

JESUS > WORLD

Two Kingdoms:

Left-Hand Kingdom



Right-Hand Kingdom

Faith is a **counterintuitive** step of **obedience** persuaded by God's past **fidelity** and future **assurances**.

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Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 6, 2018

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY AND MORE

1

Some left-hand-kingdom-living people might wonder if they would be giving up all the fun things and the best parts of their world if they decided to live for the right-hand kingdom. In light of what you heard in the sermon, how would you help them process this concern?

2

A big part of the right-hand kingdom is heaven. Growing up, what did you hear about heaven? What did you think it would be like and how did you think people got there?

Many of us grew up hearing that heaven was the reward for living a good Christian life so you just have to endure this life until you die. However, the Bible contains many earthly benefits of living a life focused on the right-hand kingdom. Which of the following passages below do you think the left-hand-kingdom-living people would find most difficult to understand?

Galatians 5:22-23 New International Version (NIV) - ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 New International Version (NIV) - ⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Matthew 11:28-30 New International Version (NIV) - ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Which of these passages do you find most encouraging?

LEFT-HAND VS RIGHT-HAND KINGDOM LIVING

1

Every day we are faced with countless situations where we get to choose whether we'll respond from a right or left-hand kingdom perspective. Here are a few common daily scenarios which offer the choice of how we can respond. In the left column, write down any left-hand kingdom responses you can think of and in the right column, jot down any right-hand kingdom responses you can think of.

At the bottom of the chart are some blank rows for you to list any scenarios you've encountered in your life the past 48-72 hours. For each one you list, fill in the left and right columns for it as well (you won't have to share how you actually responded unless you want to).

Scenario	Left-Hand Kingdom Response	Right-Hand Kingdom Response
1. You have an argument with your spouse or a close friend.		
2. Your boss tells you that you did a lousy job on your last project.		
3. You find out that a co-worker got the promotion that you really wanted.		
4. Someone at work starts to tell you some gossip or a dirty joke.		
5. You get a large, unexpected bonus at work.		

A Duke University study reveals that at least 45% of our waking behavior is habitual. So that means that often our normal response to these kinds of scenarios can be a habitual response that we give very little thought. It can seem as if we really aren't choosing our response, we're just reacting the way we always react. Author Michael Bungay Stanier suggests that there are three steps to forming a new habit in order to replace the old habitual response.

Step 1: Identify the Trigger – What situations cause you to respond in a habitual way? *For example: When someone cuts you off in traffic.*

Step 2: Identify the Old Habit – What do you normally do when you're faced with a trigger? *For example: When someone cuts me off in traffic (trigger), I respond by calling them names and swearing at them (old behavior).*

Step 3: Define the Desired New Behavior – Describe what you'd like to do differently. *For example: When someone cuts me off in traffic (trigger), instead of responding with name calling and swearing (old habit), I want to remain calm and assume it was accidental (new behavior).*

Pick one of the scenarios from the last page that you deal with (or come up with a different one from your life) and answer the statements below:

- When this happens (*define the triggering event*) ...
- Instead of (*write out what you normally do in these situations*) ...
- I will (*write out the new behavior you want to do that will take 60 seconds or less*) ...

As helpful as it is to know what *new response* we want to have in a particular situation, we still face the challenge of actually doing that *new response*. This is why we need the Holy Spirit. How could Galatians 2:20 and Galatians 5:16-18, 22-23 help you understand how to rely on God's power to respond differently?

Galatians 2:20 New International Version (NIV) - ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 5:16-18 New International Version (NIV) - ¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Galatians 5:22-23 New International Version (NIV) - ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Relying on God's power does not mean we give up personal responsibility to make those new choices. How could a person balance relying on God's power while still maintaining personal responsibility?

PRAISE / PRAYER REQUESTS

