

WHERE ARE YOU IN THE KINGDOM

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When we ask the question: "Where are we in the Kingdom," the probable answer would be: "Only God knows." But we can know where we are in the kingdom by the Word.

There are four steps of growth that are spoken of in the Word.

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| 1. Baby | 2. Servant | 3. Friend | 4. Son |
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These pertain to the four steps of growth in our natural life:

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| 1. Baby | 2. Teenage | 3. Young Adult | 4. Adulthood |
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*"...Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." *** MAT 18:3-4*

BABY REALM

We must come as a little child. The word for children is PAIDION and means a "very young child or infant." When we come to God, we must humble ourselves as babies, that we may be taught of Him.

*"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby:" *** IPE 2:2*

We must desire the milk that we may grow. God does not expect us to stay babies. He expects us to grow; and we grow on the sincere milk. However, we are not to stay on milk any more than we did in the natural. No one lives on milk all their lives. The milk is to make us grow until we can take solid food.

*"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe." *** HEB 5:12-13*

Many have sat in church for years. They should be teachers, but, instead, every Sunday they are taught the first principles all over again. They never get past the milk stage. They never become skillful in the Word of Life. They remain babies. This is not only the baby's fault; it is the pastor and the church's fault. The pastors have not taken the responsibility to grow up the flock.

The word unskilful means "ignorant or inexperienced". There are other characteristics of a baby:

- 1 - Babies are only selfish, interested in their own needs.
- 2 - Babies are demanding, not only do they want their own needs met, but NOW.
- 3 - Babies lack knowledge and understanding. They are hard to teach because they do not know what they believe and are afraid to be taught.
- 4 - Babies can do nothing by themselves; everything must be done for them. They are unwilling to get involved.
- 5 - Babies always need to be catered to and pampered.

This is a baby Christian. In the natural, we depend on babies for nothing. Likewise, Spiritual babies are of no value in the kingdom. Spiritual babies can be any age.

THE SERVANT REALM

When babies grow, they become useful; or servants. The word for servant is DOOLOS and means "slave, or in bondage to another". When we become servants to Christ, we have been freed as slaves of sin. But we are not free, because we are bought with a price. We are not our own.

*"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" *** ROM 6:16*

If we are a servant to satan, and if he is whom we obey, then we are of sin unto death. If we are a servant of God, and He is whom we obey, then we are of obedience unto righteousness. When we serve Christ, we do not serve Him because we have to, but because we want to. Our lives come under the total direction of the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament, those who served because they wished to, were called bond slaves.

*"And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever." *** EXO 21:5-6*

Bond servants were free. The pierced ear showed that he had been set free, but served the master because he loved the master; not because he was still in servitude. This is our position in Christ, a servant, but free.

*"For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men." *** 1CO 7:22-23*

*Jesus said that the greatest among you will be your servant, *** MAT 23:11.*

God loves a "servant" heart. If you want to become great in the kingdom of God, become a servant.

Paul writes of Jesus, our example:

*"But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:" *** PHI 2:7*

Jesus became a servant to all mankind. He was an example of this servant attitude when He bowed to wash the disciples' feet. There is more freedom in the servant realm than there is in the baby realm. The servant is more mature and is given more responsibility. But, the servant realm is still under the direction of tutors and governors.

*"Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the Father." *** GAL 4:1-2*

Servants and children are the same in that they are both under tutors and governors until the time appointed by the Father. That appointed time will be when we become friends of the Father. Jesus revealed that the servants knoweth not what the Lord is doing. He said He would tell His friends all things He has heard of His Father. Then the question arises: How much has the Father, the Holy Spirit, made known unto Jesus?

*All Power was given to Jesus in heaven (the Spiritual realm) and earth (the flesh realm) *** MAT 28:18.*

THE FRIEND REALM

When we leave the servant realm, we are no longer under tutors and governors. Our primary and secondary education is finished. We know the basics. We have been weaned from the milk, and have learned to take solid food. When we become friends of God, we are in the "meat realm". Deep begins to cry unto the deep. In the servant and baby realm, we learned the things of the earthly. Now we are beginning to understand the heavenly things. These are being revealed through the Spirit.

*"If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" *** JOH 3:12*

How do we become friends?

*"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you." *** JOH 15:14-15*

When we come under complete obedience to the Father's voice and do nothing or say nothing unless we see the Holy Spirit doing it and saying it, then we become friends of the Father.

*"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." *** JOH 13:34*

If we want to be God's friends, then we must love one another as God has loved us. This is the greater love.

*"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." *** JOH 15:13*

Jesus laid down His life for us. He showed selflessness to us. If we are going to be His friend, we must lay down our life, or lay down our selfishness, for those, also, that are the friends of God. There was only one man in the Bible who was called the friend of God. That was Abraham.

