



THE FORCEFULLY-ADVANCING KINGDOM FULNESS & FULFILLMENT

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"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing [Gk. biazō], and forceful [Gk. biastes] men lay hold [Gk. harpazo] of it." Matthew 11:12

There are few verses in the Bible that teach more about kingdom-advancing prayer than Matthew 11:12, and the verse doesn't even mention the word "prayer!" This verse is like a pomegranate – it is so full of the seeds of kingdom principles that it is hard to know where to start.

"forcefully advancing" Gk. BIAZO = to use or apply force, to inflict violence on, to capture. (2X Matthew 11:12, Lk. 16:16)

"forceful ones" Gk. BIASTES (1X) = violent, forceful, having superior strength

"lay hold" Gk. HARPAZO = to seize, carry off forcefully, take hold of, to make your own, as in grabbing a crying baby out of a burning house.

- » The forcefully advancing kingdom has everything to do with our spiritual authority, influence and capacity.
- » Notice the fullness-fulfillment principle. *"The kingdom has been forcefully advancing (fullness) and forceful ones lay hold of it (fulfillment)."*
- » In the kingdom God is always the Initiator and we are always the responders. *"The kingdom has been forcefully advancing (God's initiative) and forceful ones lay hold of it (our response)."*
- » God can only do through us what God does in us. *"The kingdom has been forcefully advancing (God's work in us) and forceful ones lay hold of it (God's work through us)."*
- » This forceful kingdom advancement is the tone of the Lord's prayer pattern in which virtually every phrase is declarative and imperative. *"Your Name be hallowed! Your kingdom come!"*

Application

1. The ten evidences of the Kingdom are works Christ wants to do in us in order to also do them through us.

(1.) Genuine humility

"Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew. 5:3

(2.) Deep repentance

"The kingdom of God near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15

(3.) Forcefully seek God

"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of God has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it ." Matthew 11:12

(4.) New Steps of Obedience

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves" Colossians 1:13

"But whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:19

(5.) Deliverance from demons

"But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." Matthew 12:28

(6.) Holy Spirit influence

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Romans 14:17

(7.) True signs and wonders

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power." 1 Corinthians 4:20

(8.) Salvation

"I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." John 3:3

(9.) Supreme love for Christ

"The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish." Matthew 13:47

"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls." Matthew 13:45

(10.) Martyrs who die for Christ

"I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus" Revelation 1:9

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:10

2. Since the Kingdom of God advances along relational lines, the deeper the work of God's Kingdom in us, the more forcefully and effectively we can relationally advance Christ's Kingdom in the lives of those around us.

This process not only increases our capacity, but also our spiritual authority and influence. Only those on whom the kingdom has forcefully advanced can qualify to be forceful advancers of the kingdom. If you have not been forcefully advanced upon, you do not qualify; in fact, you are dangerous to the kingdom. Brokenness precedes Holy Spirit boldness. Always. Like a Marine's sword, He melts us and pounds us in order to galvanize us.

3. In order for Jeremiah 1:10 to be fulfilled through us, it must be fulfilled in us. The kingdom needs to do in us its demolition work first and then its construction work; then He can do this same work through us in the lives of others and in the region where we serve.

"See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant" (Jeremiah 1:10).

- Only dead men can call other followers to the crucified life.
- Only those who have dealt with their own sin can lead others to deal with theirs.
- Only those who have embraced repentance can share the gift of repentance with others.
- Only those who have been filled with the Holy Spirit can impart Holy Spirit fullness to others.
- Only those who have been delivered from demonic strongholds can lead others to be delivered and maintain their freedom.

Perhaps this could be called "the law of forceful kingdom advancement." This sounds strangely similar to "the law of revival."

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