shade."

1 Corinthians 3:6: I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

Psalm 127:1-2: Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so He gives His beloved sleep.

The heart of man is God's spiritual/natural interface. Spirit God and physical earth meet in the heart of man. Two realms meet heaven and earth connect in the heart of man.

The pure heart of man is like a fruitful garden. It receives spiritual seed from God and grows it into the natural world. (The earth yields crops by itself.)

The soil must be moistened and protected by the life giving brooding of the Holy Spirit.

The pure heart of man is God's production center on earth that fills the world with God's plan and rule. Only the pure heart of man is the wife of God capable of intimately relating to Him, receiving seed from Him and giving birth to God's plan and rule into the earth. If we love God and intimately relate to Him, we will receive His seed and become pregnant with God's plan. If, however, we love another god, its seeds will be planted in us.

THE FIRST AND SUPREME SEED OF THE KINGDOM IS CHIRST JESUS

The kingdom of God is Christ Jesus. The Seed of God was sown into the world when Christ became a man to redeem and restore the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. All who receive Christ Jesus are seeded with the King and the kingdom of God. The King and the kingdom of heaven is planted in the heart soil of God's people by the Holy Spirit. The presence and power of God in Christ Jesus are in the world through us to release the kingdom of heaven on earth. The seed of the Son of God in us planted by our lives into others produces many sons of God on earth.

Things in the world are changed through the process of the seed and natural growth. We cannot change our character and actions by trying hard. Trying to stop doing something we want to do, or trying to start doing something we do not want to do will not make permanent changes. We must change what we hear, what we think and what we believe. We must receive new seed, the seed of Christ that will grow and change who we are and what we want to do.

Every word from God within us is a seed that can grow into the natural world. Man shall live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Christ Jesus is the Word from God. Every vision, thought, feeling or communication in any form from God is through Christ Jesus by the Holy Spirit of God. Christ in us is the hope of glory.

Luke 8:15: But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience (endurance).

In practical kingdom business growth there is a process involved in the word from heaven becoming manifest into the natural world.

Patience is required to reap a harvest. There is a space of time between the planting and the production. Our part is to patiently wait for the harvest and to care for the soil and the growing seedling or plant. There is nothing we can do to make the seed have life. God puts the life into the seed, and He causes it to sprout and grow. We can and must, however, provide the proper atmosphere, nutrients and care for the seed to grow to fruition.

This means holding on to the idea or vision even when we cannot see anything with our natural eye that indicates the idea is growing. The larger the idea or vision

the longer the gestation period. A large work like a large animal or plant takes a much longer time. A chicken is birthed in only three weeks and is fully-grown in about twelve weeks. A human baby is birthed in nine months and takes about twenty years to be reach maturity. You can grow a radish in the garden in a few weeks; an oak tree will take many years.

The vision may be lost if we abandon it. Many worthy works planted by God in the hearts of men have failed to come to fruition because they were prematurely abandoned. If a brood hen sitting on eggs leaves the nest even one day too soon, all the chicks in the eggs will be lost.

The seed planted in the soil dies and is reborn a living plant. This eliminates any potential of human effort adulterating the pure supernatural natural growth process. The temptation is to abandon God's plan during the time of the death and rebirth transformation.

John 12:24: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

Just as a natural gardener works to care for the soil keeping it loosened so that it does not become too hard for the seed to grow, we must keep our heart-soil tender by forgiving and receiving healing for all offenses that can press down and harden our heart. The soil must be kept moist and the temperature in the proper range by the presence of the Holy Spirit. We must keep the weeds of useless words (bad seeds) out of our soil. Useless, negative words or thoughts will grow weeds that rob nutrients from the good seed and prevent them from growing properly.

We must not only allow time for growth, we must also allow space. Seeds that are going to produce a large plant will require more space in the soil of our heart. Planting too many seeds in too small a space will cause them to grow improperly and bear little or no fruit. After the plants are up and growing, it may be necessary to remove some of them in order that there will be adequate space for growth. With some plants, it will be necessary to prune or trim the limbs to provide space on the plant for good fruit to grow.

Keeping the weeds out means taking every thought captive. We must remove the thoughts that would hinder the growth of the growing vision. Negative thoughts of doubt, worry, and fear will choke the vision. The enemy of the vision will always attempt to plant the seed that "you cannot do it", or "you are just not capable enough to do whatever God has said." He is exactly right. We cannot do it. We are not supposed to be able to do it. God does it! We must hear, believe, and obey what God tells us to do next. The earth brings forth the crop by itself.

