

“God’s Kingdom in My Life”
CRAZY LOVE¹ – Chapter 4
MATTHEW 13:44; PHILIPPIANS 3:10

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

1. God has lavished His **unconditional**, unlimited love upon every Christian.
2. Our Heavenly Father desires that His children show **exuberant** love for Him (Deut. 6:4-8).
3. Jesus shared two parables about a man’s exuberant response when learning about the **priceless** value of **salvation** (Matt. 13:44).
4. There is a “**tipping point**” of commitment when we go “all in” with the investment of our lives in the kingdom of God.
5. How will each of our lives be **measured** when we are done?

KEY THOUGHT: How has your relationship with God actually **transformed** your life (Phil. 3:10)?

“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”
Philippians 3:10 (NKJV)

I. BEING “IN CHRIST” AND EXHIBITING A CRAZY LOVE FOR JESUS IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING IN A CHRISTIAN’S LIFE (PHIL. 3:7-10)!

- A. Everything else in the Christian life is **pale** in comparison to the **value** of a personal relationship with Jesus (Phil. 3:7-9).
- B. The simple **goal** for a Christian is to be saved and know Jesus **intimately** (Phil.3:10).
 1. Knowing Jesus involves an intimate **partnership** with the Lord (Phil. 3:10a).
 2. This partnership involves not only the victories, but also the **sufferings** that accompany a commitment to Christ (Phil. 3:10b; 1 Pet. 2:21-24).
 3. Jesus died to **redeem sinners**, and Paul lived for the same purpose (Phil. 3:10c).

KEY THOUGHT: Helping to build the kingdom of God means we need to **invest** in those who have physical and spiritual **needs** (Luke 14:12-14).

¹ Crazy Love, by Francis Chan; Publisher: David C. Cook, © 2008

II. INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AN ACT OF *CRAZY LOVE* (COL. 3:1-4).

- A. Your partnership with Jesus will become **more consuming** (Col. 3:1; Rom. 6:3-4).
1. Illumination from the Bible and prayer provide significant growth in the **inner man**, and you will begin to gain the **mind** of Christ (Col. 3:2).
 2. Your heart rejoices that the penalty for your sin was **paid** by Jesus and that you are now **eternally** secure in your relationship with God (Col. 3:3-4).
- B. Your partnership with Jesus translates into an **active lifestyle** (Gal. 2:20).
1. Your union with Jesus will bring you to **live** out His **mission** to bring victory over sin and death (Gal. 2:20a; Rom. 6:2-6).
 2. Submitting to your Partner's **leadership** brings you spiritual strength and clarity of heart and mind (Gal. 2:20b).
 3. This partnership with Jesus means He will be living His life **directly through** you (Gal. 2:20c).

KEY THOUGHT: As a result, your **thoughts** will change; your speech will become more like His; and your **actions** will become gracious and selfless.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- I am interested in taking measured **steps** to cultivate a *Crazy Love* for Jesus.
- Please find a place to utilize me in **Vacation Bible School** and summer outreaches to children. (VBS)
- I would be willing to step forward in my partnership with God to help on a Saturday with "**Feed & Seed**".

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

April 18, 2010

SUNDAY: ***There is a point of deep commitment necessary for believers who invest their lives in the kingdom of God (Matt. 13:44)!*** God has lavished His unconditional, unlimited love upon those genuinely saved through confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior (Rom. 8:31-32). Therefore, our Heavenly Father desires that His children show exuberant love for Him (Deut. 6:4-8). Jesus talked about the priceless value of being redeemed from our sin and granted eternal life. Jesus' shared two parables teaching that salvation is so valuable that, once a person is convicted to accept Jesus, he will sacrifice anything in the world to have a personal relationship with Him (Matt. 13:44-46). Being a part of the kingdom of God brings one to a "tipping point" of commitment that requires a believer to make a decision about his life investment. What is the meaning and purpose of this life for a committed believer? Ask the Lord to help you answer this question in light of Matthew 13:44-46 and Deuteronomy 6:4-8. ***May you encounter the "tipping point" in your faith that demands the next big step of commitment!***

MONDAY: ***Your relationship with God should actually transform your life (Phil. 3:10)!*** A Christian knows Jesus intimately and knows the spiritual power of having Him as his Lord and Savior. The power of the spiritual resurrection we share with Jesus lifts our lives to a completely different level. This could mean that we would suffer from the persecution that comes to Jesus' most committed followers. However, the greatest impact is Jesus conforming us to His purpose for coming to earth. Jesus came to seek and to save those that are lost (Luke 19:10). Our salvation relationship with Jesus should transform us to that very same purpose as a demonstration of our *Crazy Love* for Him. How will your Christian life be measured when you have stepped into heaven? Will it be simply by consistent church attendance, a long faithful marriage, and polite kids? Pray for a spiritual boldness to cultivate a *Crazy Love* for Jesus that causes you to step up to a transformed life of evangelism and service. ***May your exposure to Crazy Love bring an excitement to your Christian life that you have lacked for a long time!***