*"And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God." *** JAM 2:23*

Abraham was the friend of God because he believed God, and in his belief he was obedient to the Father's voice. We become Christ's and are the heirs through the Holy Spirit, because we are the seed of Abraham. If we are Christ's then we will be "heirs according to the promise" *** GAL 3:29.

*"And I will establish My covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee." *** GEN 17:7*

*"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." *** GAL 3:16*

As friends, we are beginning to live by the Word, both physically and spiritually.

THE SON REALM

From the friend realm, the last step is sonship. Sonship is heirship.

*"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." *** GAL 4:7*

Servants are not going to inherit. Friends are not going to inherit. The sons are the inheritors.

*"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son." *** REV 21:7*

Only the overcomers are inheritors and sons. So many today are depending on a trip to the altar and water baptism to get them through. Many are proclaiming that this has brought them into sonship. But, if they are not keeping God's commandment to love, and if there is no evidence of overcoming the things of the world in their lives, and if satan has not been put under their feet, then there is no sonship; and if no sonship, no inheritance. When Abraham was lamenting before God about not having an heir, Abraham told God that his servant, Eliezer, one born in his own household, (servant) would be his heir, *** GEN 15:2-3.

God told Abraham that the one who came forth from his own bowels would be his heir, *** GEN 15:4.

The bowels represent the innermost being of man. Only those who have come into an intimate relationship with Jesus will be sons. As the Father spoke of Jesus: *"This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." *** MAT 3:17*

If the Father cannot say the same thing of us, we have not come into sonship. Jesus came to receive the adoption of sons, *** GAL 4:5. Jesus was the firstborn of many brethren.

*"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." *** ROM 8:29*

God's sons will be conformed into the image of the Son, Jesus. Jesus is our pattern of how to become a son. We need to be transformed into His image.

*"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name:" *** JOH 1:12*

He gave us the power to become the sons, to be totally led by the Spirit. Many, today, are claiming sonship. But, are they sons yet?

*"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." *** 1JO 3:1-2*

In *** I John 3:1-2, the word translated sons, is TEKNON and would have better been translated "children". John said, "What manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called the children of God." We are now the children of God. Romans 8 makes this very clear:

*"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together." *** ROM 8:16-17*

When the Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children, and if children, then we are in line to inherit. If we suffer, we will be glorified with Him. Just because we have the cloven tongue baptism does not mean we have come into sonship. *** Revelation 21:7 relates that those who overcome will inherit all things.

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." *** ROM 8:14*

*"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." *** ROM 8:19*

*"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." *** ROM 8:22-23*

The adoption of sons has not yet taken place. Before we come into sonship, we must overcome all things. The flesh, the world, the satanic influences in the earth; we must be totally led by the Spirit, as Jesus, our example. We are now operating in the first-fruits of the Spirit. Paul also called this the earnest of the Spirit and the earnest of our inheritance. Joel called it the moderate outpouring of the Spirit. Even those who have received the firstfruits of the Spirit are waiting for the adoption which is the redemption of the body. This body has not yet been redeemed. The creation is waiting to be delivered from the bondage of corruption, to a body that will not decay, *** ROM 8:21. We still live in a body that will die and decay.

*"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." *** 1CO 15:52*

This is when the corruptible shall put on incorruption and the mortal shall put on immortality. Many are claiming sonship now. A type of this son message is found in the death of Absalom, King David's son. When Absalom was killed, the message of the son had to be taken unto the king. Ahimaaz, the son of Zadoc, said,

*"...Let me now run and bear the king tidings..." *** 2SA 18:19*

*"And Joab said unto him, Thou shalt not bear tidings this day, but thou shalt bear tidings another day: but this day thou shalt bear no tidings, because the king's son is dead." *** 2SA 18:20*

Then Joab sent Cushie to tell the king, but Ahimaaz wanted to run after Cushie. Joab said,

*"...Wherefore wilt thou run, my son, seeing that thou hast no tidings ready." *** 2SA 18:22*

But Ahimaaz ran anyway. Ahimaaz outran Cushie to David. When Ahimaaz got to the king, David asked,

*"...Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered... I saw a great tumult and I knew not what it was." *** 2SA 18:29*

And David said, "Stand aside." When Cushie came with the son message for the king, he told David Absalom was dead. There are many Ahimaazes running before the true message, proclaiming that they have the son message. The king is simply saying, "Stand aside" That message will be proclaimed another day. Today, we are learning to walk in the anointing. Too many immature babies want to walk in perfection.

John said, "...it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him: for we shall see Him as He is." *** 1JO 3:2

It does not yet appear what we shall be. John is speaking of the change that must come while we are yet in the flesh. We know that, when He shall appear, we must be like Him. He will not appear to us until we become like Him. Then we will see Him as He is. For us to become like Him, we must be changed. This is when we will witness the redemption of the body. Praise God! This is when we come to full adulthood.