Thinning the plants means that we may need to lay down some really good ideas in order to concentrate on the more important vision. Our heart-soil just is not big enough and enriched enough to bring forth all the good ideas in the world at one time. If there are too many ideas or visions in one heart, none of them will grow well.

Trimming and pruning branches means cutting off excessive or wild growth of the vision. Too many branches on a fruit tree may cause the fruit to be small and may cause disease because sunlight cannot enter. Branches that are too long or improperly shaped may break when the fruit nears maturity. We may need to limit parts of the idea or vision as it grows.

We are the manager of our garden. What we choose to hear and believe, what and how we think, are the seeds that will produce our life and affect change in the world. Setting our minds on things above and meditating the things of Christ produces the life of Christ and heaven. Bad thinking always produces bad life. God thinking always produces quality life. The difference between the man who tries hard but always accomplishes little in the kingdom and the man who is of much valuable service is what each hears and believes. In other words, how they manage their gardens.

All the seemingly unrelated negative events that consistently happen to the unproductive man are the product of bad seeds growing to fruition. All the seemingly unrelated doors of opportunity and blessings that consistently come to the productive man are the results of good seeds. **Nothing happens until somebody believes something.**

Remember "the earth yields crops by itself." We cannot make growth, but we must care for the soil, thin and trim the plants, protect the seedling from a hostile environment and predators, pull the weeds, shoo off the birds, and above all, keep the soil moist with the presence of the Holy Spirit through prayer. Communing with God in prayer and meditating the word (thought, vision, seed) in the Holy Spirit is the process by which the natural growth and eventual harvest will come.

Prayer and meditation is speaking to and hearing God. Speaking to and hearing God does not only involve audible words. Communing with God also involves speaking and hearing by pictures and feelings. It is seeing and feeling what God is saying as well as praying visions and feelings to Him.

Prayer and meditation is experiencing in the spiritual realm what God desires to bring into the natural realm.

To intimately commune with God, one must come to a place of inner quiet where the thoughts and distractions of the world can be silenced. Close your eyes, quiet your soul, and seek to enter into the presence of the Father. Ask God what He wants to do with your life today and wait quietly before Him. When you have a clear word, a vision from God, meditate it in your spiritual mind. Look at it. Understand it. Get to know it. See it happening. Feel how it feels. Then pray the vision back to God. With the vision in your spirit, go to Him and ask Him to give you the vision He has shown you. Daily continue praying this way. You will find that the vision will change some. It will become more detailed with a little more of this and a little less of that as God continues to clarify the vision in you.

You are now pregnant with the word from God. The vision is now alive within you. Allow yourself to become excited as you feel the first movements of the living vision within you. Original creation is beginning to be reshaped as the vision in the spiritual realm begins to impact the physical realm. All over the world things may begin to move or adjust in order to set the stage to bring about the vision that God has placed in your heart as a seed.

Next, begin to speak the vision out loud into the earth. Share it with those who can hear. Let your passion for the vision come forth as you speak it to others as God directs. You may need to begin writing it down or sketching it out on paper. Don't be alarmed if the vision is a thousand times greater than you think possible. Remember it is God's baby; He will bring it to birth.

Be faithful to pray the vision and be ready to take whatever next step the Lord shows you. Wait and watch for the opportunities and circumstances that in time will appear before you to birth the vision.

Keep on pursuing Love. Love never fails and His kingdom never ends.

Part 5 - Kingdom Business and God's Universal Laws

Alignment with God's Universal Laws causes a peaceful flow of successful life as we flow with the order and empowerment of God.

- God has established unchanging laws that govern all of His creation.
- The Effects of these laws are predictable, do not vary, and are the same for everyone.
- Only God, Who made the Laws, can change or overrule them.

Misalignment with God's Universal Laws causes a stressful, difficult struggle as one attempts to succeed while hindered by much disorder and destruction apart from the flow of God.

Moving in the same direction as the flow of God's universal design produces good life. Moving across or against the lines of God's flow brings great disorder as strong forces of God's universal laws attempt to realign us with the direction of His flow of life.

All productive or successful kingdom business must function in alignment and in harmony with God's design of universal laws that govern all creation.

Intelligent men study the effects of the universal laws and refer to them as laws of **science** or **nature**. Laws less understood by man may be referred to as mysteries or **mystery** laws.

