

If My People

A Higher Calling

August 3 & 6, 2017

(2 Chronicles 7:14) "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

(Matthew 7:7) "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

(John 14:13-14) "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

(John 15:7) "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

(John 16:24) "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

Kingdom of Priests

(Revelation 1:5-6) To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

(Revelation 5:10) "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

(Exodus 19:5-6) "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

✓ "King" - One given authority to rule.

(Matthew 16:19) "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

• God has chosen to rule the world through His Church.

✓ "Priest" - One who presents offerings and sacrifices to God.

(Hebrews 5:5-9) That is why Christ did not honor himself by assuming he could become High Priest. No, he was chosen by God, who said to him...

"You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."

While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him.

• We can not rule (for God) until we learn to pray.

Prayer is NOT a religious obligation; it is an invitation to partner with God.

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(Romans 12:1-2) Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1. Establish a correct view of God.

(1 John 4:8) Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

2. Embrace your role as a priest.

(1 Peter 2:5) You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

3. Expand your prayer life.

(Ephesians 6:18) And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

4. Engage with other believers.

(Matthew 18:19-20) "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."