

Kingdom Come: Living in God Reality on Earth

The Already and Not Yet

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for this day and being our provider and protector on earth.

Guide us while we live under God grace

I pray that God will go where he left off and continue to use me in Detroit while I may my transition back to Detroit because I will not be returning to Kentucky any more in the future.

Thank you for not living in Bondage and temptation

Thank you for the food we eat on daily basis to avoid hunger and food insecurity

Thank you for guiding us from mammon and greed to make our life all about money.

Guard our hearts and minds while we live under your grace

Guard our hearts and minds from sins, idolatry, abomination and temptation

I pray that those people are envious and jealous of people that have more accomplishments and goals to achieve in their life.

Guide and give those people hope to set goals for their life and stop hating and being envious towards others.

In Jesus name, Amen

Giving to the Lord is an act of worship that reflects our gratitude and trust in Christ Jesus provision. It is an opportunity to invest in eternal purposes, support the community, and experience the joy of generosity. When we give, we are not just donating money; we are sowing seeds of blessings for ourselves and others. We are aligning our hearts with God's love and compassion. Giving to the Lord is an invitation to participate in something bigger than ourselves. It is a chance for us to partner with God in transforming lives, supporting our community, and spreading hope. Your gift, no matter what size makes a difference and reflects your heart's desire to honor God. Embrace the joy of generosity and experience the blessings that come from giving with a cheerful heart.

- <https://giv.li/4v7plp>
- You can place your gift in the offering plates during any of our Sunday Services, bible study services on Monday, Thursday and Friday, Sunday school classes and Devotion on Tuesday.
- The Church PO Box has not been set up yet until next month to accept tithes and offerings by mail.

We live in a time that is both now and not yet. We experience blessings and new life in Christ now as Christians and disciples, but we face struggles and look forward to the fullness of God's kingdom in the future. It calls us to live hopefully and seek to bring God's kingdom to earth while waiting on complete fulfillment. When someone is healed through prayer, it is the taste of the already and God's power is present now. The not yet reminds us that not everyone is healed. We still wait for the ultimate healing of our bodies in the future. This happens to me all the time in prayer that God heals me when I'm sick. That's why I never really get sick or my sickness lasts 1-3 days. Working to end poverty or fight for injustice shows the already. We can bring glimpses to God Justice to earth now. The not yet acknowledges that complete justice won't be realized until God fully establishes his kingdom. As a man of God, I have experienced relationships and friendship with this flock and the religious community in this nation and abroad. When someone overcomes an addiction and/or bad habit, it is a sign of already.

God transforming power is at work. The not yet is seen in the ongoing struggle with sin and the need for continued growth. Efforts to protect the environment reflect this already. When we care for God's creation as he intended. The not yet reminds us that the earth is still groaning under the weight of sin and awaits full restoration. When we forgive someone or are forgiven, we experience God's grace and reconciliation. The not yet reminds us that relationships may still carry scars and complete healing takes time. When someone uses their spiritual gifts to serve others, it is already a moment. God is being expressed through people at the moment. The not yet is we only see partial manifestation moments of God potential. I serve God and others with my spiritual gifts, such as shepherding, wisdom, teaching, exhortation and prophecy. When we show compassion and kindness to those in need is an already moment. They have not yet acknowledged that suffering still exists and our kindness is a small part of the solution. When we work to resolve conflicts as already moments, not yet reminds us that lasting peace will only come when Christ returns and establishes his perfect rule.

1. In what areas of your life do you most clearly see the already of God's kingdom at work?
2. Where do you feel the tension of the not yet most acutely in your own life or in the world around you?
3. How does understanding the already and not yet change the way you pray?
4. What practical steps can we take this week to live more fully in the already while still longing for the not yet?
5. How does this already and not yet help you make sense of suffering and injustice in the world?
6. How does the concept of already and not yet inspire or challenge your engagement with the world around you?
7. What does it mean to be a new creation in Christ, and does it relate to the already and not yet?
8. How can we, as a church community, better embody the values of the coming kingdom in our present actions?
9. What are some common misconceptions about the already and have not changed our understanding of evangelicalism and outreach?