Secular education is the study of the effects of the universal laws. These studies are called physics, biology, botany, chemistry, psychology, etc. Men combine and arrange this knowledge into logical systems of study to accomplish specific goals or works. These systems of study may be called business administration, engineering, agriculture, medicine, electronics, etc.

Our every endeavor must be aligned with and in accord with these spiritual/natural laws of creation or it will result in failure. Being aligned with universal laws and in accord with God's plan assures godly production in all areas of our kingdom business experience.

The effects of universal laws are obvious; but, the laws, themselves, are spirit and cannot be seen. They originate in God, Who is Spirit, and emanate from Him as spiritual energy and design. In John 3:8, Jesus compares spiritual things to wind. You can hear and see its effects, but you cannot see the wind or tell where it comes from or where it goes.

All true science researched to its deepest origin disappears into the spiritual and can be investigated no further by natural means. It becomes a mystery and can be understood only by spiritual revelation from God. Things that appear supernatural may be very natural according to the mystery or spiritual laws.

Universal laws were spoken forth by and continue to emanate from the Spirit, Almighty God. All creation came into being and continues to exist by the intelligent design and released power of the one Spirit, triune God.

(Hebrews 11:3, Colossians 1:16-19, Hebrews 1:2-3)

Christ Jesus is the Head of all kingdom business.

God, unlike natural man, has perfect understanding of all His universal laws. In Christ we have the potential to hear and obey the Spirit of God. Walking in the Spirit can produce a life fully in alignment with the universal laws.

Biblical and direct spiritual instructions from God are not for the purpose of limiting His children's enjoyment or to prevent us from gaining wealth. On the contrary, His rules are keys for our real success in life. **God's instructions will bring us into alignment with the universal laws and enable us to be productive in life.** A life of obedience to God is a very exciting and prosperous adventure and is characterized by inner peace, real joy, and the fruits of righteousness.

Joshua 1:7: "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to **do according to all the law** which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, **that you may prosper** wherever you go."

By the gifts and leadership of the Holy Spirit, we can receive the revelation of Christ Jesus and His kingdom principles, which will align us with universal laws and produce supernatural/natural success in our lives.

Ephesians 1:17-19:that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the workings of His mighty power.

Receiving Jesus' revelation of the kingdom of God can bring us practical keys of spiritual wisdom. These keys and principles can help us determine every situation in such a way that it will bring us into alignment with universal law that leads to an abundant, victorious, overcoming life. Few men, if any, have fully tapped into the revelation of kingdom living. However, all who have come close discover that all things are becoming possible to them and that victory is their normal way of life. They also become aware that they are misunderstood and misjudged by those who are not yet hearing and applying kingdom wisdom.

Universal Reciprocity

We are to lay up treasures in heaven, not on earth. But where does Scripture say that we must die and go to heaven before we can access them?

We are being used of God in the business of ruling and reigning on earth with Him. We are God's earthly managers bringing forth His will on earth as it is in heaven. God's universal laws govern the working arrangement between God and His earthly managers. As good

managers of God's assets we are instructed to lay up treasures in heaven by faithfully and obediently managing our lives and all He has put into our hands. We are clearly instructed not to gather treasures on earth for ourselves.

Matthew 6:19-20: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal."

We can think of our laying up treasure in heaven as making deposits into the "bank of heaven."

Meeting needs of mankind and the world around us makes a deposit in our account in the universal bank in heaven.

We are God's possession and all that is in our hands belongs to Him. Our personal accounts in heaven are His riches reserved for us. When we have need, God supplies all our need according to His riches in glory.

Philippians 4:17: Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the **fruit that abounds to your account**.

Matthew 19:21: Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have **treasure in heaven**; and come, follow Me."

1 Peter 1:4: ...to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

Phil 4:19: And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

One universal law is sowing and reaping.

In recent history, this major kingdom principle has been seriously misrepresented by religious institutions to help them garner larger offerings from their followers. The law of sowing and reaping is a universal law that is much bigger than giving offerings to receive a return.

In the realm of physics, this law may be expressed as the law of cause and effect. Isaac Newton said, "For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction." In the realm of finance, one might refer to it as the law of investment and return. A bible teacher might express it as giving and receiving. The farmer would speak of planting and harvesting. In any case, the law always involves a costly sowing process. We must take what we have and plant it. We may desire to consume it, but we know there will be no harvest if we do not plant.

