

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Psalms 86:11-17

Isaiah 44:6-8

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

MESSAGE

“Living as Children of the Kingdom”

Pastor Bruce

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

These four passages speak together with a powerful message.

- **Psalm 86** gives us a prayer for an undivided heart.
- **Isaiah 44** declares that there is no God besides the Lord.
- **Romans 8** reminds us that we are children of God, led by the Spirit, waiting in hope.
- **Matthew 13** teaches that the kingdom of God grows in a world where good and evil exist side by side until the final judgment.

Together, these Scriptures ask us an important question:

How do we live faithfully as God’s people while we wait for the fullness of His kingdom?

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

God calls His people to walk in His truth with undivided hearts, trust Him as the only true God, live by the Spirit as His children, and remain faithful as His kingdom grows among the weeds of this world.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

1. We Need an Undivided Heart Text: Psalm 86:11–17

David prays:

“Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart...”

This is a prayer of surrender. David does not simply ask for information; he asks for transformation.

An undivided heart is a heart that is not pulled in every direction by fear, pride, idols, selfish desires, or worldly pressures. It is a heart centered on God.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

1. We Need an Undivided Heart Text: Psalm 86:11–17

David recognizes several truths:

God must teach us His way.

We do not naturally drift toward holiness. We need God's instruction.

God's truth must shape our walk.

Faith is not only what we believe; it is how we live.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

1. We Need an Undivided Heart Text: Psalm 86:11–17

David recognizes several truths:

God’s mercy gives us hope.

David remembers that God is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love.

God’s strength is needed for faithful living.

David asks God to turn to him, have mercy, and give strength.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

1. We Need an Undivided Heart Text: Psalm 86:11–17

Before we can stand faithfully in the world, we must first be surrendered before God. Romans 8 will call us to live by the Spirit, but Psalm 86 shows us the posture we need: teachable, humble, dependent, and devoted.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

2. We Trust the Only True God Text: Isaiah 44:6–8

The Lord, Not Idols

⁶ “This is what the Lord says—

Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty:
I am the first and I am the last;
apart from me there is no God.

⁷ Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and lay out before me
what has happened since I established my ancient people,
and what is yet to come—
yes, let them foretell what will come.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

2. We Trust the Only True God Text: Isaiah 44:6–8

The Lord, Not Idols

⁸ Do not tremble, do not be afraid.

Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?

You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me?

No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

2. We Trust the Only True God Text: Isaiah 44:6–8

This passage is a bold declaration of God’s uniqueness and sovereignty.

God identifies Himself as:

King

He reigns over His people and over all creation.

Redeemer

He rescues, restores, and claims His people as His own.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

2. We Trust the Only True God Text: Isaiah 44:6–8

This passage is a bold declaration of God’s uniqueness and sovereignty.

God identifies Himself as:

The Lord Almighty

His power is unmatched and His purposes cannot be defeated.

The First and the Last

He stands before all things and remains beyond all things.

The Lord asks, in effect, “Who is like Me?” The answer is clear: no one.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

2. We Trust the Only True God Text: Isaiah 44:6–8

Psalm 86 asks for an undivided heart. Isaiah 44 tells us why God deserves that heart: He alone is God. Our hearts become divided when we give created things the trust, fear, love, or obedience that belongs only to the Creator.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

3. We Live by the Spirit as Children of God Text: Romans 8:12–25

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

3. We Live by the Spirit as Children of God Text: Romans 8:12–25

¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

3. We Live by the Spirit as Children of God Text: Romans 8:12–25

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ 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. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

3. We Live by the Spirit as Children of God Text: Romans 8:12–25

Paul teaches that believers are not obligated to live according to the flesh. Instead, those who are led by the Spirit are children of God.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

3. We Live by the Spirit as Children of God Text: Romans 8:12–25

Romans 8 gives us a rich picture of Christian identity.

1. We are not debtors to the flesh

Paul says we do not owe our sinful nature obedience. In Christ, we are no longer slaves to old patterns.

2. We are led by the Spirit

The Christian life is not lived by willpower alone. It is lived through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

3. We Live by the Spirit as Children of God Text: Romans 8:12–25

3. We are adopted as God's children

Paul uses the language of adoption. We do not approach God as terrified slaves, but as beloved children who cry, “Abba, Father.”

