

FOURTH STREAM FINDING HOPE

Our Fourthstream Mission:

1. Bring the *Connectivity* of True Hope to others.
2. Invite *daily connection* with Jesus, His Spirit, and the Father.
3. *Teach Kingdom Spirituality* to any who will listen.
4. Cultivate Spirit-directed *Kingdom prayer* on behalf of those we love, our city, and our nation.



K I N G D O M

M a k i n g D i s c i p l e s

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you. You can know I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- Matthew 28:18-20

1. Disciples operate under Jesus’ authority and GO
2. We baptize in the Name of the Father/Son/and Holy Spirit
3. We teach men and women to hold fast to God’s Word

How do we encourage someone to become a Christ follower and how do we help them move from here to there? Here are some thoughts!

- √ Define *there* for yourself and for them
- √ How do I define *process* that is God-centered and personally adaptive?
- √ How do I give my heart and mind to pursue movement in the Spirit each day?

Remember:

- √ *Connectivity requires effort, cultivating, and vigilance*
- √ *Distractions are many and must be wisely navigated*
- √ *Focus must be pursued each day*
- √ *Discipleship is best accomplished one on one*

Naming whom God has placed in my circle of discipleship:

My spouse

My kids and grand kids

Who are my likely “neighbors” where I may share and cultivate?



K I N G D O M C O N N E C T I V I T Y

*And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonas,
because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you,
but My Father who is in heaven.*

*I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build
My church; and the gates of death will not overpower it.*

*I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever
you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever
you set free on earth shall be set free in heaven.”*

- Matthew 16:17-19 -

The word *church* (a called-out assembly) is mentioned only three times in the Gospels while the *Kingdom* is spoken of 50 times in Matthew, 15 in Mark, 35 in Luke, and 11 times in John.

Why do you think this is?

The church is birthed through the Kingdom of Heaven.

The King’s Church is all about connectivity with the King and His Kingdom.



Perspective

Since the Jesus explosion in the Gospels and Acts, the church in history has done much good. Often a civilizing factor in many decades and centuries, she has stepped up to present Her King to many. Like all human institutions, however, she has often been co-opted by her own opportunistic leaders. Wherever any historical opportunity or success exists, mankind often thinks he or she can manage things better than the Holy Spirit. And so, instead of speaking accurately for God, we convolute the meaning of King, Kingdom, and Church. This is often why the credibility of so-called saints of the church is compromised, and why testimony to the King suffers.

So - She experiences Her successes and failures - as do all human institutions, and will be held to the Word of God for Her dedication to truth and effectiveness of mission - as will all human institutions. From God's Word we have concluded that the Spirit's unfolding power and protection for Jesus followers is **King first, then, Kingdom, then church.**

So, to discover the principles and power of the Kingdom Church, we must turn to the **King** of the earth to understand what it means to honor and follow God. Everyone has his or her idea of what church is and what it should look like. *We will do it this way. We will do it better. We will build the church.* Consider however:

She is a Spiritual House being prepared for Heaven, called out of darkness into God's Light

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit."
- Ephesians 2:19-22

She is to be the Pillar and Support of the Truth

"...but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth."
- 1 Timothy 3:15

The Church is the Bride of Jesus

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." - Revelation 19:7

In order to understand the Kingdom Church, we must consult the words and teachings of our King. Remember, He is the One Who is building His Church (Matthew 16:18).

Your Kingdom Team



Praying for the KINGDOM CHURCH

Jesus is our Rescuer (Luke 19:10)
We lift up Creator God Who is our rescuer.

Jesus is our Teacher (John 8:31,32)
We are followers of the teaching of Jesus and His Father.

Jesus is our Healer (John 7:38; Luke 23:43)
We are blessed with the healing of Jesus for our past, present, and future.

Jesus is our Comforter and Guide (John 14:18-24)
We grow in the comfort of the Spirit toward a free conscience.

Jesus is the Head of His Church (Revelation 21:1)
We pray for Kingdom workers around the world.

The church is not merely a place we go - it is who we are.

Isaiah 61:1-3

*The Spirit of the Lord God has anointed Me:
To bring good news to the afflicted (poor in spirit)
Bind up the broken-hearted (those who mourn)
Release and freedom to captives
Recovery of sight to the blind
Set free the oppressed
Proclaim the coming of Lord God's supremacy*

“To bring these to those who mourn among His people, giving them a beautiful identity instead of futility, the oil of joy instead of mourning, a covering of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. They will be called supports of righteousness, in the Lord's garden, that He may be glorified.”

“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” - Luke 4:14-21



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KINGDOM CHURCH

The church is not merely a place we go - it is who we are.