Psalm 126:5-6: Those who **sow in tears shall reap in joy.** He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Galatians 6:7-10: Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.** For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who

sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

We will reap what we sow, if we do not lose heart. We must patiently wait and remain until harvest time. All sowing requires a period of natural growth before harvest. If we, for any reason, lose heart and leave or quit before the harvest time, we will miss the harvest. It may be wasted or another may gather the harvest we planted. Man does not decide when it is harvest time; the crop does. We must be available and ready to put in the sickle immediately when the harvest time comes.

No one can reap until someone has sown. To look for a harvest without sowing means that we are looking to receive from what someone else has sown. This is like borrowing and must be paid back. The account books will be balanced. To continue to borrow (seeking to reap without sowing) will put us further and further in debt and into the bondage of lack. It's much the same as if we continued to borrow money from a natural bank, but made no payments. We are given an original inheritance in our account but if we never use it to do good, we make no deposits and our inheritance will be depleted.

We are to sow (doing good) to all, but especially to those of the household of faith. The more we can do to really meet the needs of God's people and all mankind, the more we will reap.

Helping to provide food for people by farming, processing, or distributing, is sowing. Using what we have to manufacture and distribute or otherwise provide clothing, clean water, adequate housing, transportation, medical services, and so on are forms of meeting needs. Mankind's greatest need is to be rightly related to God. Preaching and teaching the Word of God, bringing forth the ministry of Jesus by the Holy Spirit to save, heal and deliver is a major area of meeting human needs. The more we do to establish systems or provide resources to accomplish these things, the more we will reap.

(Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-12)

Hebrews 6:10: For God is not unjust to forget your **work and labor of love** which you have shown toward His name, in that you have **ministered to the saints**, **and do minister**.

Becoming Better Kingdom Business Managers

Who can meet more needs for mankind, the skilled or the unskilled, the diligent or the slothful, those with Godly wisdom or the unwise, the one who cares for others or the one who cares only for himself, the one who receives wise counsel or the one who listens only to himself, the one empowered by Holy Spirit or the one with only natural strength, the one who labors or the one who talks idly?

The one who meets more needs is making more deposits and subsequently will reap more from the Universal Bank of Heaven.

It is not necessary that men know the good we do. The return does not depend on men. It depends on God and His accounting and reward system in Heaven. We will be

rewarded openly for using that which we have to meet the needs of others in secret. Prayer and fasting makes a deposit in the Bank of Heaven. Anything that meets human need, especially the needs of the brethren, makes a deposit.

(Read Matthew 6:1-4, 6, 17-18)

Jesus said that when we give to the brethren, we give to Him. We give to God by giving to others. Our gift to an organization is a gift to God only if the organization is meeting people's needs in accordance with God's instruction.

The amount of return is based on the <u>net</u> value produced. It costs something to maintain our life and any system of endeavor. The net product is what is left of the value we added after subtracting the value that we consumed or used.

There is positive and negative sowing. If we do good to one person but take away from another, the value we added to mankind is lessened by the amount of negative we sowed. The net value added to mankind is our deposit in the Bank of Heaven. If we have not been giving to God by adding value to mankind but have been consuming all God has placed into our hands, we have been robbing the bank of heaven.

The tithe was God's instruction in the old covenant law that does not transcend into the kingdom. In the new covenant, we and all that we have belong to God. We are to administer it according to His instruction.

Doing kingdom business is serving.

There is no room in kingdom business for greed and covetous practices such as have perverted the ways of people, including many Christians, in past centuries. Failure and depletion of available provision will result from the disobedience of keeping back for ourselves what God has given us to invest in meeting needs, which is the business of kingdom management.

In kingdom business our lives are about serving God by meeting needs of mankind, especially His people, and the world around us, according to His instruction and by His empowerment. We are to be hearing and obeying God's desire and direction as to how and where we give or serve. In so doing, our treasures are stored in heaven to be drawn upon as needed to provide for meeting more needs in obedience to God's direction through the Holy Spirit.

Keep on pursuing Love. Love never fails and His kingdom never ends.

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Chapter 6 – Spirit Led and Grace Empowered Kingdom Business

In the kingdom, God's spiritual gifts and empowerments function in all areas of our lives including business.

In this passing age of the Babylonian church systems most people considered spiritual things of God primarily applicable only in the religious portions of our lives.

