

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: "How to Survive in the Kingdom of God"



Message: "Introduction"

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Dr. Mary Craig

July 25, 2021

To live in the Kingdom of God, we must see the Kingdom, be regenerated by the Holy Spirit; be born again as born-out-of-God ones; understand that all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God from the time Adam sinned and plunged humanity into the estate of sin and misery; and turn in repentance and faith to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

We enter the KOG through Jesus Christ, who lived the life of radical obedience, personal, perfect, perpetual obedience even to death on the Cross. He died to pay the penalty for sin, which penalty is death, and was buried. God the Father accepted Jesus' offering of Himself as the voluntary atoning sacrifice in our place as our Substitute. Death could not hold Jesus. He was raised from the dead the third day and ascended into heaven. He sits at the Right Hand of the Almighty, King of kings and Lord of lords, with all governing power over a Kingdom that cannot be shaken and which endures forever.

As we ask Jesus Christ to forgive us our sins and repent, Jesus comes into our hearts by virtue of the New Covenant in His Blood. The Blood Covenant, the Covenant of Grace, cannot be broken. The Holy Spirit is the Life-Maker, the Life-Producer. The Holy Spirit works in the true believer such that we become what God has declared us to be. Christ is our Righteousness by imputation.

Entering the Kingdom of God means new rules, a new dominion, and living life a new and better way under the control of the Holy Spirit. Unless we are born again, we haven't yet entered the Kingdom of God. (John 3.5) Jesus said to seek the Kingdom of God and that it was His Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom. The Holy Spirit will be our Teacher, our Comforter, and our Help to enable us to survive in the KOG. The laws of the Kingdom are spiritual laws. They operate in the invisible realm and are just as certain as physical laws, like the laws of thermodynamics.

As we begin this new series, I want us to consider **potential and purpose**. **Potential is determined by purpose**, the ends for which the means exist. Let's think about the seed principle. The seed of something grows into what it has been designed to be, whether corn or wheat or a dog or a cat or a tree or a person. The seed is the means for a certain end, or result.

In the Christian life, we are working out what God has worked in. As within, so without, is one of the precepts or laws of the Kingdom of God.

Likewise, **source determines the seed**. **Source determines the function**, the reason something exists. **Source determines resource and potential**, what we can do and what we might be and become. From the Word of God we discover that the One True and Living God is the Source. In the beginning, God...God is the Source and Sustainer of all Life and Blessing. So we look to God, the Source, to find out why we are here, and what we were created to be and to become. What is the reason for our existence and what resources do we have? What are we able to do? What potential do we have? Why is work a blessing?

Work is not just labor in a job. Work is what we can do, what we are able to do. Work is a necessary part of life. We are to be useful. God rested, He didn't retire. Adam was given a mandate, things to do. Jesus Christ said that His food was to do the will of His Father and to finish His work. He said that He was working and His Father was working right up to the present moment. Work is about all of our labor and whatever we do, we are to do it to the glory of God and His Name. The motto of Mary Craig Ministries is that whatever we do, we are to do it "In His Name, by His grace, for His glory."

So how do we find out our personal potential and our purpose? We look to the Word of God. We are to read the Word of God, study the Word of God, pray the Word of God back to God that He might perform all that He has said in His Word. For example, lift the promises of God back to Him that He might perform them in our lives. Believe the Word. Say the Word. Let the Word of God be out of your mouth; come into agreement with it. Think the Word; we need to correct our thought life and keep conforming to the image of Jesus Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit. Obey the Word. Believe Jesus and believe what Jesus believes. We believe and then we conceive in our minds thoughts and then those thoughts become seed thoughts that we release. Think of faith as the energy, a catalyst.

So why are we here?

As those created in the image of God, we are to reflect the nature of our Creator. We owe our Creator obedience on the basis of the Creator/creature relationship alone.

We were designed to reflect the beauty of the Lord, to look lovely and to be lovely, to reflect the moral goodness and holiness of our Creator. "God is Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His Being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth." (Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q4) God is Being, self-existent, self-sustaining, complete within Himself. He touches our being. He does not change; but He changes us. So we are becoming. We are being conformed to the image of Christ. Romans 8:11, 18-25; 1 Cor. 15:49; 2 Cor. 3:18; Colossians 1:15-20.

