

# Waking Up in the Kingdom Changes Everything

The Kingdom of God is defined as *the effective reach of the rule and reign of God*, where His will is done. It is **where what He wants to happen, happens**. A place where **God is at work in us, around us, and through us**. The Kingdom is perfectly safe and is experienced mostly like being part of a **loving family**. Throughout scripture and especially in the words of Jesus, God is describing the Kingdom for us. It is a place **He governs** and all who live in it are **subject to its way**. (*1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Daniel 7:14, 27; Matthew 6:33; Romans 14:17*)

The **kingdom of the world** on the other hand, is governed by Satan, the Prince of Darkness. He is given limited authority by God and **fully exercises the latitude he is allowed**. Satan's management of the kingdom of the world stands in **direct opposition** to the Kingdom of God and **seeks to destroy and draw men and women away from God** by any means possible. (*John 10:10; Luke 4:6; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Peter 5:8*)

We all wake up every morning in the kingdom of the world where we go about our lives **nourishing** our **appetites**, pursuing **meaningful relationships**, and finding **meaningful work**. At the same time, believers in Christ also **wake up in the Kingdom of God**. Waking up in the Kingdom of God **changes everything** about how a believer wakes up in the kingdom of the world. (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

A believer **waking up** in the Kingdom of God and **following** Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom will do well to consider the following even **before climbing out of bed**:



- **Breathing Kingdom Air**

- The **air inhaled** is Kingdom air, the **perfect, unconditional, and all-encompassing love of God**. It is this love filling the heart that defines a believer's **true identity**, ascribing **worth** and **value**, and when fully understood leaves the believer **whole** and **complete**. The **air exhaled** is that same love internalized **now expressed to others** throughout the day, loving the people in our lives with an **unconditional, self-sacrificing love** that **wills good** for the people loved. (*John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Galatians 5:13-15; 1 John 4:7-12*)

- **Burning Kingdom Fuel**

- Kingdom fuel is the **grace of God**. Typically, grace is thought of as **forgiveness** and the promise of **another chance**. More broadly, grace is a **manifestation of the Spirit** available to help us do **what we cannot do by direct effort**. Growing in grace is utilizing more and more grace to live by until **everything we do** is assisted by grace.

Christians **burn more grace in a day** than a 747 airliner burns fuel on take-off.  
(*Ephesians 2:1-10; 2 Corinthians 9:8-15; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 Peter 3:18*)

- **Building Kingdom Character**

- Salvation is made possible by **forgiveness of sin** and results in living a life in **obedience to Christ**. Another way of thinking about this is that Kingdom people **become on the inside** the kind of people who **live as Jesus lived** and develop the **character** in the inner person that Jesus had when he was a man. Every day we are becoming from the inside out, **more and more like Jesus**. Nothing happens to us in a day that God does not in some way use to **shape our character**. (*Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 2:6; Ephesians 4:13; Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 5:3-4*)

- **Doing Kingdom Work**

- Throughout a day we will be given **opportunities to participate** in what God is doing in His Kingdom. He is **always at work in us, around us, and through us**. The desire of the Father is that we make ourselves available to be used by Him in whatever He might need us to do at any given moment. While we may not even be aware of much of the work God is doing, a healthy goal is to **become increasingly aware** of the work and to choose to be a **willing participant**. (*John 5:17; Philippians 2:12-16; Romans 12:1, 6-8*)

Waking up in the Kingdom of God reminds us **this world is not our home**, and the **full awareness** of this reality **changes everything** about a day for a believer. Experiencing an **interactive love relationship** with God in this life and beyond is the **reason** we were created.

## A Morning Mantra for the Day

I wake up this morning in the Kingdom of God, an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God's great universe. I breathe Kingdom air (God's Love), burn Kingdom fuel (God's Grace), build Kingdom character, and do Kingdom work.

{Credit to Dallas Willard for concepts and phrases from *Renovation of the Heart*}



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