Babylonian style business is mostly guided with natural human intellect. Philosophical patterns and motivational methods derived from natural understandings and methods are used to move the business activity toward an envisioned goal or objective that usually involves need or greed for money. Competition between businesses is a needed factor in Babylonian style business as a limiting factor against greed. It limits the power of greed based business to extract excessive amounts of money from customers.

Within Babylonian style business organizations, competition for position between the employees causes a lack of cooperation and loyalty among the employees and with the leadership. Both areas of competition create strife and open the way for divisive and dishonest practices to infest business in general. Most business owners and employees alike are driven by competition motivated by need and greed to gain as much money as possible from each transaction and give or do the least amount necessary to get it.

Competition is not a kingdom of God principle; cooperation and collaboration are kingdom ways. Competition produces strife which consumes energy and lessens production. Cooperation and unity causes energy to be aligned in one direction which increases production. It would be like two cars facing each other bumper to bumper pushing against each other. They both may have 200 horse power but they would cancel each other out and there would be no productivity. If they were aligned facing in one direction there would be four hundred horsepower available to move forward greatly increasing production.

A Spirit-led, grace-empowered, love-based business will be the most productive and profitable business. Kingdom business begins with the love of God in us by Christ Jesus through the Spirit of Holiness, Holy Spirit.

Love is the greatest mystery in the world. There is no other force or power in the world as great as love. Love will cause us to give up our very lives. Only after love motivates us to die to our self-focused life, can we know resurrection life. Just as Jesus gave up His life for others and was resurrected to a far greater life, we will experience a far greater life now on earth as love motivates us to selflessly serve. The Babylonian-style world cannot comprehend the value of the love of God. It is a mystery to the people of Babylon.

The love of God will cause us to lay down our lives for our brothers. We will **seek to provide** for our brothers' needs. Jesus' love coming forth in us will cause us to **serve one another**. We become humble servants and not proud rulers. We keep His commandments

to love God and love one another.

The desire to serve stemming from love is the foundation of kingdom enterprise. We serve Jesus as we serve mankind by providing for peoples' needs. We are able to do a good job of providing because love has ordered our lives. Love brings unity and cooperation that enables greater production. We are to do good to all people but especially to the people of God.

Gal 6:10: Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

The Expanding Kingdom of Love and Power

The future of the expanding kingdom of God will look very different from the beginning planting and sprouting of the kingdom that came through Christian churches, ministries, and schools. The practical gospel of the kingdom will not fully grow into the world through the venue of religious church and ministry type structures. Kingdom expansion and discipleship is of such a practical, real-life nature that it must flow through practical real-life venues apart from the religion focused structures. God is Spirit and His kingdom originates from the spiritual realm and flows into the natural realm. His spiritual kingdom is manifest in practical reality on the earth. It is a "down to earth" kingdom from heaven that operates by love.

In the western world our way of thinking about the kingdom of God needs to be renewed. Our compartmentalized view of life is not the way of God.

The separation between secular and sacred is not God's idea and does not exist in the reality of kingdom understanding and practice. Separating God from education, government, business, and other aspects of life is an evil plot of the enemy to prevent the kingdom of God from flowing into our nations.

There will never be a lasting prosperous nation, tribe, or people who exclude God, their creator, from their society and culture. Only that which is of the kingdom of God shall last; all other governments and nations shall eventually fail and will not be found on the face of the earth. The fatal flaw of western secular nations is separating and locking up the kingdom of God potential into only the religious segment of the society and culture.

Psa 33:12: **Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD**, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

Isa 9:6-7: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end**, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the

LORD of hosts will perform this.

Psa 145:13: **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,** And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Dan 7:27: Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.

Where or what is the new venue or vehicle for expanding the maturing kingdom of God on earth?

The new venue in a broad sense is all of natural life. The invasion of the supernatural spiritual kingdom into the headship of the natural world and all life is the venue of kingdom expansion and maturity.

The primary facility or facilitator of the kingdom transition is business and everyday family life. All of the other major venues are linked to and dependent upon the production and activity of men and women facilitating the means of sustained life on the planet. All aspects of kingdom expansion are dependent on the production of human enterprise or activity under heavenly headship and empowerment.

Think about this for a moment. All of the other major factors of life are fed by and dependent upon the production of business. The family is core but cannot function without provision. Government is highly important but cannot function without the provision of business. Education is fundamental but is non-functional without funds derived from business activity. Ministry will not function without the provision or activity of business.

