



SEPTEMBER MESSAGE: MONTH OF

KINGDOM

FRUITFULNESS & MULTIPLICATION

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Then Isaac sowed in that land and received in the same year an hundred fold and the Lord blessed him. Gen. 26.12.

The kingdom of God is here. Repent and believe the good news. Mk. 1.15.

Welcome to the month of kingdom fruitfulness and multiplication. It takes nine months for humans to deliver new offspring. "Be fruitful and multiply" was God's first word and blessing to mankind and is the consistent witness of scripture (Gen. 1.28; Jn. 15.1-8, 16). Fruitfulness and multiplication secure the present and the future. Without fruit, all effort seems wasted and the future hopeless. Fruitfulness facilitates multiplication and abundance and is only fully realized through the God of abundance. He promised no barrenness for His children (Ex. 23.26; 2 Pet. 1.8).

Fruitfulness is fully experienced in the greatest King's (Christ's) domain or king-dom. We saw it in the garden of Eden but we also see it when God's people fully align themselves with the Lord. Little wonder His first and major sermon throughout His earthly ministry was the call to enter the kingdom through repentance and faith in this good news. He also counseled His followers to make the arrival of God's kingdom their first prayer petition and to use it to order their life priorities (Mt. 6. 9-10, 33).

This kingdom of God described above is different from the one into which we were born by nature. That was a kingdom ruled by Satan that is marked by oppression, destitution, and destruction (Ecc. 8.10; Jn. 10.10; Eph. 2.1). Once we receive Christ, He translates us from this Satanic kingdom to His own (Col. 1.13). The first of four attributes of this kingdom is POWER (Jn. 1.12; Col. 1.13; 1 Cor. 4.20). As we follow His Spirit, we become the Lord's agents, His 'kings and priests' to bring light to every darkness and salt that arrests corruption in our personal lives and communities (Mt. 5. 13-16; Rom. 8.14; Rev. 5.10, 12). Secondly, this power enables us to hear and obey God in RIGHTEOUSNESS or be in right standing with Him (Jn. 10.27). This enables us to walk in justice, order, mercy, decency, and humility with God and man before and after we experience abundance (Micah 6.8; Mt. 23.23; 1 Cor. 14.40). Thirdly, right standing establishes an inner comprehensive PEACE or shalom in us and in our relationships with others. Finally, righteous living and peace can spread from the recipient to all round as internal and external prosperity or JOY. (Lk. 17.21; Rom. 14.17; Prov. 14.34; Is. 48.17).

The principles of the abundant life (a life of joy and prosperity) can be and have been successfully applied all over the world, irrespective of the race, gender, age, social group, or location of those applying it, once there is a readiness by the leadership to pay the price, which includes the following:

First, we must be ready to die to self-interest and seek to advance the interests of others with whom we relate with the intention of helping them to increase their life chances and discover and accomplish their purposes (Jn. 12.24). The Lord's royal law says we must do to others what we want them to do to us (Mt. 7.12).

Second, we must sow the right kinds of seeds—righteousness, peace, joy, patience, self-control and so on—and using all available gifts and knowledge to pursue our God-given assignment, as Isaac did.

Thirdly, the above means that we must walk in love, not hatred, being ready to forgive and build positive relationships even with those who hate or work against us (Mt. 5.43-44).

Finally, we must be committed to excellence and new knowledge or innovation. In this way, we seek to pattern our lives after the living God, who seeks and does excellent and new things daily. God's power is available to us to pursue this lifestyle in every area of our lives as we rely on His Spirit whom He makes available to us by His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 14.17; 1 Cor. 4.20; Phil. 3.13; Dan. 6.3).

Nations that, like Isaac, have embraced these principles greatly emphasized innovation (research and development) so they could improve their environment and the lot of their people. The end-time prophecy that the kingdom of God would continue to increase (Is.9.6-7) has been borne out in all communities and nations of the world, where the leaders are ready to pay the price. Christians are mandated and resourced to lead their families, communities, and nations as salt and light.

As you sow the fruit of the Spirit in this new month please expect, like Isaac, a bumper harvest and forward movement.

Welcome to the season of kingdom fruitfulness and multiplication.

Dele Olowu, August 2024