

In the beginning was the King's Word. His Word was himself and was inseparable from him. His Word was with him from the start. Everything that exists came into being through the King's Word; no other source of life exists. In his Word was life, and this life manifested the knowledge of the King and his kingdom to the darkened and confused minds of humanity. But although the light of this knowledge shines brightly, those who choose to remain in a darkened state cannot see it.

In the beginning, the King created a colony for his kingdom. The colony was raw and undeveloped, and there was no life there. The King's Governor was poised to bring order and kingdom influence to the colony through the King's Word..



An Anti-Kingdom Perspective

The concept of kingdom may seem antithetical to the contemporary mind. Empires and their colonies seem outdated in the twenty-first century, just fading remnants of the past. Many nations today have representative governments.

A number of former colonies and protectorates have gained their independence. Opportunities for self-government have expanded greatly throughout the world, and we rightly celebrate the political freedoms and opportunities these changes have brought. Human history has seen enough tyrannical kingdoms and dictators to want to move on to a different form of government.

Democracy is essentially humanity's reaction to perverted kingdoms.

The founders of the United States rebelled against what they considered an oppressive government, and the very genetics of contemporary Western society are anti-kingdom.

Because of the strong influence of political and social ideas of independence and freedom, this perspective has permeated the world and affects many areas of our thinking, not just the governmental realm.

It shows up in how we view and conduct ourselves in personal relationships, business, media, education, and even religion because our cultural experiences produce our definitions. This is why the concept of kingdom is dismissed by most people today as irrelevant, and is even considered out-and-out frightening by others.

In the light of these developments, however, many people no longer understand what life in an authentic and uncorrupted kingdom entails. I believe this lack of understanding has hindered them in the way they've approached their lives. Most of us have forgotten why kingdoms historically had such a profound impact on people and nations for thousands of years, some of which is still being felt. They haven't recognized what the concept and history of kingdoms reveal that is vital to us today.

Kingdom Power

The character of this kingdom is, again, nothing like the political kingdoms of the past and present that seek to force others under their control based on territorial power, greed, or religious doctrine. Those kingdoms enslave. But the very nature of humanity, as well as the personal and corporate progress of the world, are designed to develop and thrive from the outworking of this kingdom.

The principal issue of humanity is power, defined as "the ability to influence and control circumstances." We all want to direct and influence our lives in a positive and fulfilling way. The nature of this kingdom speaks directly to this need.

Understanding our association with this kingdom begins

with an exploration of what all human kingdoms have shared in common and how they were different from the contemporary experience of government most of us are familiar with today. Then we can move to the larger context of what these qualities reveal about our human existence and purpose

The Nature of Kingdom Government

I define a kingdom as

“the governing authority and influence of a sovereign ruler who impacts his territory through his will, purpose, and intentions, which are manifested in the culture, lifestyle, and quality of his citizenry.”

A king must have his dominion, or his territory.

We call it his “king-dominion” or his kingdom. You cannot be a king without having territory; you have to be ruling over something. And you cannot be a king without having kingdom citizens who live and work in the kingdom.

In a true, traditional kingdom, all power is vested in the monarch. The king actually, personally owns the country, including the people. In contrast, a president or prime minister in a representative government doesn't own the country; he governs it on behalf of the people

The king implements his vision for the kingdom. There is no congress or parliament to discuss which laws they're going to create. There is only the monarch, and he has immediate

access to his handpicked, trusted council, who carry out his wishes.

The job of these advisors is to take the will of the king, translate it into the law of the land, and make sure it is enacted throughout the kingdom.

A kingdom is therefore the governing influence of a king over his territory, impacting and influencing it with his personal will

In a kingdom, the king's personal interest becomes policy, and the king's personal will becomes law. The effectiveness of a kingdom and its power is therefore its ability to influence and control the territory according to the vision of the king.

The Goal of the Kingdom: Ruling and Gaining Territory

Most kingdoms throughout history have sought to take additional land, sometimes at some distance from the home country, because the power of a king is related to the territory he owns. The more territory a king had, the greater he was respected by other kingdoms, especially if the territories had abundant natural wealth. The home country of the king was his domain and the outlying territories were his colonies

Once a colony was gained, the sovereign's number one goal was to exercise his personal influence over it.

The Transformation of Colonies into the Kingdom

A colony is comprised of “a group of emigrants or their descendants who settle in a distant land but remain subject to the parent country.”

The word colony comes from the Latin word *coloni* derived from *colere* meaning “to cultivate.”

In this sense, a colony is:

✓ the presence of a distinct cultural citizenry in a foreign territory that is governed by the laws and customs of its home country.

✓ established to influence the territory for the home government.

This means that a colony's purpose was essentially to:

1. be an extension of the home country in another territory.
2. establish a prototype of the original country in another territory.
3. represent the values, morals, and manners of the home country.
4. manifest the culture and lifestyle of the original nation.

When a kingdom takes a territory, therefore, its goal is to make that territory exactly like the kingdom. The purpose is not only to gain lands, but also to transform these lands so that they mirror the country in its mind-set and lifestyle, its characteristics and culture. In this way, the kingdom not only extends its power, but it also expands the influence of its very

nature.

The Roman Empire had a specific way of ensuring the permanency and effectiveness of kingdom influence over its colonies. When the Romans conquered a region, they planted a group of about three hundred of their own citizens, as well as a larger number of those allied with the empire, and a number of settlers, within it to serve as a type of military outpost. These constituted a “colony of Romans citizens” (colonia civium Romanorum) or a “little Rome.”

A colony of Roman citizens was free from taxation and military duty. It had its own constitution based on the Roman constitution and was allowed to elect its own senate and other offices of state. The original inhabitants had to adhere to this new government and its constitution.

These “little Romes” brought the culture and values of the Roman empire throughout Europe and northern Africa.

A striking picture of the power and influence of kingdoms over a territory and the lifestyle of its inhabitants can be seen in the various nations of the Caribbean and West Indies. You can always tell who controlled a colony by studying its culture. The Bahamas, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Barbados are former colonies of the United Kingdom. Cuba was a colony of Spain. Haiti was a colony of France. The cultures of all these islands are distinctly characteristic of the countries that claimed them.

You can still see the kingdoms’ influence in the daily lives of the peoples’ customs. If you visited the Bahamas, you’d see the influence of Great Britain in our narrow streets, our driving on the left-hand side of the road, and our habit of drinking tea. When I was a young boy attending school, my classmates and I grew up singing “God Save the Queen.” We were being taught to be a “little Britain.” Similarly, if you went to Cuba, you might think you were in Spain as you observed

A kingdom’s goal is to make its colony exactly like the kingdom.

its architecture and food. Significantly for their cultures, each of these former colonies speaks the language of the kingdom

that conquered it.

Most kingdoms in the colonial period had to fight for new territory because there was a limited amount of land in the world. Under European control, the Bahamas was initially claimed by the Spaniards. The French tried to conquer it, but the Spaniards held them off. Finally, the British won out over the Spanish. If the British Empire hadn't won, I might be speaking Spanish today. So even though the Bahamas, Haiti, and Cuba are all part of a chain of islands, whoever controlled the domain controlled the language and culture of the people. If you really want to investigate the power of kingdoms, study the island of Hispaniola, home of both the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Two kingdoms grabbed the same island, and there's a line right down the middle of the island; one side speaks French, while other side speaks Spanish.

The Most Important Person in the Colony

The transformation of a colony into the culture of the kingdom didn't happen automatically. A purposeful development was involved. The king didn't usually directly extend his influence to his colony by physically going there. He administrated his will through his personal representative, called a governor or regent. He sent his representative to physically live in the colony in his place. Therefore, the royal governor was the presence of the absent king in the colony.

With the governor in the colony, you didn't need the physical presence of the king to experience and be changed by the king's influence. I mentioned that the British monarchs who influenced the English-speaking Caribbean nations didn't frequently visit their colonies. Yet, in the Bahamas, we all learned to speak English, drink tea, wave the Union Jack, and sing the songs of Britain. We became part of the United Kingdom. And the royal governors were the direct instrument of that transformation.

The governor was therefore the most important person in the colony. We get a greater appreciation for why this was true when we look at his purpose.

The Governor's Purpose

The governor's purpose was sixfold:

1. Relationship

: The governor was the guarantee that the kingdom could always have access to the colony. The inter-relationship between king and colony was totally dependent on him.

2. Communication

: Anything the king wanted the colony to know or to receive, he would send through his governor, his avenue of communication.

3. Representation

: The governor was the chief representative of the king and his kingdom in the colony. He also represented the colony to the king.

