

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

13. DIE

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."

Matthew 16:24-25 NLT

In nature dying means that the body stops functioning but when God speaks to us about dying; He refers to the act of not living for ourselves satisfying our own desires, fulfilling our own plans and instead beginning to live our lives how HE wants us to live them. When we decide to die to ourselves, we understand that it is no longer about us but it is about Him and about His plan and purpose for us. It is not about everything revolving around me for my benefit, pleasure or well-being but to build up His body, His family, His people and His nation. **Dying means understanding that we live for his purpose.**

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.

John 12:24-25 NLT

The way to live the life of Christ is by dying to our dreams and desires; just as He did in order to do the will of His Father. We must die daily so that He may live in us. If we decide not to die we cannot enjoy the benefits of the resurrection or of our new and abundant life. If we die to ourselves then Christ and His body can live and be exalted. The only way to be ONE is to remain in Him; dying to ourselves and living in Him.

Receiving salvation is accepting that our life was only given to us to live the purpose with which our Father created us. It is accepting that we live for the works that He planned in advance for us to live. It is understanding that we are part of a plan much bigger than our own plan. It is to change life in the "I" for life in Him.

This should change our entire perspective because if He is the King, it means that He is the one who gives the orders and who tells us His desires so that we can make them come true. Not accepting this is the reason why we live backwards; giving orders to the King so that He does what we say, even trying with our prayers or practices, (such as fasting or offerings), so that He makes our wishes come true and not His.

Kingdom culture involves absolute recognition of who the King is and what that means; otherwise His Kingdom will never be established here on Earth.



“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:9-10 NIV

It is in this way that we must pray; not repeating these words but understanding that our Father's desire is that we do His will here on Earth. That we desire His Kingdom be established here on Earth by surrendering our will so that His will be done. All of this is about a change of mentality that requires dying to ourselves so that He may live and so we can say:

My old identity has been co-crucified with Christ and no longer lives. And now the essence of this new life is no longer mine, for the Anointed One lives his life through me—we live in union as one! My new life is empowered by the faith of the Son of God who loves me so much that he gave himself for me, dispensing his life into mine!

Galatians 2:20 TPT

Dying means breaking away from the natural limitations of space, time and logic to begin living the supernatural life here and now. In doing so, this allows Him to bring heaven down to Earth through us. This is why it is not surprising that life by faith is a life full of miracles, supernatural events and situations where we see God's favor in a way inexplicable from the natural point of view.

That is the culture of the Kingdom: to give one's life for others.

**This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.**

1 John 3:16 NIV

Study Questions

1. Define in your own words what it means to die according to what you just read. Write it in your notebook.
2. Write in your notebook how this applies to your personal life. In what areas are you living and not the King?
3. Make a list of the things you know you must die to in order for Christ to live in you. Take a moment alone to hand each one of them to your Father and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you Christ in His Word about how you can lay each one of them at His feet and do His will and not your own.