4. We are heirs with Christ

To belong to Christ is to share in His inheritance. But Paul also reminds us that sharing in Christ's glory involves sharing in His suffering.

5. We wait in hope

Creation groans. We groan. The world is not yet what it will be. But our groaning is not despair; it is hope-filled waiting.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

3. We Live by the Spirit as Children of God Text: Romans 8:12–25

Isaiah 44 says God is our Redeemer. Romans 8 shows what redemption produces: adoption, freedom, Spirit-led living, and hope. God does not merely rescue us from something; He brings us into His family and teaches us to live as His children.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

4. We Remain Faithful While the Kingdom Grows Text: Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

The Parable of the Weeds

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

²⁸ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

4. We Remain Faithful While the Kingdom Grows Text: Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’
²⁹ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

4. We Remain Faithful While the Kingdom Grows Text: Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

The Parable of the Weeds Explained

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

4. We Remain Faithful While the Kingdom Grows Text: Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

4. We Remain Faithful While the Kingdom Grows Text: Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

Jesus tells the parable of the wheat and the weeds. A farmer sows good seed, but an enemy sows weeds among the wheat. Both grow together until the harvest.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

4. We Remain Faithful While the Kingdom Grows Text: Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

This parable helps us understand life in the present age.

1. The Son of Man sows good seed

Jesus is actively building His kingdom. The good seed represents the people of the kingdom.

2. The enemy sows weeds

Evil is real. Confusion, deception, and opposition exist in the world.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

4. We Remain Faithful While the Kingdom Grows Text: Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

3. Wheat and weeds grow together

Until the final judgment, righteousness and wickedness exist side by side. This explains why the world can be both beautiful and broken.

4. Judgment belongs to God

The servants want to pull up the weeds immediately, but the master tells them to wait. Final separation belongs to God, not us.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

4. We Remain Faithful While the Kingdom Grows Text: Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

5. The righteous will shine

The parable ends with hope. Evil does not win. God’s kingdom will be revealed in glory.

Romans 8 says creation is groaning as it waits for redemption.

Matthew 13 shows us why: the kingdom has come, but it has not yet been fully revealed. We live in the “already but not yet.” Christ reigns now, but the final harvest is still coming.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”
LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM” *LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT*

What exactly does this mean for US?

Before we can stand faithfully in the world, we must first be surrendered before God. Romans 8 will call us to live by the Spirit, but Psalm 86 shows us the posture we need: teachable, humble, dependent, and devoted.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

Today’s idols may not be carved images, but they are real:

- control
- success
- comfort
- money
- approval
- politics
- self-reliance
- fear

Isaiah reminds us: none of these can save us. Only God is King.
Only God is Redeemer. Only God is worthy.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM” *LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT*

What exactly does this mean for US?

These passages move in a beautiful spiritual progression:

1. Psalm 86 — The Prayer of the Heart

“Lord, teach me. Unite my heart. Strengthen me.”

2. Isaiah 44 — The Foundation of Faith

“There is no God besides the Lord. He is King and Redeemer.”

3. Romans 8 — The Identity of the Believer

“We are children of God, led by the Spirit, waiting in hope.”

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”
LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

4. Matthew 13 — The Patience of the Kingdom

“God’s kingdom is growing, even among weeds, and the harvest will come.”

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”
LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

Together they teach:

Because the Lord alone is God, we can give Him our whole heart, live as His Spirit-led children, and remain faithful until His kingdom is fully revealed.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM” *LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT*

What exactly does this mean for US?

The Christian life is not lived in denial of the world’s brokenness. Jesus never pretended there were no weeds in the field. Paul never denied that creation groans. David never acted as though he did not need mercy. Isaiah never ignored the temptation of idols.

“LIVING AS CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM”

LIVING IN GOD’S LIGHT

What exactly does this mean for US?

But all four passages point us back to God.

When our hearts are divided, God teaches us His way.

When idols compete for our trust, God declares, “Apart from me there is no God.”

When fear rises within us, the Spirit reminds us we are children of God.

When evil seems strong, Jesus reminds us that the harvest belongs to the Lord.

So we live today with humility, courage, patience, and hope.