4. Interpretation

: The governor understood intimately the king's desires, ideas, intent, purposes, will, and plans; therefore, he was the only one who could effectively interpret these things for the colony.

5. Power

: The governor was the only one empowered with the authority and ability to execute the king's desires and commands for the colony.

6. Partnership

: The governor was effectively the king's partner in rulership.

The Governor's Qualifications and Roles

The qualifications and roles of a governor were significant in terms of kingdom and colony:

1. The governor was appointed by the king.

Unlike the governors of representational governments, the royal governor was not voted in; he was appointed by the king.

2. The governor came only from the kingdom, never the colony.

Governors were never chosen from the indigenous peoples of the colonies. They were always appointed from the home countries. Why? A governor had to be steeped in the original culture of the kingdom. He had to be a person who knew the

kingdom and understood the heart, mind, desires, will, and intent of the king in carrying out the kingdom's purposes in the territory.

3. The governor represented only the king.

Again, the difference between the governors of colonies and the governors many of us are familiar with in representative governments is like night and day. Every state in the United States has a governor who is voted in by the people and can also be voted out by them. He or she is ultimately accountable to the people of the state, not to the federal government or its leaders. In contrast, the royal governor was responsible and accountable to the king alone in his allegiance, attitude, actions, and responsibility.

4. The governor only expressed the mind and will of the king

The governor was not there to promote his own personal policies or agendas. He was to take the vision and will of the king and communicate that to the people, translating it into policy and law.

5. The governor was responsible for converting the colony into the kingdom.

Once more, it was the governor's job to oversee and carry out the transformation of the colonies according to the character of the kingdom. The governor was "planted" in the colony to sow the seeds of the home country into the culture of the new territory. Colonization was for the purpose of conversion -to exchange the culture of the territory for the culture of the kingdom. Whatever was happening in the kingdom was supposed to happen in the colony, as well.

6. In converting the colony, the governor transferred the kingdom's culture, values, nature, language, and lifestyle to the people.

The governor made sure that every subject of the kingdom took on the kingdom culture in language, attitude, dress, food, and so forth. The colonists were even to take on the history of the kingdom as if it were their own, which in fact it now was, because they had become a part of the chronicles of the nation. The subjects were to take on the mind-set and lifestyle of the kingdom until, if you visited the territory, you would think you were in the home country itself.

7. The governor prepared the subjects for citizenship.

When a king took over a colony, the people essentially

became his possessions. The inhabitants of the colony did not automatically become citizens; they were called subjects

. For example, when the Bahamas was a colony, the people were not citizens of Great Britain. We couldn't vote, and we didn't have other rights of British citizens.

In a kingdom, citizenship was a privilege. Who became a citizen was the king's prerogative, and he personally granted it. The reason citizenship wasn't automatic is that, once a person was appointed a citizen, he had special benefits and protections in the kingdom. In the Roman Empire, citizenship was a high honor and privilege involving many rights. In the first century, Paul of Tarsus was arrested in Jerusalem by the Roman commander for allegedly disturbing the peace. He was about to be whipped when he declared to a nearby centurion that he was a Roman citizen. Immediately, the soldiers' attitude toward him changed. The following exchange dramatically reveals the power of kingdom citizenship in the Roman Empire, especially if you were born a citizen:

Once you are a citizen, your privileges, rights, and demands upon the throne change. The king is responsible for taking care of you. Therefore, the governor's role of preparing subjects for citizenship was a tremendous responsibility. If the governor believed a subject was ready to be a citizen or especially deserved citizenship, he recommended the subject to the king. Since the governor lived in the colony and knew the subjects firsthand, the king accepted the suggestions of the governor in this regard.

8. The governor lived in a residence built by the government of the home country.

A kingdom would build a residence in its colonies specifically for its royal governors to live in. This emphasized that the governor, the chief representative of the kingdom in the colony, was not just a visitor; he lived there, he was there to stay, and this was his legal residence. The British built a governor's mansion in Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas, specifically for the royal governor to live in, which today is called the Government House. Great Britain similarly built governors' houses in Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, and in every colony

where it ruled.

9. The governor's presence in the colony was evidence that the kingdom itself was in the colony.

As long as the governor lived in the colony, the kingdom itself was present. The first time the Bahamas was declared a British colony was when a royal governor drove out the remaining Spanish garrisons, solidifying its ownership by the kingdom of Great Britain.

10. The governor left if the colony declared independence.

Either by force or recall, the royal governor would leave a colony if it declared independence and the kingdom was no longer officially governing. In the American Revolution, the royal governors of the colonies were forced to withdraw from their posts. When the Bahamas received independence, it was through negotiation with Great Britain, and the governor was recalled because he no longer had a legal right to be there.

The Value of the Governor

In kingdom terms, then, the governor was the most powerful and important person in the colony. Because he introduced the kingdom's culture, language, and lifestyle—every unique aspect of the kingdom—to the colony, he had great value for the kingdom and its larger purposes.

To summarize, the governor was valuable:

1. As the presence of the government
. Without him, the kingdom would not exist in the colony.
2. For representing the government
. If he wasn't there, the king would not be adequately or effectively represented.
3. For the enablement of the colony
. He was the one with the authority and ability to supply power and resources to the colony.
4. For protectionAs long as the kingdom was represented in a colony by the governor, the king was obligated to protect the territory from outside threats and danger.
5. For his ability to know and communicate the mind of the king
The governor represented the king's interests and will to the colony and made sure they were carried out.
6. For enabling the colony's citizens and subjects to fulfill the will of the kingdom

. The colony received its instructions only through the governor and therefore was dependent on him for its effectiveness. The citizens and subjects would not be able to carry out their kingdom mandate without the governor's guidance and empowerment.

The Influence of Another Kingdom

These were the main features of a kingdom-colony relationship, including the pivotal role of the governor in the process of transforming colonies into the home country. This brings us back to the kingdom I mentioned earlier in this chapter, which transcends our human governments and speaks to the basis of our very nature and existence as human beings. This kingdom has properties that are similar to, but go beyond, those of the traditional earthly kingdoms we've been looking at.

Two millennia ago, a startling young teacher described this transcendent kingdom. When Jesus of Nazareth began traveling and speaking around Palestine, the first thing he is recorded as saying is, "The time has come....The kingdom of God is near."

This statement intrigues me and brings up several questions for us to explore in terms of kingdom:

√ What "time" was he speaking about? And why then?

√ What was the nature of the kingdom he was referring to?

He was announcing the imminent return of a kingdom and its influence on earth. Notice that he didn't proclaim the entrance of a new religion, nor did he announce the beginnings of a democratic form of government. We have to ask:

√ Why would he use this particular governmental reference at the beginning of his public life?

√ What did it signify about his message and purpose?

√ If the influence of a kingdom was entering the world, what new culture would emerge for the citizens of earth?

To understand the context of these thought-provoking statements and their implications, we need to go back to the

first book of Moses, the book of Genesis, to the origins of this kingdom. For this wasn't the first time the transcendent kingdom had entered the world and impacted its inhabitants...

Rulership over a New Territory

Let's look at humanity's assignment from one other perspective. A prince or princess who is the king's heir doesn't succeed to the throne if the king is still alive. The only way this might occur (apart from a king abdicating his throne) is for the king's heir to go to another territory to rule. This has happened in history, although rarely. Therefore, while the heir is in the same territory as the king-father, he or she remains a

The Holy Spirit is humanity's bridge to the home kingdom.

prince or princess. Yet if the heir lives in a foreign country or territory, he or she can rule as sovereign, while the king-father still rules the home country. So, if a king wanted his children to have the same power, authority, glory, and rulership that he possessed, he had to send them to a different territory or territories to rule.

The King of the invisible realm of heaven is eternal. He cannot die. No one will ever succeed him on his heavenly throne. Yet because he delighted in humanity, his children whom he had made in his own image, he wanted them to rule a territory of their own in his name.

This was not a last-minute idea. He prepared the earthly colony before he created the first man and woman. He designed the perfect physical environment for his children to rule in. The first book of Moses recounts the creation of the earth, sea, and animals—which human beings were to rule over as vice governors—prior to the creation of humanity. Then, we read, “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” The natural world, as distinct from the encompassing invisible realm, was an entirely new realm over which humanity could legally have dominion. The message of the creation of humanity is therefore very practical. It is not about “religion” as we tend to think of it; it is not about rituals. It describes the government of an eternal

King and kingdom and the King's royal children whom he made his local governors on earth through the authority and power of his own Spirit. It is about the rule of a King over his territory and the transformation of that territory into the manifestation of his kingdom.

