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verb

1. become or make larger or more extensive.
2. "their business expanded into other hotels and properties"

KINGDOM SERIES: JOY | WEEK TWO

"Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
Matthew 6:10 NKJV



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EXPAND ACADEMY VISION:

Our heart at Expand Academy is to Equip, Empower, and Expand the kingdom of God ↪
within the believer &
around the globe.

We will gather around the testimony of Jesus Christ. We believe as the Spirit of God kisses the Word of God; it is activated ↪ to produce
eternal fruit in our lives.

Let's expand the
Kingdom of God!

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples of to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20



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RECAP:

We went over John 15.

We dove into the word REMAIN.

Deliverance of Delight

“The one thing I ask of the Lord- the thing I seek most- is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord’s perfections and meditating in his Temple. For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary. He will place me out of reach on a high rock. Then I will hold my head high above my enemies who surround me. At his sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy, singing and praising the Lord with music.”

Psalm 27: 4-6 NLT

Delight

“To gain great pleasure, satisfaction, or happiness.”

Living a life of delight is living a life of constant communion with King Jesus. Constant meaning right in the middle of all the miracles and the messiness of life. It’s pursuing communion with Jesus on the good days, the bad days, the easy days, and the hard days. It’s when you choose to delight yourself in the Lord as you’re celebrating the peaks of the mountain tops or what feels like surviving the depths of the valleys. It’s understanding that we get to gaze upon Him in every season and every situation. It’s an offering of praise during pressure, in the midst of pain, and in the midst of pure bliss and pleasure.

“To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory.”

Isaiah 61:3 NLT

Delighting ourselves in the Lord is understanding that He holds the words of eternal life and nothing else will satisfy. He was crucified that He may have a pure and holy wife. We are His Beloved Bride. He promises water that will satisfy our every thirst. His flesh wounds paid for the healing of our every hurt. Delighting yourself in the perfections of the Lord is committing to a single focus gaze. It’s accepting the invitation into the baptism of His light, His life, and His love. To live a life of delight is to filter everything you see and experience in this life through His goodness, His glory, and His redeeming love.

“Before we are able to gaze upon Him, we have to learn to not gaze upon everything else.”

-Benjamin Allender

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.”

Matthew 6:22 NLT

Your song is connected to what you see. If you see God clearly, you will sing and convey Him accurately. When we are blinded by glory, we are blinded by the light of His love. When we are blinded by the light of His love, we lose taste for every lesser lover. Our focus has been fixed on the One who is the fairest of 10,000. We have been blinded by the beauty of the King of Glory. Hallelujah!

Meditate in His Temple

To meditate in the temple of God is to focus on and be consumed by the ways of Yahweh. I'm reminded of the story when Moses sees the Lord's glory. The Lord had told Moses to take the people up to the Promised Land. But the Lord had not told Moses who he would send with him. The Lord did tell Moses that he knew Moses by name and that he looked favorably upon him. When Moses heard that the Lord looked favorably upon him, he had a request for the Lord. Moses requested to know the ways of God so that he may understand the Lord more fully and continue to enjoy his favor. In other words, that he may focus on and delight in the perfections of God, the ways of God.

The story goes on... "The Lord replied, "I will personally go with you, Moses, and I will give you rest- everything will be fine for you." Then Moses said, "If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place. How will anyone know that you look favorably on me- on me and on your people- if you don't go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth." The Lord replied to Moses, "I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name."

Moses responded, "Then show me your glorious presence." The Lord replied, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh, before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose. But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live." The Lord continued, "Look, stand near me on this rock. As my glorious presence passes by, I will hide you in the crevice of the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and let you see me from behind. But my face will not be seen."

Exodus 33:14-23 NLT

Encountering the presence of the Lord (the nearness of our God) is a byproduct of meditating in His Temple. As you meditate in the temple of God, you will be vastly aware that the Lord knows you by name, that He looks favorably upon, and that His very presence will be with you as you go where He has called you to go and you do what He has called you to do. Moses wanted to know the ways of God that he may continue to enjoy the favor of God. Moses was a mighty deliverer with the Lord.

