



# The Outer Leaf

Live Oaks  
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## Which Kingdom...?

This past week I had a conversation with one of my sons regarding the kingdom of God. I asked him if he understood what the word "kingdom" meant. He understood that we as US citizens live within the kingdom of the United States. Because we live within the territory and rule of the US we have certain rights, privileges, blessings and responsibilities. I explained that the same is true in the kingdom of God. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and God places His Spirit within us, we are now in God's family and in His kingdom. We are under His rule and authority with certain rights, privileges, blessings and responsibilities.

Then I asked the question, "We see the kingdom of the United States all around us, we know we are living within our nation's borders, and experience the rights, blessings and responsibilities every day. However, where is the kingdom of God? Where did Jesus say we would find it?" He had to stop and think about these questions... Therefore, I decided to rescue him by quoting the words of Jesus in Luke 17:20b-21, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you." Then I asked, "What did Jesus mean? How can a kingdom be within you?" Once again God's word answers this question in Romans 14:17, "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." The kingdom of God is within you because the God of that kingdom is within you!



After our conversation, I felt the Holy Spirit nudge my heart with a question, "Which kingdom are you trusting in?" We live in both kingdoms, don't we...the kingdom of this world and the kingdom of our God? Many times God will provide for us and meet our needs through the natural, our family, the community or the systems of our nation. However, there are many times that God intends to meet our need or meet another's need through us, through the Holy Spirit within us. Whether God uses the natural or the spiritual, He wants us to look to Him first and depend upon Him and His kingdom first.

As I stood before the Lord, I began to survey the needs, projects, people, and goals in my life and ask, "Which kingdom do I trust in to meet this need, accomplish this project, transform this person, and reach this goal?" Needless-to-say, I had to make some adjustments... I challenge you with what I challenged myself with – to bring every need, project, person, and goal in your life before the Lord first as you ask for His power and grace to meet, lead, and transform these endeavors through the Spirit and kingdom of God. Then once the priority is set on the kingdom of God, ask Him to show you how He wants to partner with your gifts and worldly opportunities in each need, project, person, and goal. Both kingdoms are important and have a role. However, only the Holy Spirit knows the balance in any given situation. Are you living in the miraculous balance - trusting in Him and His kingdom first?

In His Kingdom,  
Pastor Kelley

*Class of '08*



## CONGRATULATIONS AMANDA, ASHLEY, & JOHN!!!

Please take time to congratulate Amanda Massey, who is graduating from Northwest High School, Ashley Callstrom, who receives her degree from Wichita State University, as well as John Carter, who receives his Master's degree from Baker University. We are proud of you each of you. Best wishes and many congratulations!!

**Continue On**  
**By: Roy Lessin**

A woman once fretted over the usefulness of her life. She feared she was wasting her potential being a devoted wife and mother. She wondered if the time and energy she had invested in her husband and children would make a difference. At times she got discouraged because so much of what she did seemed to go unnoticed and unappreciated. "Is it worth it?" she often wondered. "Is there something better that I could be doing with my time?"

It was during one of these moments of questioning that she heard the still small voice of her heavenly father speak to her heart.



"You are a wife and mother because that is what I have called you to be. Much of what you do is hidden from the public eye. But I notice. Most of what you give is done without remuneration. But I am your reward. Your husband cannot be the man I have called him to be without your support. Your influence upon him is greater than you think and more powerful than you will ever know. I bless him through your service and honor him through your love.

Your children are precious to me. Even more precious than they are to you. I have entrusted them to your care to raise for me. What you invest in them is an offering to me. You may never be in the public spotlight. But your obedience shines as a bright light before me. Continue on. Remember you are my servant. Do all to please me."

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# Happy Mother's Day!

*Thanks, Mom.*