The territory of earth had been created and the colony

established. The King's children were provided with a rich home and given authority to rule and prosper on earth in behalf of the King. However, something happened to disrupt the home country's plan of expanding the realm of its heavenly kingdom on earth. A rebellion that started in the home country spread to the colony

A Breach of Trust

The Plot: Overthrow

The rebellion had been instigated by one of the King's top generals, named Lucifer. He had attempted a coup of the heavenly kingdom and been banished from the presence of the King, along with his followers. This disgraced former aide was bent on revenge and still craved the power to rule a kingdom. He thought that if he could gain control over the King's own children, he could insult the King, thwart the purposes of the heavenly kingdom, and usurp the colony.

The Plan: Detachment

Lucifer's plan was to sever the relationship between the King's children and their Father and separate the citizens of the colony from their true government. So he went to the colony in disguise, where the King's children had just begun to rule, and infiltrated their government using craftiness and deceit.

The Strategy: An Independent Spirit

His strategy to accomplish this broken relationship was to promote a spirit of rebellion and independence. Subtly questioning the integrity and goodwill of the King, he seduced the

King's children to disregard their Father's authority over the colony and encouraged them in an act of insurrection. The following is an account of this incident from the first book of Moses:

Now the serpent...said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked.

The children of the King went against his explicit instructions, which he had instituted for their protection. The renegade general had planted doubts about the motivation of the King, and distrust grew in their hearts. They immediately turned their backs on all their Father had given them and instead believed the lie placed before them.

The children's response was contrary to the nature and desires of the King. It was also a corruption of their own nature, which had been made in his likeness. What seemed to be a harmless act to their benefit was actually a disaster; it represented a serious breach of faith and departure from the heart and will of the King. If they could not be trusted with even the simplest aspect of their assignment in the colony, how could they transform the earth into the culture of the kingdom of heaven? Especially now that their minds and hearts were shown to be aligned with the King's bitter enemy?

The Result: Treason

The King's own children had declared, "I don't want to be under the kingdom's jurisdiction anymore; I don't want to be under the King of kings; I don't want to be subjected to heaven's government." Yet the earth is heaven's property. When Adam and Eve rebelled and declared independence, they violated

Adam and Eve violated the legal contract heaven had established with human beings.

the legal contract the government of heaven had established with human beings. Many people think of "sin" as things a person does. Yet it is both deeper and more specific than that. Sin is rebellion against the essential nature and authority of the heavenly government.

By their rebellion, the children not only took something that wasn't theirs, but they also handed it over to someone who didn't deserve it and would never be qualified for it. Lucifer, the unfaithful former general of heaven, would never transform the world into the heavenly kingdom. He would transform it into something completely opposite, a kingdom of darkness.

The Recall of the Governor

Although they were removed from the magnificent garden, their former rule, and their previous kingdom life-style, their rejection of the King and his nature led to something far worse. The King had previously alerted them, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." This was the only area on earth over which the King claimed jurisdiction because he knew its misuse would lead to death.

The death the King referred to was not an immediate, bodily death. Adam and Eve did not physically die right away, but they lost their essential source of life as human beings—the King's Spirit. Remember that the Spirit of the King gave life to their spirits, souls, and bodies. When they rejected the King, they also rejected and lost his Spirit. The Governor alone was their dynamic connection between the seen and the unseen

realms. Therefore, their spirits and souls were cut off from the home country, and their physical bodies began to die a slow death. They were still physically alive for a time, but spiritually and soulfully, they were dead to the King and his kingdom. We saw earlier that, whenever a colony becomes independent from the mother country, the governor is either forced out, or the kingdom withdraws him. Likewise, when Adam and Eve declared independence, the Governor had to be recalled to the heavenly kingdom

Loss of the Kingdom

The loss of the Governor meant the loss of the environment of the kingdom on earth. Since the Governor was the evidence of the presence of the kingdom, his absence inevitably meant the absence of the kingdom presence. Earth's environment changed to the antithesis of the heavenly kingdom.

Cut off from True Life

Although human beings were designed to live from the inside out

, this situation was now reversed. Since they had lost the Holy Spirit, which was their connection with their Father, they now had to live from the outside in

. They became totally dependant on their five physical senses. The physical world—

which could give them only a limited perspective on life's realities—imposed itself on their inner world. I believe this is why one of the first words we read about Adam and Eve after their rebellion is the word “realized” or “knew.” Suddenly, they realized they were naked. Does this imply they didn't know this before? I don't think so. I believe it implies this: nakedness is an external consciousness rather than something that is spiritually discerned.

The body and its senses, rather than the spirit, took over humanity's focus in life. Human beings no longer had a spiritual perspective at their essence but a sensual one.

A perspective based Only on the senses inevitably leads to confusion. Humanity began to depend on the soul—the mind, will, and emotions informed by the senses—to interpret life.

From then on , what we saw, heard , touched , tasted , and smelled became the dominant components in our human experience. Consequently, we began to interpret our Creator-King mainly from our physical senses, as well.

For example, the field of science attempts to understand the unseen world only from the seen world. This approach is dangerous because human beings were never intended to interpret the physical world from itself but from the spiritual reality of the kingdom.

I am not saying that science is “bad.” Neither am I saying that the intellect is evil, but only that it has been moved out of its proper position. The intellect is a wonderful gift created by God. It must be in its right position, however, for it to effectively execute its purpose and fulfill its potential. The things that are seen were made from things that are not seen, and the only way to truly understand something is to relate to how it was made and who made it. The Spirit of the Creator is the only avenue we have for fully understanding ourselves and the physical world since he is the Source, Author, and Manufacturer of creation.

We must grasp the deep significance of this truth: Having the Spirit of the King is not only vital for our relationship with the invisible King, but also for understanding our own humanity. Only through the Governor can we know why we are really here and how to interpret the world in which we live; in other words, how to truly see our environment.

The Governor is the key to our being fully human.

We can't express the King's nature unless we are in relationship with him, and the Governor provided that relationship.

Only the Governor knows the mind of the King. We can't really be what we were born to be as human beings unless we have a vital connection to his original intent. The Governor is our reference to ourselves; he is the key to our self-understanding. To be true and complete human beings, we must somehow become reconnected to and re-indwelled by the Holy Spirit.

Loss of Authority and Power

We not only lost communication with the home country through the loss of the Governor, but we also lost the power and authority he provided. Remember that power is the ability to control and influence circumstances. One of the first things the King said to Adam after his rebellion was, in effect, “From now on, you will have to fight the earth in order to get food.” Beforehand, he had said, “Rule over...all the earth.” Now the King had to sadly inform him,

The King wasn't only speaking of literal thorns. He was saying, “It's going to be hard for you to provide for yourself. You're going to have to sweat for it.” Before that, Adam's work was not exhausting. He had authority and dominion over the natural world. It worked for him, rather than the other way around.

Ramifications of Self-Government

The Governor had been humanity's connection with the home country, enabling human beings to fulfill their authority and dominion on earth. When he left, the earth basically became an independent nation. A colony without a governor results in self-government. Again, to our contemporary minds, independence and self-determination are positive words. We celebrate freedom and self-government. But again, this was not the triumph of freedom over tyranny. This was not removing the shackles of foreign occupation. It was like rejecting your beloved family, your home country, and your billion-dollar inheritance all at once. To paraphrase the wise King Solomon, “Some paths in life seem right, but they lead to death.”

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our efforts to execute government on earth in personal and corporate ways have fallen deeply short as well.

A Culture of Darkness and Death

When a country becomes independent after being a colony, it usually elects or appoints its own governor. This governor does not teach the people about the culture of the former home country, but only its own. Similarly, when the heavenly government recalled the Governor, human beings stopped learning the culture of heaven and created their own culture, which they passed along to their children. We stopped living heaven's values and began to have our own independent ideas about life.

We must ask ourselves: How well are we doing? What has the nature of our culture become? One of the first things that took place after earth lost the Governor was that a man was murdered by his older brother.

What a way to start a new culture! Instead of the kingdom of heaven defining and trans-forming earth, a kingdom and culture of darkness came upon it and began to spread. Adultery, incest, abuse, and domestic violence are all parts of this culture of darkness; it destroys young and old, strong and weak. We are still experiencing crime upon crime, brother killing brother. Wherever the Governor of the King does not rule, you will find murder and other instances of man's inhumanity to man. The abuse and destruction afflict families, communities, businesses, and government—the whole realm of human existence.