Distinctives for Kingdom Connectivity

Organic over organizational/invisible over visible

- Home to home/learning about and using our Spirit gifts (Acts 5:42; Ephesians 4:14-16)
- One-another Word focused (Romans 12:9-13)
- Celebrating our connection in the Lord's supper (Matthew 18:20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
- Sharing Psalms/Hymns/Spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:15-21)
- Speaking of the Father's goodness and Jesus' friendship (John 15:12-17)

Word connecting

- Connecting with *Jesus* in the healing of our souls (Exodus 15:26; John 8:31-32)
- Connecting with the *Father* in bending before His authority (Exodus 20:3; John 17:20-24)
- Connecting with the *Spirit* in sensitivity to hearing God's voice (Romans 8:26-27)

Resourced by Wisdom/the woven threads of the Father

- The Bible interpreting itself (2 Peter 1:19-21)
- Noble-minded men and women searching daily (Acts 17:11)
- Finding and walking the God path (Isaiah 50:45)

A Christ-follower's Servant focus

- Word of God and Prayer (Acts 2:42; Acts 6:4)
- Pursuit of building disciples (Matthew 28:18-20)

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you. You can know I am with you always, even to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20

- √ *Kingdom Connectivity requires caring, cultivating, and vigilance*
- √ *Distractions are many and must be wisely navigated every day*
- √ *Focus must be pursued each day*



A KINGDOM CONNECTIVITY GET-TOGETHER

Being Discipled by God as a group/an hour or so with our King!

Song/God invitation

Hymn

Passage

Spiritual Song

Psalm

Lord's supper (Matthew 26)

20 Minutes in the Word

Prayer for our Pressing Needs

Testify

Catch Up/praying for each other

“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.” - Ephesians 5:15-21

- √ Process re: discipling and what about young children and family life things?
- √ What about choice of a location?
- √ What size of group is optimal?
- √ How do we communicate in a Kingdom manner?



JESUS ON BECOMING A DISCIPLE

Jesus is clear: there is only one way for any human to find **freedom**.

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you **continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” - John 8:31

He goes further when **defining His Word**.

Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, “So it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending out the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” - Luke 24:44

And also gives us His **discipling parable...**

And He also spoke a parable to them: “A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit? A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher. Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother’s eye. For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.”

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.” - Luke 6:39-49

And gives us the **goal** and vision for our disciples, Kingdom heart.

Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes.” And Jesus said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old.” - Matthew 13:51



And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” - Matthew 28:18-20

Dave and Burnadette on discipleship...

There are **6 quick connect videos** to get to know us and where we are headed - click ABOUT US in the masthead.

There are **4 pivotal occasions** when God has spoken to us during our spiritual journey together. Each time He has given a series of *essays* and *podcasts* through which to share some insights. You can find printed, recorded, or pdf copies in the navbar - under books.

CURIOUS JOURNEY/Your Story Matters

Our **identity** is precious to God and important to us. It gets convoluted by our circumstances, choices, and the short-comings of humankind. Even the most enlightened soul needs to believe his or her story - what we do and how we live our lives - **matters** to those around us - as well as to our Creator.

KINGDOM/Finding Your True Self

Answers to deep questions are not discovered through mere reasonings of men. If we are to find our **true selves** we must experience *connectivity* with God and His Son. The Author has the answers to our identity and what is important for our eternity. **King first, then Kingdom, then church.** Religion, philosophy, and science are only echoes of the Kingdom of Heaven.

MENTORED BY GOD/Finding Our Way In A Darkening World

Jesus is the Author and Perfecter of Faith. He came to know His Father completely by the same human means which were stolen from us in the Garden. Because God is limitless, **He is available to mentor us through Jesus.** If we care. As the world darkens in her soul the Light shines brightly to those who hope in God.

TURBULENCE OF IMPERFECTION/Essays About Real Life

We are born into a world at spiritual war. **Imperfection** is all around us. **Turbulence** of some sort is a part of every man and woman's journey. These essays address the *nature* of this war, our part in it, and Jesus' victory over it. Each helps us to use faith to navigate the big picture on this war, as well as how to be *victorious* in it.

We have taken these four conversations deeply into our hearts and lives, and have searched the Word and Wisdom of God to find deeper Jesus connectivity. And if you have known Jesus for awhile but are still struggling with your God connection, we also offer interaction for **personal healing** in discipleship with our *Jesus Upgrade*.

We have also put together *Conversations, Podcasts, and Courses* which will help you dive deeply into meaningful God connectivity through God's Word, and to hear the words "well done" when you stand before your Creator!

Let us know if you wish to discuss options for structure to get it done,
Dave and Burnadette



OPTIONS

- √ Use the outline and the website to plan your own Kingdom learning strategy.
- √ Join with 2-3 others and engage us to connect on your process of leading such a discipleship effort.
- √ Align yourself with the Fourthstream.com mission with a weekly call to talk about your observations, questions, and strategies for growing the Kingdom.

Kingdom Resources at Fourthstream.com:

Kingdom Discipleship paper and teaching

Kingdom Book (under books!)

Kingdom Spirituality (under courses!)

Jesus Centric Podcasts (the Bible built around Jesus!)

Building My Strong Home (under courses)

Fourthstream Core 20 (under conversations)