We were created to enjoy fellowship with God, a relationship. We were created to enjoy God forever and to glorify Him. We were created for communion with God, a vital spiritual union. Therefore, we are to seek Him with all of our being in order that we might come into our full potential. We are to know His Word and His Ways.

**Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:28 NKJV (The Creation, Cultural Mandate)**

#### **1. Be fruitful and Multiply.**

We are to bear fruit, fruit that remains. Jesus brings us back to this in John 15. Jesus said that He is the Vine and we are the branches; we were designed to be connected to the Source of Life. We have the potential of bearing fruit.

Who will bear the fruit of righteousness in the KOG? That is our purpose, to bear fruit. Likewise, we are to be nurtured and growing by the Word of God. Jesus said that His Words are life to us. They are Spirit and they are Life. The Word is Truth; it sanctifies. So we not only feed our physical bodies, but also our souls, spiritually.

Man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of/from the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4; Deut. 8:3.

We are to multiply and to fill the earth. We have a task to do. This is work, and every single person has his and her part in the grand design of God. God is the center of man's ideal environment. Humankind was made in the image of God, in His likeness. We are to follow God's example, as in Genesis 2:4-25, as vice regents, stewards of the earth.

2. **Fill the earth and subdue it.**

We were created to fill the earth, to fill it with people and animals. Today some use the word "replenish." It implies filling again, but not back in 1611 when the King James Bible translation came out. So two people in a garden were to fill the earth by multiplying and by subduing.

3. **Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**

We were not created to abuse things. Abuse is abnormal use. Dominion is not domination. It is about being care-givers, care-takers, taking care of God's good creation. Dominion is not self-seeking, selfish ambition, cruelty, disregard for life. Abuse is not using something as originally designed. That is to be out of order. So forcing something, even a plant or a tree or a bird to do or be what it was not designed by God to do or be, is abuse. An example of such abuse would be making what was designed to be a tree to stay small and not fulfill its God-given purpose, or forcing a bird to live alone in a cage when it was designed to have a mate. Dominion is not tyranny. So we go back to the Word of God to consider what the original design of God for this and that was. We are not to manipulate and force what God forbids. So, we are not to rule with tyranny and exploitation. And we bless other people for though all have sinned, all people are created in the likeness of God. (James 3:9)

**Human beings are created in the image and likeness of God.** They are the "God-kind" ones. Adam's sin marred the image of God and greatly defaced God's image in us. Only by God's grace in Jesus Christ is that image renewed (Ephesians 6:9; Col. 4:1) The true believer lives by grace, looking forward to a complete restoration and forever living in the presence of the Living God, clothed with His glory. (Revelation 21-22)

In closing, let's remember:

We cannot always change circumstances, but circumstances do not render the Word of God powerless. Circumstances can change. People can change. People have the potential for change inasmuch as God has designed us for a certain purpose. Prayer changes things. When we start praying those Scriptures that reveal the purposes of God, the will of God, then circumstances will change. What manifests physically is moved by what happens spiritually.

We are to worship. We were designed to worship the Creator and serve Him. Satan wants people to worship him and to serve him. He invades church cultures to lead people away from the worship of the true God by means of perversion, changing the focus to pleasing people and entertaining them instead of recognizing that God is our audience and worship teams are to bring people into the worship of God in Spirit and in Truth. Satan loves the darkness. Satan comes with a counterfeit holy spirit, another gospel, an anti-Christ spirit, another wisdom that is earthy, sensual, and demonic.

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. Revelation 21:23

We are to be grateful, thankful, humble yet boldly approaching the Throne of Grace. We are to see the opportunity in our lack and our weakness and seek God's favor and grace and to obtain mercy. We are to meditate on God, on the solution, and not on the problem. In other words, be solution-oriented, not problem-oriented. So we learn to be pro-active, focusing on our response to the holiness and the sovereignty of God. Responsibility is the ability to respond in a God-honoring way. In Christ, we have that ability to respond. Jesus Christ should be in our minds and on our hearts, as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. We focus on what is in God's heart and mind that we might obey Him by grace, through faith, which works by love.

We are to be life-givers, speaking life to others, witnessing to life in the KOG. So we might pray and ask our Heavenly Father, whose Name is hallowed, to turn our cosmic treason into supreme loyalty and attachment to Jesus Christ and to stir us up to love and good works. We bless His holy Name. Amen.

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## Mary Craig, D. Min.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think,  
according to the power that works in us,  
to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.  
Ephesians 3:20, 21 NKJV



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