THE ADULTHOOD REALM

Adulthood is when we come into full responsibility. We are learning more responsibility. The only difference between a child and an adult is the amount of responsibility they can handle. Age has nothing to do with where you are in the kingdom. How many years you sit in a church has nothing to do with where you are in the kingdom. God does not have a seniority list. He keeps track of change.

Many have walked with the Lord for many years, but will accept no responsibility. They are still selfish, self-centered, demanding and need constant attention. These are still in the baby realm. The servant's realm is the realm that constantly needs to be told what to do and must be rewarded for doing it. The friend realm is where we come into young adulthood. Young adulthood is the time when we begin to become responsible, seeing a job and doing it for the glory of God, expecting no reward. Young adulthood is when we begin to act like the Father. When we become a young adult we put away the worldly toys.

*"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: But when I became a man, I put away childish things." *** 1CO 13:11*

The word translated child is PAIS and means "young, but not a baby". It was also translated "servants". The word for man is ANER and means "male, but not a boy or infant; a young adult or young man".

John spoke of the young men.

*"I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known Him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." *** 1JO 2:14*

The young men are strong. The Word of God abides in them. They have overcome the wicked one. The young men are the ones who will mature into full adulthood; or sons and inheritors, because the Father is speaking His heart unto them to bring these unto Himself. Where we are in the kingdom today does not mean we have to stay in that place. We need to strive for the mastery, forgetting the things which are behind, and pressing forward into the high-calling of God in Christ Jesus. We need to always ask ourselves: "Where are we in the Kingdom?"

God has given those in the valley of decision a little more time. Will you be totally separated unto Him and be part of His Kingdom? Or are the things of the world too alluring? Joshua said, "...Choose you this day whom ye will serve..." *** JOS 24:15

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To-day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

*While it is said, To-day if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation." *** HEB 3:12-15*
Exhort one another daily, while it is called To-day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Where are you in the Kingdom?

WHERE ARE YOU IN THE KINGDOM?

QUESTIONS

1. What are the four steps of growth in God's kingdom?
2. Who is unskillful in the word of righteousness?
3. What does the word unskillful mean?
4. What are the four steps of growth in our natural life?
5. If we are a servant to Satan and obey him, then we are of _____ unto _____, but if we are servants of God and obey Him, then we are of _____ unto _____.
6. Explain what a bond slave was as referred to in the Old Testament.
7. If you want to become great in the kingdom of God, what should you do?
8. Servants and children are the same in that they both are under _____ and _____.
9. How do we become friends of the Father?
10. Why was Abraham called the friend of God?
11. Before we can come into sonship, what must we overcome?
12. Jesus was the first born of many _____ and He is our pattern.
13. What is creation waiting to be delivered from?
14. Sonship is also _____.
15. People who are in the baby realm are still what?
16. Revelation 21:7 states that those who overcome shall _____ all things.
17. Adulthood is when we come into what?
18. In I Corinthians 13:11, the word translated child is PAIS. What does it mean?
19. How are we made partakers of Christ?
20. We need to press forward into the _____ of God in Christ Jesus.

WHERE ARE YOU IN THE KINGDOM?

ANSWER KEY

1. Q. What are the four steps of growth in God's kingdom? A. Baby, Servant, Friend, Son
2. Q. Who is unskillful in the word of righteousness? A. Every one that useth milk for he is a babe.
3. Q. What does the word unskillful mean? A. Ignorant, inexperienced
4. Q. What are the four steps of growth in our natural life? A. Baby, Teenage, Young adult, Adulthood
5. Q. If we are a servant to Satan and obey him, then we are of _____ unto _____ but if we are servants of God and obey Him, then we are of _____ unto _____. A. Sin unto death obedience unto righteousness
6. Q. Explain what a bond slave was as referred to in the Old Testament. A. Those who served because they wished to but were actually free.
7. Q. If you want to become great in the kingdom of God, what should you do? A. Become a servant
8. Q. Servants and children are the same in that they both are under _____ and _____.
A. Tutors and governors
9. Q. How do we become friends of the Father? A. By being completely obedient, to His voice and by doing or saying nothing unless we first see the Holy Spirit doing or saying it.
10. Q. Why was Abraham called the friend of God? A. Because he believed God and was obedient to His voice.
11. Q. Before we can come into sonship, what must we overcome? A. All things
12. Q. Jesus was the first born of many, and He is our pattern of how to become a _____. A. Brethren, son
13. Q. What is creation waiting to be delivered from? A. The bondage of corruption
14. Q. Sonship is also _____. A. Heirship
15. Q. People who are in the baby realm are still what? A. Selfish, self centered, demanding and need constant attention plus they accept no responsibility
16. Q. Revelation 21:7 states that those who overcome shall all things. A. Inherit
17. Q. Adulthood is when we come into what? A. Full responsibility
18. Q. In I Corinthians 13:11, the word translated child is PAIS. What does it mean? A. Young but not a baby
19. Q. How are we made partakers of Christ? A. When we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end
20. Q. We need to press forward into the of God in Christ Jesus. A. High calling