



Why is spiritual victory important?

THE CROWNS OF THE KINGDOM

from the book Kingdom, Finding Your True Self by Dave Nadler

Because Jesus will return a second time, and because until then He has asked us to sacrifice and submit ourselves to His Kingship over our personal wills and desires, it seems encouraging to consider the REWARD of making such a decision to “bend the knee.”

Now before we get all excited about what we will “get” from God because we have chosen His Kingship, let’s take a look at the concept of “crowns” that is woven through the scriptures.

And this part is important - because you want to be able to see some of the ultimate destination now - and it is quite motivating!

Philippians 4.1

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, **my joy and crown**, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.”*

Standing firm in His Kingship appears to result in **deep love** for others - something we will surely carry into the life to come. Have you ever wondered what we will do together for eternity? I believe the story of love and personal sacrifice will be woven into endless conversation. Definitely worth our choice to stand firm and receive our crown.

1 Thessalonians 2.19

*“For who is our hope or joy or crown of **exultation**? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?”*

We will experience a crown of unspeakable **joy** (exultation) when He returns, and it will directly relate to our role as we have “fished for men.” Every time we have set ourselves aside - our interests, our desires, our natural inclination - we are investing in God’s process of redemption or “buying back” the souls of men.

When God’s good works flow through us, we are *storing up* a joyful crown of exultation.

2 Timothy 4.8

*“In the future there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*

As I have faithfully lived my life **counting on** and hoping for His return, I will experience what is called “the crown of righteousness.” Not my own righteousness, but His righteousness, given to me for *believing* He will return. It is a faith thing!

James 1.12

*“Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the **crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”*

Whatever life takes (or even robs from us) will be returned many times over. This is a cornerstone of all of the ancient parables and stories of faith. While this life is precious and beautiful on so many levels, it is “not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed.” Or as Paul put it specifically:

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

- Romans 8.18

Our crown of LIFE is our reward, the reward of loving our King and placing hope in His return!

1 Peter 5.4

*“And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading **crown of glory**.”*

This is a really hopeful crown concept because whenever and wherever people are cared for and shepherded, the “chief shepherd” notices. The One Who cares about sheep places high value on others who do the same - and gives the shining crown of glory as His reward to those who have engaged in caring for others “in His Name.”

Revelation 2.10

*“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the **crown of life**.”*

I am so glad to live in America. We are so “faith safe.” My wife Burnadette consistently reads, keeps track, and prays for suffering believers around the world. And there are many. Some pay the ultimate price for their faith.

Whatever the crown of life is - it belongs to the men, women, and children who are *tested* in the most severe ways. It is nice to know that He is watching, that He is keeping track, and that He is waiting to reward those who give to our King in the deepest of ways. After all, even vengeance belongs to God. Wow.

Revelation 3.11

*“I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take **your crown**.”*

Be strong! Your crown is coming. Our Master is bringing His reward. IT WILL ALL BE WORTH IT!

Let's return to the term “diadems” or “crowns” we encountered earlier in Revelation 19.

*“His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems.” Crown means “to encircle.” Jesus has **many crowns**.*

Here's a radical thought. What if our individual crowns are *woven* into His many crowns? This makes sense to me on so many levels.

My crowns are His crowns. His crowns are my crowns. Our crowns are the Father's crowns!