All this transpired because human beings listened to the treacherous lies of a rebellious former aide to our King-Father, who wanted to usurp the colony for himself. Jesus of Nazareth described Lucifer as the “father of lies” and a “murderer.” He also said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.” When this disgraced former general took authority over the territory of earth, the natural result was devastation and death. His intent as the illegal governor on earth was not to bring freedom. It was to steal people's lives so he could ultimately destroy them. He is a foreign ruler who has taken over the colony of earth and desires to destroy the original culture of the inhabitants. He rules over a destructive kingdom of darkness in which human beings have become either his willing or unwilling accomplices.

What have we done to this planet? From the time of humanity's rejection of the King and the loss of the Governor, human beings have been attempting to dominate the King's colony without the mind and heart of the King. Trying to run the planet without the King's nature has led to a breakdown in human authority and power to address vital issues. It is the source of the world's poverty, genocide, terrorism, political corruption, drug addiction, broken homes, and every kind of evil that can be named. We have created a state of rebellion and confusion. This world is a disaster without the Governor.

The Promise of the King

The colony of earth crumbled under the absence of the Governor. Without his presence, the human race lost its dignity and sense of responsibility; it became confused and chaotic. The people experienced a living death. Even though many people still struggle to do good, this is the essence of the culture of earth today. As the descendants of Adam and Eve, we are unable to rule on behalf of the heavenly kingdom because we abdicated our rule to Lucifer's culture of darkness. Yet, remarkably, immediately following humanity's rebellion and the loss of the Governor, the King promised the return of the Governor and the restoration of earth as a territory loyal to the kingdom of heaven. The most important promise the government of heaven ever made to humanity was the return of the Governor because he is what every human being needs for true life. He is what the entire world needs, or the territory would forever remain in a state of chaos and death.

Even in the immediate aftermath of the rebellion, the King gave an indication of how he would restore the Governor. He told Lucifer, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." The King's plan was to send an Offspring, to be born in the colony, who would restore kingdom influence to the colony. He would crush the power of the realm of darkness, take back the kingdom authority that was stolen, and restore power and authority to those to whom

it was first given—humanity. We would be reinstated as local rulers on behalf of the heavenly kingdom once again. This would happen because the King would reappoint the Governor to the colony of earth.

Seeking the Governor

I believe that the bottom line in every person's search for power and meaning in life is this: they are actually seeking the return of the Governor, though they may not realize it. Many people feel they are missing something in their lives yet aren't sure what it is. They try to fill the emptiness with a variety of things: money, relationships, parties, drugs, sex, alcohol, work, sports, or vacations. In fact, I believe that every person, whether he is Christian, atheist, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Shintoist, Scientologist, animist, or even Satanist ultimately desires the same thing. He wants to fill what is missing in his life, and only the presence of the Governor in his life can accomplish this. A human being without the Governor is dysfunctional because he's never complete; his very purpose requires the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, if a message were sent from the kingdom of heaven to earth regarding the fulfillment of the King's promise—the restoration of the Governor—that message would not be a religion. Neither would it be a self-help method by which human beings could use their own abilities to solve their problems. It would be a message about the kingdom and the return of the King's Spirit.

The first two chapters of Genesis explain the heavenly government's plan for expanding the kingdom to earth. The third chapter describes the interruption of this plan, and the immediate promise of restoration. From the third chapter all the way through the last book of the Old Testament, the King's plan for the return of his Governor to earth is revealed.

All the situations, people, and programs we read about serve these ends:

1. They are a continual reminder of the promise of the Governor's restoration.
2. They depict the King's intervention in the lives of specific families on earth to preserve a lineage for the Offspring who would restore the Governor.
3. They depict a prototype of the restoration of the kingdom of heaven on earth.
4. They expose the fact that only the Governor himself can reconnect the earthly colony to its heavenly government.
5. They foretell the coming of the Offspring who will personally reconcile the children-citizens to the King and authorize the return of the Governor.

In other words, after humanity's rebellion, the King's intent was essentially this: "My purpose in creating the world was disrupted, and I'm going to correct it. My Spirit can no longer live in the earthly residence I created. I will therefore restore my Spirit to humanity so my kingdom can function on earth again."

Everything depicted in the Old Testament about the intervention of God in the lives of human beings was ultimately a means to this end. God was revealing to humanity, in effect, "Here's the program: Your rebellion has put you in a hopeless situation. I am therefore going to come to the earth personally, and I will provide a way of restoring purity of heart and wholeness to you, so that the Governor can come to live in you again. Second, I will reappoint the Governor to the colony of earth to live within you once more and carry out my desire to transform the earth into a reflection of my kingdom."

The King's plan to fully restore the Governor unfolded in stages:

1. He implemented a program that allowed the Governor to come upon people, although not within them, so as not to violate his integrity.

His Spirit could come upon any person who chose to submit to the influence of the heavenly government

Since the Governor had been recalled and was therefore “illegal” on earth, he would come and rule in someone’s life when that person yielded to his prompting and direction. This wasn’t the same influence over the entire world that was in place before the rebellion; it was what we might call “selective rulership” or “rulership by submission.”

2. The sacrificial system, which the Hebrew people practiced, and which we will talk more about shortly, allowed the Governor to work on earth through a special nation of people who were meant to be a prototype of the return of the kingdom to the whole world.

3. The King himself would come to earth to restore integrity to humanity, and thus provide a way for the Governor to again live within human beings on a permanent basis.

Understanding the Creator-King’s program to restore humanity puts the entire Old Testament in the proper light. It is not a group of stories strung together or a handbook of rituals. It is about the King initiating his restoration program.

The inhabitants of the colony of earth had been ransacking the King’s territory — stealing, lying, abusing, killing one another, living their lives outside the nature of the kingdom. Therefore, as the Son and heir of the King of heaven, Jesus was coming to reclaim his Father’s territory. His arrival on earth marked “the day of the LORD” prophesied by Joel.

The King-Son came to reclaim his Father’s property two thousand years ago as a baby born in Bethlehem. Christmas is not about a beggar coming; it’s about an owner arriving.

He came to reclaim the earth

because, as the psalmist David, king of Israel, wrote, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” He came to recover all of creation as its legal owner.

The King-Son didn’t come to earth to plead with Lucifer

to return his property. He treated him as a thief, saying, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” He also said, “How can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.” The King-Son came to bind the strongman, Lucifer, so he could retake the house and give it back to the children of the household. Therefore, the man Jesus was the fulfillment of the King-Father’s remarkable plan to send his Son to earth to restore the heavenly government here.

Jesus demonstrated by his life what it meant to be a human being with the Governor living within. He was true humanity rightly related to the King-Father and his kingdom.

Jesus’ death at Calvary, the blood that he shed on the cross, and his resurrection from the dead were required in order to break the spirit of rebellion in humanity. I use the word spirit because rebellion is really an attitude or nature within every human being. It’s something we’re born with; it is ingrained within us. This spirit is antagonistic to the kingdom of heaven. It couldn’t be wished away or ignored. It had to be broken

. And Jesus did break this power, allowing the earth’s inhabitants to instead yield to the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote, “For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.”

Breaking a spirit of independence is very difficult, but this is what Jesus accomplished. Jesus was destroying the idea of independence and rebel-

lion, showing that this leads to deadly consequences. In contrast, dependence on him leads to life because “apart from [him] you can do nothing.”

The King-Son’s Ultimate Reason for Coming to Earth

After his resurrection, Jesus told his disciples, “I am going

to send you what my Father has promised.” The King-Son was restating the essential reason for his ministry. This next statement may shock a few people, but I believe it is vital for us to understand: the promise of the Father was not Jesus’ sufferings, his death on Calvary, or even his resurrection. Over the centuries, the Christian church has emphasized these aspects of Jesus’ ministry to the point that I believe the ultimate reason he endured them has been obscured.

The Spirit is what all human beings need in order to be realigned with the King and fulfill their purpose on earth.

We must come to truly understand that the Holy Spirit is the heavenly government personified. He is the source of the power of the kingdom in our lives. The Old Testament experience of the priests and prophets was only a shadow of what was to come. At that time, the Holy Spirit couldn’t live in human beings; he could only be among them. But now, Jesus was saying, “The Spirit of truth...lives with you and will be in you.”

The Goal of the King

The King’s desire to restore the Holy Spirit to humanity, therefore, is what made the entire redemptive program of Jesus Christ necessary. The principle goal and primary purpose of Jesus’ coming into the world was to deliver the Governor of heaven to the colony of earth.

Everything else was a means to that end. He didn’t come to bring us to heaven. He came to bring heaven to earth. This is why our Master Teacher taught us to pray, in what we call The Lord’s Prayer, that the King-Father’s influence, will, intent, and laws be done on earth—the colony—as they are in heaven—the home country.

