

# TRUSTING GOD FOR A CHANGE #5

## “The Bomb”

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 New Living Translation (NLT)

### I. Pursuing Transformational Change

#### A. Change begins with a renewal of the mind.

1. I can't change my life until I change my mind. Notice: *Getting the body under control must be accompanied by the renewing of the mind!!!*
2. The process of changing our minds is called *repentance*: “metanoia” in Greek, literally, “to change your mind.”
3. Repentance implies a willingness to undergo de-centering and re-centering how we think and how we look at life.

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord.

"And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.

For just as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so my ways are higher than your ways

and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

Isaiah 55:8-9 NLT

4. Finding God's will is a result of transforming into a new person who has changed his thinking!

...let God *transform you into a new person by changing the way you think*. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2 NLT

#### B. The Mother of all Transformational Ideas

We use the slang term “the BOMB” today to describe something that is the very best. I want to talk about the BOMB of all bombs, the one mind renewal that will rock your world forever...Jesus' teaching of “the Kingdom of God.”

- It rocked the Romans.
- It rocked the Jews.
- It turned the world upside-down.

- To this day, the King's command continues to challenge...

From that time, Jesus began to preach, saying,  
'Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'  
Matthew 4:17 KJV

## II. The Bomb: The Gospel of the Kingdom

### A. Jesus' Revolution

1. Jesus brought a revolution *not* because He preached salvation, taught moral laws, gave prophecies, healed the sick, worked miracles, and offered forgiveness of sins- *The Jews had heard all that before!*
2. Jesus brought a revolution because He preached that the Kingdom of God had come to Earth, and He was King of it!

- a. The term "at hand" described proximity or nearness; some translations say, "the Kingdom of heaven is near."
- b. Gene Peterson, in THE MESSAGE Bible, says:

...the moment Jesus started preaching...He picked up where John left off:  
"Change your life. God's kingdom is here."

3. He turned the world upside-down because He said the Kingdom had come to earth WITH Him because He (the KING) was here!
  - a. His miracles authenticated His authority.
  - b. His offer of forgiveness was that of a King!
4. The life and ministry of Jesus makes no sense apart from His central theme of the Kingdom of God.

*Jesus did not come to establish a new religion.  
He did not come to "fix" a few situations.  
Jesus Christ announced Himself as God's Son...King of God's Kingdom...  
the righteous heir of all creation.  
And He called everyone to change their mind and come around to His way of  
thinking!*

### B. Proofs

1. Jesus' central message was always the Kingdom of God.
  - a. He referred to the Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven over 100 times. (He only mentioned the church twice!)
  - b. The writers of the gospels tell us He preached "the gospel of the Kingdom." (Matthew 4:23; 9:35)

- c. Jesus Himself said the end would not come until the “gospel of the Kingdom” was preached in all the world for a witness! (Matthew 24:14)
- d. After His resurrection and before the day of Pentecost, Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days teaching them “things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.” (Acts 1:3)

2. Even a casual reading of the gospels and the Book of Acts shows that the cornerstone message of the early church was the Kingdom of God and how it shook the world!

...and these (Jesus’ followers) all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.  
Acts 17 KJV

### **C. Testimony: The Life-changing Power of the Kingdom**

- 1. When I was saved in 1971, I cut my teeth on the “personal gospel” of man-centered thinking.
- 2. Everything was about ME. (My salvation, MY healing, MY prosperity) And guess what? It was working! But emptiness crept in.
- 3. Over ten years later, in the early 80’s, I “saw the Kingdom.”

Jesus answered and said unto him, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”  
John 3:3 KJV

a. He didn’t say IF you are born again you WILL see it; He said UNLESS you are born again you CAN’T see it!

b. Even His apostles had to have the Kingdom revealed to them!

His disciples came and asked him, “Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?”  
He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not.”  
Matthew 13:10-11 NLT

4. When you see the kingdom, it changes everything, because the Kingdom leaves nothing unchanged!

### **D. Signs of the Kingdom**

“Thy Kingdom come...  
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”  
Matthew 6:10

- 1. I know the Kingdom has come when I see God’s will done on earth.
- 2. I know the Kingdom has not yet come when I see the will of God’s enemies done on earth.

3. My own issues and questions find no resolution outside a revelation of the Kingdom!

### **E. Christ, His Kingdom and His Church**

1. The church is not the Kingdom.
2. The Kingdom is GREATER than the church.
3. The church is called to be the EXPRESSION of the Kingdom as a witness of God's righteousness, peace and joy.
4. Most of the church hasn't REJECTED the Gospel...just REDUCED it!

### **III. The Bomb**

“The most radical idea ever presented to the mind of man  
is the proposal to replace the present world order with God's order...  
the Kingdom of God.”  
H.G. Wells

#### **A. Our Greatest Need: Minds Renewed to the Call to the Kingdom**

1. What's wrong with you? What's wrong with me? We need a “renewal of the mind. “We need “THE BOMB.”

***Jesus has called us to His Kingdom...  
Now everything must change!***

2. We need to undergo the radical transformation that turned the world upside-down. We need to re-capture the CALL of God on our lives to Kingdom purposes, to KINGDOM-DRIVEN LIVING, an obsession with seeing God's will on earth as it is in Heaven.
3. Anything short of that will leave us unfulfilled, unchallenged, unchanged.

#### **B. Recapturing God's Call**

1. We are on an adventure together.
2. We are going to de-program ourselves and go back to the beginning.
3. We're going to take another look at what it means to be a Christ-follower, to be a part of His Church, and to experience His life-changing power.