

The Gift of The Kingdom

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Text: Luke 12:32 (NIV)

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

God’s gift to us has entitled us to certain kingdom benefits. This is not the “entitlement” often seen in our society, but “entitled” in within the boundaries of the Kingdom. For example, Jesus said in John 14:12-15,

12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. **15** *“If you love me, keep my commands.”* (Bold italics added) NIV

So, when we speak of being entitled to the benefits of the Kingdom, I mean we are *“allowed, permitted, unrestricted, or free”* to receive what God has offered to us by virtue of our relationship with Him.

Our text assures us that as children of the Kingdom we possess the blessings of the Kingdom. Let’s consider the *benefits* encompassed in the gift of the Kingdom of God.

I. The Father Gives Us The Power of the Kingdom

A. We are not at the mercy of circumstances.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

B. We are not without hope.

John 14:11-13 (NIV)

11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

C. So, when we pray, remember help awaits those who pray.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NIV)

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. **16** Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

II. The Father Gives Us The Prestige of the Kingdom

A. We have been adopted into God's family—we are His children.

Romans 8:16-18 (NIV)

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. **17** Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

B. Our standing in Christ gives us a unique perspective.

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NIV)

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you

are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

B. So, when we pray, remember the One who listens loves us.

III. The Father Gives Us The Privileges of the Kingdom

A. With the gift comes an advantage and with benefits.

John 15:15-17 (NIV)

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is my command: Love each other.

B. Believing God is an opportunity to see His glory.

John 14:12-14 (NIV)

12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

B. So, when we pray, remember God is glorified when His work is seen in our lives.

CONCLUSION

In spite of the reality of our position in Christ as believers, we only possess the *benefits* of the Kingdom when we ask for and receive them.