The Release and Reception of the Governor

After the King-Son's life on earth, a process unfolded by which the Governor was given to his followers. First, of course, the Holy Spirit dwelled within the body of Jesus—the first human being to have the Spirit within him since Adam and Eve. When Jesus died on the cross, eyewitness and disciple John recorded that he “gave up his spirit.” Although this term can be a description for taking one's last breath, I believe it also has a deeper significance here. The Greek word for “give up” means to “yield up.”

Therefore, I think this term means that Jesus also Released the Holy Spirit back to the Father in heaven at his death.

When Jesus was resurrected, he was raised by the power of the Spirit, and the Spirit again dwelled in him. Paul wrote, “And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.” Just as the King-Son was raised from death by the Spirit, and the Spirit dwelled in him, those who enter the kingdom through the King-Son's sacrifice will also receive the Spirit. At Jesus' resurrection, then, the Spirit was now poised to return to humanity and rescue lives that had lived in rebellion, confusion, and despair under the kingdom of darkness. Just as the Spirit brought life out of emptiness and order from chaos at the creation of the earth, he would transform the earth once more into a colony of heaven through the return of the kingdom in the lives of its citizens.

The breath of life

It is the Holy Spirit; the Governor is the life of humanity. Without Him, even though our bodies may be physically alive for a limited length of time, we are dead to the kingdom, to the heavenly influence we were created to live in, and to the Creator-King himself.

In other words, when the Creator first breathed into Adam, he was essentially saying, “reCeive the Holy Spirit.” Now, Jesus was saying to his disciples, as the first human beings (besides him-self) to be filled with the Spirit,

“Re-ceive the Holy Spirit.” In the English language, we don’t use the word ceive as a verb, but the English word receive comes from the Latin re-(again) and capere(to take). When Adam rebelled, he lost the Spirit he had been given. So when Jesus brought the disciples together after the resurrection, he was saying, in effect, “Humanity, take the Spirit again as Adam did.” He was giving human beings back what they had lost.

In breathing on his disciples, Jesus reconnected humanity to the kingdom of heaven. He was literally bringing his disciples into identity with heaven’s government. He was renewing human beings’ standing and authority in the kingdom. They were restored to their original assignment as vice governors of earth. So the disciples of Jesus were the first human beings after Jesus to receive the Governor resident within them again. The return of the Holy Spirit is the most important act of redemption in God’s program for humanity. At that moment, the kingdom of God returned to earth because the Spirit lived within humanity once more!

The kingdom of God is within you when the Governor is resident within you. And when the Governor is resident within you, the kingdom of heaven is present on earth. Jesus told his followers, “I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power.” According to Luke’s account in his second book, Acts, about one hundred twenty disciples were present when the Governor was poured out and fully reinstated on earth

Jesus had already breathed the Spirit on his disciples. They had received the Governor into their lives and were connected to the kingdom. But they still needed to be connected to the kingdom’s power, which the King would soon send them. This is what John meant when he said Jesus would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire. After Jesus returned to the heavenly kingdom, the “fire” would come, and his mission of both reconnection and restored power would be fully realized.

Jesus told them they would be clothed with power from

“on high.” This point is vital: we are to receive our power from the heavenly country, from a place outside this world, because this world is controlled by the kingdom of darkness. Again, the King-Son sent the Governor to earth from the throne of the Father, just as a royal governor was sent to a colony from the throne of the king to carry on the work of the sovereign there

When Jesus’ followers were Filled with the Holy Spirit, they were given power to speak in the variety of languages spoken by the Jewish people who had come to Jerusalem, from a number of countries, to celebrate the feast of Pentecost. The heavenly government gave them the ability to communicate the message that the kingdom of God had fully come so that people of many nations could hear this momentous news. Their speaking in these languages was an evidence that they were connected to the King and their assignment to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth. As recorded in the book of Mark, Jesus had previously told his disciples, “And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will...speak in new tongues....”

What separates the kingdom of heaven from all other philosophies, belief systems, and religions is that its citizens have within them the Holy Spirit. Religions have doctrines, tenets, and lists of dos and don’ts, but they don’t have the indwelling Spirit.

The power of the Governor is that he makes the reality of heaven on earth possible. This is why everybody needs the Holy Spirit. He is the only one who can connect us to the King and, through us, dispel the kingdom of darkness with his kingdom of light. He is the most important person on earth

Restores the Power of Dominion

While the new birth restores us to the heavenly government, the baptism gives us the ability to carry out the authority that the government has given back to us. Remember that power refers to our ability to influence and control circum-

stances. This is the power we must have to exercise dominion over the physical earth and the various situations we will encounter in the world.

Delegated-Authority and Ability-Authority

As we began to discuss in the previous chapter, there are two kinds of kingdom authority: (1) legal or delegated-authority, and (2) ability-authority. One gives you the right to do something. The other gives you the power and wherewithal to back up the authority by accomplishing the mandate.

The royal governor in a colony had delegated-authority, which was given to him by the king. When I was at the reception with the royal governor of the Turks and Caicos islands, the governor was really the only physical evidence in the colony that the queen was present there. Yet everyone treated him with great respect, bowing, shaking his hand, and calling him “Your Excellency.” Why? Because, in the Turks and Caicos, he was the government of Great Britain. He was the monarchy. He was backed up by the authority of the kingdom of Great Britain.

The royal governor in colonial times also had ability-authority, which meant he was empowered by the king to act

A king gave ability-authority by providing people and material support that the Governor needed to fulfill his assignment.

After his resurrection, Jesus told his followers that, as King, he had the power to give them both delegated-authority and ability-authority to carry out their work of realigning people with the kingdom. His words are recorded in the book of Matthew:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age

Some Christians spend their lives focused only on Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and haven’t understood that God wants them to receive the promised outpouring of the Spirit in their

lives. Others have received the promised baptism in the Holy Spirit but do not fully understand its relationship to kingdom life. All of us need to move on to the main point: exercising rulership on earth for the kingdom of God. This was God's original assignment for humanity, and it is not temporary but eternal.

A Transformed Outlook on Life

Fourth, it is impossible to really be in the kingdom of God and not experience change. There is a realignment of the proper functioning of a person's spirit, soul, and body because anyone who has the Spirit of God has become truly human again.

For example, a major transformation occurs in the way we think.

This is why, when the Governor comes to live within a person, the Governor immediately attacks the false mind-set with which the person has been influenced by the kingdom of the world. This is also why we are instructed by the Scriptures—what we can call the Constitution of the kingdom of heaven—with admonitions such as the following:

The Governor changes our inner culture by teaching us a new way to live. He reveals to us the thoughts and ways of the King so that we may understand and follow them. Remember that the King declared, “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways....As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” The word

ways

here means

“a road (as trodden); figuratively a course of life or mode of action.”

⁴

In other words, it's talking about lifestyle, and we need to change our mind-set if we are to have the same lifestyle as the King in order to help rule the earth.

Reconnection to Life's Purpose

When the Governor comes to live within a person, he helps connect him to the assignment for which he was born. The prophet Joel talked about old men dreaming dreams, young

men seeing visions, and sons and daughters prophesying the King's will. I define a dream as something you can see being accomplished in the future, even though you may not live to see it fully completed. A vision is something you can see to do, which you can complete in your lifetime

Some people mistake the meaning of the Governor's presence in their lives. As we have seen, they think he came just to make them "feel good," or that he came to give them abilities that they can use to draw attention to themselves. Instead, he came to give us a vision or a dream of something that only we can help accomplish, because he has given it to us as our special work on earth. He came to give us

power

so that this

particular work can be realized.

Access to the King

Let me try to illustrate how vital the Governor is to our communication with the King. In the colonial period in the Bahamas, if anybody, and I mean anybody

, whether members

of Parliament, local commissioners, or the bishop, wanted to go to Great Britain to see the queen, they couldn't get close to her without going through the royal governor first. This was true even for the premier of the colony.

A similar process applies in our relationship with the King-Father. Some people think they can have access to the heavenly throne because of their level of education or how wealthy they are, or how much they have done for the poor. We can't have an audience with the King-Father, however, unless we go through the King-Son, who opened the way for us by his substitutionary death, and unless we do so through the power of the Governor, who is our means of speaking with and hearing

from the Father

Hearing the Will of the King

When a king wanted to communicate with his citizens, the Governor was also involved in this process

As we have seen, governors were placed in colonies not just to give information, but also to train the citizens to think, act,

and live the standards, the customs—the entire culture—of the home country. This involved both general teaching and individual training.

Because the governor of a colony was sent from the throne of the sovereign, he knew the sovereign's intent. In the same way, the Governor from heaven is the only one who can enable us to understand the truth of the statements that Jesus made and the instructions he left for us. The Holy Spirit is the only one who can reconnect us to original information about the King and his kingdom. He protects us from error and from others' opinions that are not according to the mind of the King.

