



## *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!