It's my prayer that we do not do great thing for God, but rather we do great things with God. When we are aware that God is with us, then we can truly live and serve out of a place of rest. Rest assured, the same promise God gave to Moses is the same promise He is speaking to us today, "Everything will be fine for you." May we be a people that live refreshed and overflowing in the glorious presence of the Lord every day.

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Happily Hidden

The microphones eventually lose their battery power. The stage lights eventually turn off. The coffee eventually runs dry. All the people eventually go home. All the noise eventually becomes quiet. Eventually you will find yourself in the hidden place of your soul where it's just you and Creator God. It's in that place that He releases the invitation, "Come away with me." It's in that place that the songs of seclusion find their melody. It's in that place that our thirsty soul meets the saturating water of the Holy Spirit. It's in that place that we die and fully come alive at the same time. It's in that place that our song produces an oil of intimacy that carries a sweet aroma and fragrance unveiling the happy gospel. It's in that place that we are concealed and placed out of reach on a high rock. It's in that place that God teaches us how to hold our heads high above our enemies that surround us. It's in that place where we encounter the One who is the Truth and we are liberated from every lie.

I'm speaking of the sweet secluded secret place. It's the place that Jesus would often slip off to for prayer and to be with the Father. It's the place where we refuel from heaven's oil supply. It's the place of hiding in God and God revealing Himself to humanity. It's the place of unlimited glory and communion with our Eternal King. It's the place where delight becomes our deliverance. It's becoming one with our Bridegroom King and receiving His perfect love all while being liberated from the fears of this world. The deliverance of delight includes being happily hidden in God. I'm reminded of John 17 where Jesus was praying to the Father for His disciples.



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“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one- as you are in me, Father; and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world would know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they will see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!”

John 17: 20-24 NLT

As the war wages around you, there is always a place of unlimited glory hiding in God. In that place of union with God, you are infused with the very love that the Father has for the Son. Jesus said that the Father loves us just as much as He loves Him. It’s that love that breaches the gap, restoring humanity back to God and back to one another.

THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

Rejoicing is the culture of heaven. It’s the sound of security. It’s the awareness of the brilliance and beauty of Jesus. Delighting in the Lord’s perfections releases the oil of joy upon our lives in a way that makes us reflect heaven. It’s the understanding of the finished work of the cross & the liberation of the Spirit of God. That we may walk in the fullness and the freedom gifted to us by Father God. There is such joy in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands! Where once there were thorns, cypress trees will grow. Where nettles grew, myrtles will sprout up. These events will bring great honor to the Lord’s name; they will be an everlasting sign of his power and love.” (Isaiah 55:12 NLT)

Rejoicing is the fuel of living in joy. It’s the bursting into songs and clapping of your hands over the faithfulness of God. It activates your faith and replenishes your hope. He transforms our barrenness into fruitfulness, and He gives us grace to grow. His steadfast love causes us to sprout and reach heavenly heights that would be impossible in our own strength. Joy is the revelation that you have been born again and birthed into the kingdom of heaven where eternal life is centered around the Lord of Glory, Jesus Christ. Joy and delight are the byproducts of offering sacrifices of praise with shouts of joy, singing, and praising the Lord with music.”



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HEAVEN'S ESTABLISHMENT:

The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. How can the Kingdom of God be established in our lives in a greater way today?

We can never establish or released what we have not first received. The Kingdom has to be established first within our lives before it's established through our lives.

Let's do some inventory: *Delight=Deliverance*

We leaned into accessing the promise of Psalm 27. The key to accessing deliverance that comes from delighting in God.

1. What is the one thing your long for? What is the thing you seek most?
2. Do you see the connection between the ways of God and the favor of God?
3. Are you hidden in God?

**Holy Spirit,
I pray for the grace to delight in God always. In Jesus name, Amen.**