One of the jobs of a governor in a colony is to interpret for the citizens what the sovereign means by the words he delivers to them.

It is the King's ultimate purpose, as spoken through the prophet Habakkuk, that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." We can take this statement as an instruction concerning the kingdom. Again, the glory of God refers to the nature of God. Jesus said that, under the Governor's direction, we are to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything [Jesus has] commanded."

In this way, the prophecy will be fulfilled.

The Governor calls upon us to bring the culture of the kingdom into the foreign culture that has taken over the earth—the culture of the kingdom of darkness. We saw earlier that to disciple means to teach kingdom philosophy and values, so that the students are immersed in the mind-set of the King. The term nations is the Greek word *ethnos*, referring to races or people groupings.

Every special grouping of people on earth is to be converted into kingdom culture. The royal governor of the Bahamas used to appoint local commissioners, or council people, from the colony, and he would empower them to do different improvement projects, such as fixing the roads. Likewise, the Governor empowers us to do

good works in the world on behalf of the government. As Paul wrote, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

In Reconnecting to Our Gifts

Every human being is born with gifts from God, but in order for these gifts to reach their maximum potential in service for the kingdom, they need to be reconnected to their original source. No one really knows the true essence of his gifts unless he reconnects with the Spirit of the Creator. More-over, the Governor activates our gifts to a level that we wouldn’t

naturally bring them. Paul wrote, quoting the prophet Isaiah, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him’ —but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.”

The Governor reconnects you to the source of your gifts so that you can understand what you have been given—not just the value of your gifts, but also the magnitude of them. In other words, no one’s intellect alone can discern or understand the gifts that the King has placed within him for the purposes of the kingdom. This is why, if you want to know what the Spirit of God really created inside you, you have to connect to the Governor.

**The baptism with the Holy Spirit, which we will talk about in more detail in later chapters, is the consummation of identification with the King and his kingdom, as well as a reception of the power of the heavenly kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the personification of the heavenly government. To be baptized in this way means you are immersed in kingdom philosophy and lifestyle, and that it has total influence over your thoughts and actions.

Gal 5:22 Any true manifestation of the kingdom of God on earth will have these characteristics. Paul referred to these qualities as “the fruit of the Spirit.” He was saying that, wherever the

Governor was, these qualities should be evident, indicating that the culture of the King was present.

When you receive the Holy Spirit, you also receive the seed of kingdom nature. You develop this seed by putting into your life the kingdom elements that allow it to grow. For example, an apple tree doesn't have to "work" to produce its fruit

Culture Reveals Origin

Your culture should reveal your origin. The way you behave, the way you respond to others, the way you react to problems, and the way you deal with disappointments should all reveal the culture of heaven. The qualities of the Spirit within you define the uniqueness of your nature. Your unique nature then links you to your heavenly heritage.

Culture Clash

When you become realigned with the kingdom of heaven, you essentially now live in two worlds or kingdoms. The invisible kingdom of God lives within you through the presence of the Governor. The human kingdom, the kingdom of darkness fueled by Lucifer, is all around you. In addition, remnants of the rebellious nature are still present in your life and need to be rooted out.

We are therefore faced with a choice of which kingdom and its culture we are going to yield to. Paul encouraged the first-century kingdom citizens in Philippi to keep their focus on the heavenly kingdom because "our citizenship is in heaven." Following his list of the fruit of the Spirit, he told the Galatians, "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." The disciple John encouraged Jesus' followers, "The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." In other words, the power of the Governor within you exponentially exceeds the power of the kingdom of the world around you.

Since the Governor's role is to convert the citizens to live as the King does, when we act according to the culture of darkness, he rebukes and corrects us. He does this in two ways. First, he uses the internal warning system of our consciences. Second, he reminds us of the teachings of

the King. He brings to our minds what is recorded in the Constitution of the kingdom, or the written record of the King's words and ways, the Scriptures. Paul wrote that we no longer live "under law." In other words, our trying to follow strict dos and don'ts doesn't work. Only a changed nature causes us to live as the King lives. And the Governor gives us this new nature and enables us to follow it.

The Governor begins by teaching us to relate to the Creator as our Father again, so that we can call him, "Abba, Father," just as the King-Son did.

This relationship enables us to be remade in the image of our Creator.

These abilities are known as "the gifts of the Spirit." The fruit

has to do with the character of the King. It is the development of the King's nature within us. The

gifts

have to do with the

power of the King. One is character, the other is ability, but both are necessary for the kingdom life. Some of these abilities are the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, and prophecy.

However, we should note here that while character develops over time, ability-power from the Governor can be received immediately after a person realigns with the King and receives the outpouring of the Spirit in his life

Ultimately, culture is spread through influence, and the qualities and gifts of the Spirit are the influence of the kingdom on earth. As we allow the Governor to transform our lives into the nature of the King, and as we demonstrate his power, our lives will have an effect on others. This is how the kingdom of heaven will spread on the earth.

**There are specific ways that people from certain countries act, speak, and look, so that you can recognize, “That’s a Bahamian,” “That’s an Italian,” or “That’s a Russian.” After you have been around people from various countries or regions long enough, you begin to recognize their distinguishing mannerisms, attitudes, and speech. While we are still surrounded by the kingdom of darkness, we are to live from the inside out rather than from the outside in. Since we’re not used to living in this way, we depend on the Governor to instruct and empower us in all the ways of the kingdom—its mind-set, lifestyle, and customs—so that what is within us can be manifested in our attitudes, words, and actions.

Characteristics of All Nations

There are certain characteristics that nations must have to become established and to maintain themselves as nations.

They must have...

1. Land (territory)
2. Culture (what the nation stands for; its ideals)
3. Values (the standards the people of the nation live by)
4. Language (a common form of communication)

A1 Language is the key to national IDENTITY

When the

British Empire took over the Bahamas, the first thing they did was make the people learn to speak English. Language is powerful because it gives people a shared perspective not only on life, but also on how that life is expressed. It could be said that culture is contained in language, because it shapes it. If you and I can’t speak the same language, we can never have the same culture because we can’t communicate with one another. So the key to community is language.

2. Language Creates National Unity

Second, language creates national unity. When a nation doesn’t have a common language, the unity of the people begins to break down. If you emigrate to another country, it’s supposed to be your responsibility to make sure you adopt the country’s language. Otherwise, it encourages disharmony. Therefore, every nation embraces a common language because it is the key to unity.

3. Language Is the Key to Effective Communication

Third, language is the key to effective communication. National culture, values, history, goals, needs, and desires can be transmitted only if a nation's leaders and citizens are able to effectively communicate these things to each other and subsequent generations. A common language is essential to accomplish this, especially in helping to ensure the accuracy of the transmission.

4. Language is the Key to Effective Expression

Fourth, language is the key to effective expression. You won't be able to articulate what you desire to say if you lack the words to do so. Such a lack makes it difficult for people to participate in a nation as full-fledged citizens.

5. Language Signifies a Common Heritage

Fifth, language is the key to common heritage. It identifies the original home country of those who speak it. For example, if a man from Portugal met a man from Brazil, they would recognize their common heritage because they both speak Portuguese, even though there might be regional differences in their respective expressions of the language.

6. Language Is the Key to Generational Transfer

Sixth, language is the key to generational transfer. This means that, if I want to pass along my values, beliefs, and family traditions to my children, I have to be able to communicate with them in a common language. Language therefore preserves family heritage throughout generations.

Loss of Unity and Communication with the Kingdom

These points about the power and value of language have implications for kingdom culture on earth. When human beings rebelled against their King and lost the Governor, the clear lines of communication between the heavenly kingdom and the inhabitants on earth were disrupted. In this sense, we could say that heaven and earth no longer had a "common language." Human beings then tried to use their human language to further disassociate themselves from the King. Let's examine how this transpired.

The book of Genesis records, "Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there." We learn in **Genesis 3** that after Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden of Eden, the entrance to the eastern side of the garden was specifically guarded so they couldn't return there.

Apparently, they left from the east side, and humanity continued to move eastward as the earth's population grew.

In Genesis 11, we find that the people were still spreading out eastward, and that they had retained a common language.

This is the chapter that describes how the people decided to build a city with an immense tower. The incident shows the power of language. The people wanted to build a tower that would reach to the heavens, and they said, in effect, "We will build a tower and make a name for ourselves." God's response was, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them." Note that he said, "If as one people with the same language," indicating that a key to power is language.

The King was not against people building cities or towers.