We already saints are in progress! It is like God gave the saint title early. Knowing the actual saint behavior update is still downloading.

The kingdom of God is already here, but it sometimes feels like it is stuck in traffic. We see glimpses, then we are back to honking at each other in the parking lot.

We are already forgiven which is great because I am pretty sure I am going to need it again before lunchtime. It is a subscription service with unlimited redemptions!

We are already new creations in Christ, so why do I still misplace my keys? Apparently, some things take a little longer to renew than others.

We are already called to love our neighbors as ourselves which would be easier if some of my neighbors were not so weird. But hey, baby steps right?

"Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies."-Romans 8:23

Paul is speaking to the church in Rome. We need to recognize suffering is part of life as Christians and non-Christians. As Christians and disciples, we need to keep our eyes and focus on hope daily. As Christians and disciples, we need to maintain a hopeful attitude while serving God and the Holy Spirit with obedience. We need to be relying on the Holy Spirit to help us with our weaknesses and not going to the world for help that can lead us to sin, bondage, idolatry and temptation. We do not need to let the world help us with our weaknesses by leaning on our own understanding.

We are in a state of already and not yet. We have the Holy Spirit as Christians and disciples, but we still deal with struggles and imperfections. This verse reminds us it is okay to groan and yearn for things to be fully made right. I still have struggles making decisions too fast and need to take my time. Right now, I do not do that any more and I will settle myself in Michigan for the long haul. I will not be moving again and only be visiting places like other people as a vacation and travel to come back home to Detroit like other travelers. I learned this advice from my case manager Mr. Gray at Star of Hope Mission in Houston in 2023 along with Pastor John Johnson who is another case manager at Star of Hope Mission in Houston. We are waiting for full redemption of our bodies and creation. This means looking forward to a time where there is no more suffering, sickness and death. It gives us hope beyond our current circumstances. That's why it is important for us to all be saved and live obedience to God because we want to die on earth with a spiritual birth and be part of the heavenly feast in heaven with other believers and part of the new earth with no more sin, sickness and death. We are called to be patient and persevere in our faith to God because we know that full redemption is coming. It is a reminder that our struggles are temporary and a better future is promised. We live in a tension between what has already been accomplished through Christ and what is still to come. We need to live our life with hope and joy daily while dealing with our tribulations and struggles. The full redemption motivates us to work towards positive change in the world. It inspires us to care for the environment, fight for justice and love over our neighbors.

1. We need to start practicing gratitude and appreciate the things we already have in our life or dealing with struggles and homelessness. This applies to people that live in shared room housing with others that may require people to share a kitchen and bathroom with others. People that live in those situations need to appreciate that because it is better than having to live at a homeless shelter. At least you someplace paying rent and building up your credit each month.
2. Be honest with your struggles in your life because it is the only way generous people will help you financially and economically if they have financial resources at the time to give you. Do not hide your struggles and/or take care of your struggles yourself by going out into the sinful world.
3. Cultivate hope by overcoming your challenges and struggles. The world will not help you overcome and heal your struggles because it will drive you down the path to sin and unrighteousness.
4. Be patient with yourself and others by extending grace to yourself.
5. Seek opportunities to make a difference, such as volunteering, donating and advocate for justice. Do not be a tax collector.
6. Don't wait for everything to be perfect to experience joy. Find joy in small moments and relationships. This is not for the LGBTQ community.
7. Bring your hopes, fears and desires to God in prayer and trust that he is working in your life.

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!-2
Corinthians 5:17*

Paul was speaking to the church of Corinth talking about the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. He spread the message of good news of salvation with teaching, letters and establishing churches in the Roman Empire. Paul engaged in debates, public speaking in churches and synagogues, performing miracles. He traveled facing persecution and hardship to share his beliefs. When I did all my traveling in the United States of America, I shared my beliefs with crowds of people as well as a man of God. We need to start seeking God in our life and let Christ Jesus transform us to get to heaven after we die on earth. LGBTQ community needs transformation and stop being part of the basket of sinful deplorables.

- We need to start letting go of our old ways and live a new life in Christ.
- We need to start living our life with renewed purpose and perspective.
- We need to embrace a new identity with Christ.

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”-Philippians 3:20-21