# EMBRACING BROKENNESS

# Kingdom vs. World Rules: A 7-Day Devotional

A Journey to Living by God's Kingdom Principles by Steve & Colleen Adams

#### Introduction

Every day, we face a choice—live by the world's system or embrace the principles of God's Kingdom. The world tells us to seek power, success, and self-reliance, while Jesus invites us into a life of trust, love, and freedom.

This devotional will guide you through Scripture, reflections, and practical steps to help you align your life with Kingdom values.

### Each day includes:

- A Bible reading to anchor your thoughts
- A devotional reflection to challenge and encourage you
- A journaling prompt for deeper personal insight
- A practical action step to live out Kingdom principles

#### Day 1: Two Kingdoms in Conflict

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:24-33, Colossians 1:13-14

#### Devotional Reflection:

Every decision we make in life is influenced by a **worldview**—either we operate by the values of the **world's system**, or we live according to **God's Kingdom**. But Jesus makes it clear: **we cannot serve two masters** (Matthew 6:24). The world operates on fear, self-preservation, control, and striving for success. The Kingdom of God, however, is built on trust, surrender, peace, and divine provision.

Paul reminds us in **Colossians 1:13-14** that when we accepted Christ, we were **rescued** from the domain of darkness and brought into Christ's Kingdom. But even though we belong to God's Kingdom, we often **live as if we are still enslaved to the world's ways.** We strive for control over our lives, we worry about our future, and we let fear dictate our decisions. Jesus tells us that instead of being obsessed with material needs and worldly concerns, we must **seek first the Kingdom of God.** 

Seeking the Kingdom first means prioritizing God's will over our own desires. It means recognizing that He is our ultimate provider. When we fully trust in His provision, we are freed from the constant pressure to succeed, prove ourselves, or chase after worldly success.

The key question is: Are you living according to the world's rules, or have you fully embraced the Kingdom way?

#### Journaling Prompt:

Write about a time when you felt torn between following the world's way and God's way. What did you learn?

#### \* Practical Action Step:

Identify one area where you feel stuck between worldly values and Kingdom principles. Surrender it to God in prayer.

#### Day 2: The Foundation of God's Kingdom - Love Over Power

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:36-40, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

# Devotional Reflection:

The world glorifies power, influence, and personal success. It teaches that greatness is measured by how much control, wealth, or status we accumulate. In contrast, Jesus tells us that the foundation of true greatness is love.

When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment is, He didn't speak of achieving power or religious piety. Instead, He said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39).

Love is the foundation of the Kingdom of God. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul teaches that even if we possess great knowledge, wealth, and success, it all means nothing without love. Love is not just a feeling—it is an intentional action of selflessness, patience, kindness, and humility.

The world's love is often conditional—given in exchange for approval, loyalty, or personal gain. But Kingdom love is unconditional. It does not seek to dominate, manipulate, or control—it seeks to serve. This is the kind of love that **Jesus demonstrated** by washing His disciples' feet and laying down His life for us.

Are you measuring success by power and status or by how well you love? The Kingdom life is about **self-sacrificing love**, not self-seeking power.

#### Journaling Prompt:

Reflect on a time when you loved someone sacrificially. How did that experience deepen your understanding of God's love?

#### \* Practical Action Step:

Choose one person to intentionally show love to today—through words, an act of kindness, or forgiveness.

### Day 3: Kingdom Identity vs. Worldly Labels

Scripture Reading: Galatians 2:20, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

#### Devotional Reflection:

From the moment we are born, the world **labels us**—by our achievements, social status, financial success, failures, or past mistakes. Society tells us that **our worth is defined by what we do, how we look, or how much we own.** 

But the moment we place our faith in Jesus, **our identity changes.** We are no longer defined by worldly standards. **2 Corinthians 5:17** says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new is here!"

Yet, many believers still struggle with **living from their true identity in Christ.** We are tempted to place our value in our careers, relationships, or achievements rather than in the fact that **we belong to God.** In **Galatians 2:20**, Paul reminds us that our old self has been **crucified with Christ.** That means the things that once defined us—our past sins, failures, insecurities—**no longer hold power over us.** 

If you have placed your identity in your job, reputation, or achievements, today is the day to surrender that. You are not your past. You are not your failures. You are a beloved child of God, made new in Christ.

### Journaling Prompt:

What labels has the world placed on you? How does God's identity for you challenge those labels?

#### \* Practical Action Step:

Write down one truth about your identity in Christ and keep it where you can see it daily.