In fact, he wants us to build the dreams that are in our hearts, which he put there. Rather, he was against their selfish pursuit of fame, and their arrogance. We are to do everything for the

The King wants us to build the dreams in our hearts that he put there .for the sake of the King's glory, not our own. If it's not for his glory, it will eventually be to our detriment.

Again, the key to their ability to build this tower was their unified language. "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them." The power of language is its ability to produce.

Today, we see that the language barrier prevents many countries from working together on projects, and it can cause communication problems for companies who try to build in other nations.

Since the whole world at that time had one language, we can say that the whole world had powerful potential. But they used that power of language to build something for themselves, and the King said, in essence, "This is wrong. Everything you're using is mine. The ground is mine. The water is mine. The straw is mine. The nails and the hammers are all made from materials I created." And so, his response was, "Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." He didn't say, "Let us destroy the tower," because that wasn't necessary. If they couldn't talk to one another, the tower couldn't be completed.

The Genesis account continues, "That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world."This incident is where we get the word babble

Babble means "confusion."

1

When we say someone is babbling, we mean that what he is saying is incomprehensible. The tower

was not originally called the Tower of Babel. That was just what it was called after the King destroyed the people's ability to communicate with one language.

Confounding humanity's language was the King-Father's way of protecting us until he would one day restore our unity and communication with him and one another through the return of the Governor.

, confusing humanity's language helped to guard human beings from the self-destruction of pursuing their goals only for selfish pursuit.

The rebellion of human beings, therefore, damaged their unity and communication with God and one another until the King-Son could put them back in the position to reconnect once again through the Governor. Significantly, this restoration of communication and unity was characterized by a capacity to speak in heaven-given languages, an ability given by the Holy Spirit. Once again, we can see why the key to bringing back kingdom culture to earth is the Governor.

Heaven-Given Languages

One of the first things the Governor gives us after we receive his infilling is the ability to speak in heaven-given languages. He may give an earthly language that the speaker does not understand. Or he may give a heavenly language that is unknown on earth. Through heaven-given languages, the Governor enables human beings to once more share a "common tongue," so to speak, with the heavenly King, showing they belong to his kingdom. After Jesus had accomplished his mission of restoration, he told his disciples, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." But he also said, "These signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." Jesus was outlining the evidence of lives that have been connected to the heavenly kingdom.

The promise of the Father was not just for kingdom power, therefore, but it was also for kingdom language.

When the day of Pentecost came, they [the one hundred twenty followers of Jesus at that time] were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues [or languages] as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men

who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” Suddenly, those one hundred twenty people, who had gathered together to worship the King-Father and wait for the outpouring of the Spirit, were enabled by the Governor to speak in other languages. In this particular case, the God-given languages included human languages that the international crowd could understand. The King was communicating his plan of restoration through a special gift of language given to his kingdom citizens. This was a sign of the fulfillment of his promise. It showed that the communication lines between heaven and earth were open once more through the return of the Governor. It was also an indication that God desires to restore unity among the people of the world. Peter told those who witnessed their speaking in tongues, “God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.” When the Governor indwells our lives, we’re supposed to hear his presence, not just see it. It’s supposed to be manifest in the evidence of language.
When the Governor indwells our lives, we’re supposed to hear his presence, not just see it.

Let’s note the beauty of this occurrence. At the incident of the Tower of Babel, God confused the people with multiple languages so he could weaken them. Here, he gave his people the gift of languages in order to strengthen them in their new kingdom life and enable them to communicate the promise of the Spirit to other inhabitants who needed to hear this message. This gift of languages also served to unite kingdom citizens as one people belonging to the King-Father.

Purposes of Speaking in Tongues

The purpose of the Governor is to train us in the ways of our home country; and language, as we’ve seen, is the most crucial characteristic of a country. Let’s review several ways in

which speaking in tongues is important to us.

Provides Kingdom Identity

Speaking in tongues is a key element of our kingdom identity. Again, following our reconciliation with the King, our being given the ability to speak in heavenly tongues means the Governor is enabling us, as it were, to share a common heavenly “language” with our King-Father.

Gives Direct Communication with the King

Tongues also enables humanity to once more communicate directly with the King-Father. For example, there are times when we find it difficult to express our desires and needs to the heavenly government while speaking in our earthly languages. Paul wrote that, at these times, the Governor speaks for us and through us to the Father, through spiritual communication. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.

The Governor provides us with heaven-given languages so that, along with other communication, it becomes possible for us to express our crucial needs and requests to the King.

A Sign We Are Connected with the King

When Jesus’ followers first spoke with “new tongues” as the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them, it was a sign to the thousands of people gathered for the feast of Pentecost that these disciples were connected to the heavenly kingdom. As Paul taught, “Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers.”

An Evidence of Our Citizenship in the Kingdom

There is an incident in the book of Acts where the Holy Spirit was poured out on new kingdom citizens in the city of

Caesarea as Peter was explaining the gospel of the kingdom to them. Peter and the other believers recognized that these were fellow citizens, “for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.” Their speaking in tongues was clear evidence of their citizenship in the heavenly kingdom.

Common Questions about Tongues

Inevitably, in a discussion about tongues, people have certain questions, such as...

√ Are tongues real?

√ Were tongues only for the time of Jesus and his early followers?

√ Is it necessary to speak in tongues in order to live the life of a kingdom citizen?

Let’s address these questions.

Are Tongues Real?

Tongues are actual spoken communications between heaven and earth. Many people wonder if tongues are real because speaking in tongues has been put into a context of something that is strange or abnormal. The early followers of Jesus spoke in tongues, as Jesus had said they would. Kingdom citizens throughout the last two millennia have spoken with the King using this means. If we realize that tongues are what comes natural to citizens of the kingdom, their strangeness disappears and their true purpose becomes clear.

Were Tongues Only for the Time of Jesus and His Followers?

Tongues were given to kingdom citizens to assist them in kingdom purposes, and we are still living in a time when we need this assistance on earth. Their value to the first-century kingdom citizens is their value to us today—communication with the King-Father as we carry out his will in the world. Yet some misunderstanding and conflict between people concerning speaking in tongues is not surprising. We read in the Genesis account concerning the tower of Babel, The LORD said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come,

Because heaven-given languages are a powerful unifier, Lucifer fights against them.

let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.” So the LORDS scattered them from there over all the earth,

As we just discussed, when people don't understand each other, they tend to separate themselves. We all like to be with people we understand. This is why, generally, all the English-speaking people group together, all the French speakers stay together, all those who speak Spanish join together, and so on. Language creates differences, and differences can create feelings of competition, pressure, and conflict. When you come down to it, war is often created by language differences.

Therefore, when some kingdom citizens don't understand the value of the gift of tongues and have not received it, then conflict and misunderstanding inevitably occur between them and other kingdom citizens, and this is regrettable. I believe that heaven-given languages are a powerful unifier among those who have received them, and this is why Lucifer fights against the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the outpouring of heavenly gifts to the children of the King.

He encourages some kingdom citizens to create doctrines against the gift of tongues; in this way he tries to make sure that not all kingdom citizens will speak a common, unifying “language.”

This is, to a large degree, why we have theological positions against tongues, such as that tongues are not real or that they were only for the first followers of Jesus. We have seminaries that teach that these God-given languages don't exist anymore. Unfortunately, these schools are teaching ignorance.

But the real damage is that this opposition to the baptism in the Spirit and tongues prevents some citizens of the King from having all the power they need to exercise the kingdom life.

The devil knows that he is in trouble when we start speaking in tongues. Tongues are our key to overcoming obstacles

in many areas of our lives. For example, I used to be an F student. After I started speaking in tongues when I was in high school, I became a top student in the school and even graduated at the head of my class. Tongues, therefore, are given for renewing the lives of individual kingdom citizens and enabling them to exercise power for kingdom purposes.

Is It Necessary to Speak in Tongues to Be a Kingdom Citizen?

You can be a kingdom citizen without speaking in tongues. However, you will have problems communicating with the kingdom and, as I said, you will lack the power you could have in living the kingdom life. Here is an illustration to show you that the gifts of the Spirit, and tongues, in particular, are very practical.

In my church, I have members or visitors who come from a variety of countries. There are people from the Philippines who speak Filipino. There are people from Haiti who speak Creole. There are people from Mexico who speak Spanish. If a woman from the Philippines prayed the Lord's Prayer in Filipino, most of us wouldn't understand her. However, would she be making sense? Yes, to other people from her original country. If a man from Haiti spoke a psalm in Creole, he wouldn't make any sense to us, but he would make sense to people in Haiti. The same thing would apply to someone from Mexico who spoke in Spanish.