TUESDAY: ***Being "in Christ" is the most valuable thing in my life (Phil. 3:7-9)!*** There are many wonderful components to the Christian life. There is the family heritage of those who come from a long line of born-again believers. We have biblical knowledge to help us make sound God-honoring decisions and the fellowship of like-minded believers that will be friends throughout eternity. However, everything else in the Christian life is pale in comparison to the value of your personal relationship with Jesus. Being "in Christ" and exhibiting a *Crazy Love* for Jesus is the most valuable thing in a Christian's life! Ask the Lord to help diminish the value of competing activities. Make a commitment to the Lord to treasure your salvation relationship and cultivate a devoted love for Him. ***May being "in Christ" become the greatest joy and most valuable thing in your life!***

WEDNESDAY: ***The simple goal for a Christian is to be saved and know Jesus intimately (Phil. 3:10)!*** Knowing Jesus involves an intimate partnership with the Lord (Phil. 3:10a). This partnership involves not only the victories He brings, but also sharing the sufferings that too often accompany the persecution of those committed to Christ (Phil. 3:10b; 1 Pet. 2:21-24).

Paul stated that Jesus died to redeem sinners. Being devoted to Jesus, Paul adopted the same goal of seeing sinners be redeemed in a relationship with the Lord (Phil. 3:10c). Godliness becomes the main focus of a Christian's daily lifestyle, and his purpose is to be used by God to bring others to redemption through Christ. Pray that the Holy Spirit would prompt you throughout the day to be on target to pursue godliness in your thoughts, words, and actions. ***May the simplicity of this focus and purpose provide you the foundation for tremendous victory in your Christian life!***

THURSDAY: ***Helping to build the kingdom of God means I invest in those that have spiritual and physical needs (Luke 14:12-14)!*** Living to contribute to the kingdom of God means that my personal preferences and desires have been redefined in light of my *Crazy Love* for God. Investing my time, talent, and treasure in meeting the physical and spiritual needs of those without Christ is a growing priority (Luke 14:12-14). My joy in life and personal fulfillment begins to shift toward those things that please the Lord and glorify Him. It becomes important to me to constructively make contributions to the kingdom of God. "Lord, help me to see the value in contributing to your kingdom that will never pass away rather than be distracted with the pursuits of a world that will soon fade away." ***May your love for the kingdom of God grow as your cultivation of Crazy Love becomes more successful!***

FRIDAY: ***Your partnership with Jesus becomes more consuming (Col. 3:1; Rom. 6:3-4)!*** Submission to the indwelling Holy Spirit brings about personal spiritual growth. Illumination from the Bible and prayer provide significant growth to the inner man, and you begin to gain the mind of Christ (Col. 3:2). Your heart rejoices that your penalty for your sin was paid by Jesus and that you are now eternally secure in your relationship with God (Col. 3:3-4). The more you meditate on these and other biblical truths, the more consuming your love for Jesus becomes in your life. This devotion, this *Crazy Love*, for the Lord deepens and strengthens your partnership with your God. God is the managing partner in your relationship, and He will begin impressing His values and priorities upon you. Pray for a receptive heart that will embrace God's values and priorities as your own. ***May your partnership with the Lord become more evident to everyone who encounters you even for a brief moment!***

SATURDAY: ***Your partnership with Jesus translates into an active lifestyle (Gal. 2:20)!*** Your partnership with the Lord will lead you to seamlessly reflect God's values and priorities in your life. This union with Jesus will bring you to live out His mission to bring victory over sin and death (Gal. 2:20a; Rom. 6:2-6). Submitting to your Partner's leadership brings you spiritual strength and clarity of mind and heart (Gal. 2:20b). Amidst the rigors of your partnership, you will be drawn to form a *Crazy Love* for Jesus largely in response to His unconditional, unlimited love for you (Gal. 2:20c). This partnership with Jesus means that He will be living directly through your life. As a result, your thoughts will change; your speech will become more like His; and your actions will become gracious and selfless. The joy, peace, and comfort of the Lord will start to radiate from your life as you bask in all three of these invaluable gifts. Thank the Lord for His unconditional love and amazing grace in your life. Praise Him for your salvation, and express your gratitude for your partnership with Him. ***May your partnership with the Lord bring growth to the kingdom of God!***