### Day 4: Freedom in the Kingdom vs. Bondage to the World

Scripture Reading: John 8:31-36, Romans 12:1-2

#### Devotional Reflection:

The world offers a **false sense of freedom.** It tells us, "Do whatever makes you happy," or "You are in control of your own destiny." But in reality, this kind of thinking often leads to **bondage.** People become enslaved to **work, money, approval, addiction, anxiety, or fear.** 

Jesus teaches that true freedom comes only through abiding in His Word and knowing the truth. He says in John 8:36, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." True freedom is not the ability to do whatever we want—it's the ability to live without fear, without guilt, and without being controlled by sin.

Paul tells us in Romans 12:2 that instead of conforming to the world's patterns, we need to be transformed by renewing our minds. This renewal happens when we replace the world's lies with God's truth. The more we align our thoughts with God's truth, the more we experience His peace and freedom.

Where are you still living in bondage—to fear, people's opinions, or past mistakes? Jesus has already set you free. Now it's time to walk in that freedom.

#### Journaling Prompt:

Where have you felt enslaved to worldly expectations? How does God's truth bring you freedom?

#### \* Practical Action Step:

Identify a worldly mindset you need to release (e.g., "My worth is in my success"). Replace it with a Kingdom truth.

### Day 5: Trust vs. Anxiety—Living by Kingdom Provision

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:6-7, Matthew 6:25-34

#### Devotional Reflection:

Anxiety and worry dominate today's culture. The world tells us that security is found in having more money, achieving success, or controlling our future. But Jesus teaches us something completely different: we do not have to worry because God is our provider.

In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus points to the birds and the flowers, saying that God takes care of them—and we are far more valuable than they are. If He provides for them, He will certainly provide for us. The key is to **seek first His Kingdom**, and everything else will be taken care of.

Paul echoes this truth in **Philippians 4:6-7**, reminding us to bring our worries to God through **prayer** and thanksgiving. Instead of trying to control our future, we are called to trust God fully.

Worry comes when we believe we are responsible for everything. Trust comes when we remember God is our provider, our guide, and our protector. The more we trust Him, the more we experience His peace.

#### Journaling Prompt:

Write down your biggest worry right now. How can you surrender it to God?

#### \* Practical Action Step:

Every time a worry creeps in today, pause and pray instead of dwelling on fear.

#### Day 6: Servanthood vs. Self-Promotion

Scripture Reading: Matthew 20:25-28, Philippians 2:5-11

### Devotional Reflection:

In the world's system, **greatness is measured by success, influence, and status.** People climb the social or corporate ladder, often at the expense of others. But Jesus turned this idea upside down, saying:

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." (Matthew 20:26-28)

Jesus redefines greatness. **True leadership is not about power, but humility.** In **Philippians 2:5-11**, Paul describes how Jesus—though He was God—**humbled Himself as a servant.** He lowered Himself, even to the point of death on a cross. And because of this, God **exalted Him.** 

The Kingdom of God operates on a different principle: **the lower we go, the higher God lifts us.**True fulfillment is not found in self-promotion, but in **serving others selflessly.** 

Are you chasing worldly success or are you serving like Jesus?

## Journaling Prompt:

How does the idea of servanthood challenge your view of success?

#### \* Practical Action Step:

Find one way to **serve someone today**—whether through words, an act of help, or kindness.

#### Day 7: Living the Kingdom Life Daily

Scripture Reading: Luke 9:23-26, James 1:22-25

### **Q** Devotional Reflection:

Following Jesus is not just about **believing in Him**—it's about **daily surrender.** Jesus calls us to **deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him.** This isn't just a one-time decision—it's a **daily choice** to submit to His ways rather than our own desires.

Many people hear the Word but never put it into practice. James warns against this in James 1:22-25, saying that those who only listen but don't obey are like people who look in a mirror and immediately forget what they look like.

Kingdom living means that we are not just **listeners** of God's truth—we are **doers.** Every choice we make either brings us **closer to God's ways** or deeper into the world's system.

The question is: Will you live each day by the Kingdom's rules, or will you drift back into the world's way of thinking?

#### Journaling Prompt:

What is one area where God is calling you to deeper obedience? How will you respond?

#### **☆ Practical Action Step:**

Write a **commitment statement** about living by Kingdom principles in one specific area of your life. Share it with someone for accountability.

### **Final Thoughts**

You've completed this **7-day devotional**—but this is just the beginning of your journey!

#### What's next?

Walking in God's Kingdom is a daily pursuit. Take time to reflect:

- What was your biggest takeaway from this devotional?
- How will you continue aligning your life with Kingdom principles?
- Who can you share this journey with?

God's Kingdom is not just a theory—it's a reality we are invited to live in every day. Keep pressing into His truth, and let it shape your life!