Now, just because we wouldn't understand them, would that make their languages invalid? Would you be able to say that their languages weren't real? Or, would your belief or disbelief in what they said change the fact that their languages were genuine? No. Whether we understood or agreed with them, the languages would still be authentic. Paul wrote, Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and he is a foreigner to me.

Now, suppose one of those church members or visitors

learned English. Since it is not his country's language, when he picked up the phone to call relatives at home, he would shift into his country's tongue. Therefore, if he wanted information from the Bahamas, he would speak English, but if he wanted information from home, he would speak the language of his home-land.

In a similar way, when you speak in tongues here on earth, it's as if you've picked up a phone to call your home country and are speaking in your original language. The Scripture says, "For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit." In regard to prayer, we are to pray in tongues more than we pray in our human languages. This is because we don't want a weak communication of our intent when we're speaking to heaven.

The Scripture tells us that the Governor knows the mind and will of God. Therefore, when we pray in the Spirit, we know that the King hears us and that we have the things we have asked him for, because the Governor helps

We need a direct line to heaven, and tongues are that direct line.

us to pray according to the will of the government. We need a direct line to heaven, and tongues are that direct line. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you can speak in tongues at any time of the day, any time you need to communicate with your King-Father. This is why you and I should earnestly desire spiritual gifts, as Paul said. They are important resources from the heavenly kingdom.

Some people refer to speaking in tongues as babbling. In fact, the reverse is true. Heaven-given languages communicate the thoughts and requests of the heart more clearly than any earthly language. With tongues, we're not speaking with our minds but through our spirits, and the Spirit communicates every need. For me, speaking in English can interfere with my ability to pray. That's why I pray in tongues much of the time. I love praying in tongues because my prayers don't have to be "translated."

For Direct, Personal Communication with the King

For the most part, what we have been discussing in this chapter is the first type of communication in tongues, which is for direct, personal communication with the King. Paul wrote, “Anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit [or, by the Spirit].”

For Heavenly Communication to Other Kingdom Citizens

The second type of communication in tongues is not for personal but corporate communication. Paul taught the first-century kingdom citizens that ministry spiritual gifts, in contrast to personal spiritual gifts, are for the building up of all those in a local gathering of kingdom citizens. They include the public declaration of the King’s will in a heaven-given language(s), with accompanying interpretation in the language of the people who are gathered, to assure that everyone understands the message.

Paul wrote,

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom...to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. If anyone speaks in a

tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret.

For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says.

Paul was teaching that a special gift for communicating the will of the King through heaven-given language is given to someone whom the Governor helps to speak the mind of the King, in order to present it to the citizens.

Notice that Paul said this gift is for the “common good” rather than individual edification. It is to help all the citizens to know the will of the King and to be comforted and encouraged by his words. Paul concluded, “Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” We should encourage public declaration of tongues and interpretation, as long as it is done according to the guidelines set forth in the Constitution of the kingdom.

Tongues are an integral part of the manifestation of the Governor’s presence in our lives.

Ten Reasons to Speak in Tongues

There is more to being filled with the Spirit than speaking in tongues, but tongues are an integral and important part of the manifestation of the Governor’s presence in our lives.

Speaking in tongues is a flowing stream that should never dry up. It will enrich and build up our spiritual lives. In my experience, speaking in tongues is a critical key in releasing and using other gifts of the Spirit. This, of course, applies to the gift of interpretation of tongues, but also to the other gifts, particularly prophecy, wisdom, and knowledge because they involve language.

Let’s briefly look at ten reasons why every kingdom citizen should speak in tongues.

1. A Sign of Connection to the Kingdom

Tongues are often the initial supernatural evidence of the indwelling and filling of the Spirit. We see this first in the experience of the followers of Jesus at Pentecost. We also see it in the kingdom service of Paul of Tarsus. The physician Luke wrote, in the book of Acts, “While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul

took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus.

There he found some disciples.”

Notice that they were called disciples.

They were actually followers of John the Baptist, and Paul said to them, in effect,

“You are on the right track, but you need to hear about Jesus, the one whom John was referring to, and you need the promise that he provided for you. You need the baptism in the Holy Spirit.”

These disciples had said to Paul, “We have never even heard of the Holy Spirit.” They are not very different from many people in churches today whose theology has excluded the active working of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They believe in the King and his kingdom, but they are unaware of the full role of the Governor in their lives.

When these disciples heard the gospel of the kingdom, which John had pointed them toward, and which Paul fully explained to them, they were baptized in water in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them and prayed for them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they immediately spoke in tongues and prophesied.

An evidence that we are connected to the home country is that we receive heaven-given languages.

2. For Edification

Speaking in tongues builds up, or recharges, our spirits.

We are personally strengthened as we interact with the King through the Governor. As Paul wrote, “He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself.” Tongues are given to us so that our communication with God can be as it was for Adam—with no interference.

3. To Remind Us of the Governor’s Indwelling Presence

Tongues make us aware of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, and when we are conscious of his presence, we are encouraged and comforted. Jesus said,

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.

The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives

with you and will be in you.

4. To Keep Our Prayers in Line with the King's Will

Praying in tongues will keep our prayers in line with God's will and prevent us from praying in selfishness. As I quoted earlier from the writings of Paul,

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

5. To Stimulate Faith

Praying in tongues stimulates faith. When we know the Spirit is fully communicating our needs, we are enabled to trust God more completely. Having faith also leads

to praying

in tongues as we go to the throne of the King-Father in purpose and confidence. The author of the New Testament book of Jude wrote about faith and speaking in tongues: "But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit."

6. To Keep Us Free from Worldly Contamination

Tongues keep us in constant connection with the culture of the kingdom, even as we live in the midst of the culture of the world. We can speak to the King-Father when we are on the job, at home, or anywhere. Our connection with the King through the Governor helps to keep our minds and actions pure. We can also encourage not only ourselves, but also others in the ways of the kingdom through heavenly communication. Paul wrote, "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord."

7. To Enable Us to Pray for the Unknown

The Spirit knows things we know nothing about; therefore, through heaven-given language, we can intercede with

peace and confidence. Again, “we do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”

8. To Give Spiritual Refreshing

Tongues are a type of spiritual therapy for anxiety, turmoil, and perplexity. Paul wrote,

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

9. To Help Us in Giving Thanks

Tongues help those who are unlearned in spiritual things—and all of us, in fact—to offer the kind of thanks and praise to the King that he deserves. A combination of praying in human and spiritual language helps our minds and spirits to express our gratitude, in addition to other communication, to the King. Paul wrote, “I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.”

10. To Bring the Tongue Under Subjection

Last—but not least—speaking in heaven-given languages places our tongues under the control of the Spirit of God, something that is much needed in all of our lives. We read in the New Testament book of James, “But no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison....Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?” Only as the tongue is yielded to the Governor can it be controlled to speak words of life in keeping with the King and his kingdom.

Tongues Are Meant for the Entire Human Race

To conclude this chapter about the manifestation of kingdom culture, I want to emphasize that speaking in tongues does not “belong” to charismatic or Pentecostal Christians. It is meant for the whole world because it is a gift the King-Son came to provide for all the inhabitants of the earth. It is intended for the close to seven billion people on earth right now. It is meant for all ethnic groups—Chinese, French, Sudanese, Australians, Danes, Mexicans—no one is excluded from God’s intentions.

At Pentecost, Peter said, “The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” It is our job as kingdom representatives to help people from all backgrounds enter the kingdom of heaven so they may receive this gift and other gifts from the Governor, which will enable them to live the kingdom life on earth.

Speaking in tongues is as natural as speaking your own native human language.

Remembering the Purpose of Tongues: Communication

Tongues are beautiful, but they’ve sometimes been made into a doctrine, a denomination, even a whole religion. We’ve lost sight that tongues are heaven-given languages that are a means to an end: providing communication between heaven and earth.

We’ve been treating tongues as if they are a religious issue when they are really a governmental one in terms of the kingdom of God; through tongues, the Governor communicates our requests to the King, and the King’s will to us. We can’t pray effectively without the Governor, because he knows the mind of the King and how our requests fit with the purposes of the kingdom.

Speaking in tongues is as natural as speaking your own human language, whether that is English, Spanish, French, or Swahili. Paul spoke in tongues frequently. He said, “I will pray with the understanding, and I will pray in the Spirit.” As citizens of the kingdom of heaven, we are to do the same.

The primary responsibility of a governor is administration over the territory entrusted to him. Likewise, the heavenly Governor is responsible for governmental administration over the colony of earth. He is present to train kingdom citizens on how to have dominion in the territory, because that's our official function under his leadership.