Kingdom expansion cannot come until the division between secular and spiritual is removed and the two flow as one to transform all life on earth. The kingdom of God is invading all aspects of our life and world. Human beings filled with the reality of Christ by the Holy Spirit will continue to flow the love and mindset of Christ into the world, changing the way people think and impregnating business and all life with the ways of God.

Business must be radically transformed from the core and foundation to the ultimate purpose and production of God and His kingdom.

Business as we are speaking of it here is every enterprise, work, or production of mankind. All production of goods and services whether financial, educational, medical, entertainment, food production and distribution, manufacturing, transportation, communication, scientific research, energy, construction, all buying and selling, and any other form of industry or commerce or any form of productive enterprise or occupation. Business is what we do.

Transformation has begun among a small portion of business people. A few visionary Christian business people have begun to realize that God has a higher purpose for

business than satisfying the lust and greed of self-seeking business owners, operators and shareholders.

The Need of Transformation in Current Business

Western business in general became a Babylonian-style phenomenon based on the need and greed of people. It is in opposition to the New Jerusalem values and style of living. The hearts of men have been trained by ungodly people in ungodly, self-oriented, competitive business principles and practices based upon self-fulfillment, self-glory, lust, greed, and strife. For the most part, business worldwide has become a stronghold of the enemy. It is infiltrated with every foul spirit and in some cases has made caged animals of mankind living in bondage, entrapped by their lustful desires.

In my opinion, this is perhaps one of the greatest robberies of all time. It is as if the world had been raped by a vicious evil conspiracy to create generations of greatly damaged people who are unable to see the reality of love and power of the kingdom of God. Their own strong needs which stem from the abuses of the enemy through the generations have blinded their spiritual eyes to the reality of God and His kingdom of love, power, and service.

Without intimate relationship with God by the Holy Spirit, there is a driving continuous inner perception of lack and need that drives people to strive to gain more. Fear of not having enough becomes pride in people who are successful in their quest to gain wealth and power to build their personal kingdom bigger and better than others. However, when other competitors threaten to take some of their kingdom their pride turns back into fear. Thus Babylonian-style businesses and markets are driven by fear and pride stemming from need and greed.

Transition from Babylonian-Style Business to Kingdom Business

There is no compartmentalized view of life in the kingdom of God. God's ultimate purpose for one area of our lives is exactly the same as all others. The many facets of life differ greatly in the specific parts they supply. But all parts fit together to accomplish the same ultimate purpose of establishing the glorious kingdom of God. Man has no ultimate purpose on earth beyond the glory and kingdom of God.

In the religious church-emphasis age a big distinction was made between business and ministry. The purpose and the rules for doing each were very different. In the kingdom emphasis age we are seeing that there is no difference in God's ultimate purpose for either business or ministry.

In the passing era, business was seen as **a means of getting**, and ministry was seen as **a means of serving** God by meeting needs of people.

In the kingdom of God, both ministry and business have exactly the same basic foundational purpose.

In the kingdom, the primary purpose of business or ministry is to serve God by providing for the needs of mankind and the world around us.

Kingdom business or ministry is caring for God's people and managing the resources of His earth.

God's love is the primary motivational force of all kingdom business and ministry. Through love, people serve one another.

In the kingdom both ministry and business exist for the primary purpose of meeting needs. The distinction between ministry and business is only the type of needs met.

Business people are ministers of God in the kingdom, and we all do business.

In the kingdom, business is done by the wisdom, guidance and empowerment of the Lord and King of the entire kingdom through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Yes, all the spiritual gifts can flow through the leadership of elders to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel of the kingdom. Funding for all the needs of the kingdom are funneled through the ekklesia business people. The gatherings of worship are held in the structures of homes, businesses facilities, meeting houses, auditoriums, stadiums, and all areas of life. The purpose and plans of God are paramount everywhere, and the kingdom of God is real and visible to all in every aspect of life. The business of government is provided and funded by godly elders and operates by the love, wisdom, and power of God. **Love serves.**

The next great venue and vehicle of kingdom expansion will be more business and home than religion. The kingdom of God is inseparable from all areas of life in the world and will never again be boxed up in segmented religious structures. **God rules**.

For more on the kingdom of God reformation of business see <u>Kingdom Growth</u> <u>Guide</u> (#026)

Keep on pursuing love. It never fails, and His kingdom never ends.

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