

Change Your Focus In 2025 **(Step In Part 3)** By Cindy Ussery

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)- But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Romans 14:17 (NKJV)- for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 26:39 (NKJV)- He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Hebrews 1:8 (NIV)- But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

Luke 9:23-25 (NIV)- Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?

Luke 9:57-62 (NIV)- As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

3 John 2 (NKJV)- Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

My friend,

The Lord's words to us for this "Step In" devotional series were:

"Step into who I am to know who you really are!

Step into the new year with My Kingdom and My will as your focus!

Step into My ways this year to determine yours!"

This week we are focused on Him! His Kingdom and His will are to be our focal point this year. His intent in this word is for us to thrive and succeed amid the changing country and world we live in! He wants victory for us but knows our focus is usually pointed in the wrong direction. As a people beginning a new year, we usually focus on our needs and wants or our goals and dreams. We normally step into the year with resolutions or plans and ask the Lord to help us achieve them. Sometimes we focus on the dollar or the promotion and again ask the Lord to bless it. We work hard to pay the bills or to have the finer things in life but our lives can get out of order in the process. Generally speaking, we work with good intentions and want the Lord in our lives yet we live and work in our own strength and direction. If we were to align our focus with His kingdom and His will instead of the life, the plan, the things, we would have a greater, God-filled year ahead! My friend, the Lord is asking us this year to step into all He has for us but the requirement is that we must incline our eyes to what He sees and wants! The Word says we are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and then all the things we need in life will be added to us. We seek Him first knowing He is God and all we need. Seeking His desires and directions first will, in turn, bring what we need. It's the way He works!

Jesus came to bring the Kingdom of God to this world and chose God's will for His life on earth. Jesus knew what He had to endure on the cross but He still chose to do the will of the Father for YOU, for ME! In this word, to live focused on His kingdom and will is to be given the privilege of stepping into what the Lord is doing! He wants us to take part in what He is doing on this earth for His people! We've been citizens of this world for entirely too long! The Lord wants us to align with Him because He knows what's best for us. The world's systems are shifting and shaking and the Lord wants to take care of us! He knows the situations we face so He's showing us His kingdom and will come before families, desires, dreams, our kids, our marriages, and everything else! We must get our priorities right to navigate this season well! As we step out of the kingdom of this world, by choosing to walk as He leads, we begin to live differently than the world. Where there has been chaos in life, the Lord brings order. Where there has been anxiety and worry, the Lord gives peace and protection. Where there has been debt and financial struggle, the Lord has blessing and provision for us. And where there has been sickness, whether chronic or just consistent, He has healing as our souls prosper. He knows what we need!

My friend, His Kingdom and will need to matter most because He matters most. He is your Creator and knows everything about you. He is a God of justice, righteousness, peace, and joy! Our Father in Heaven is truly our Daddy and He wants to take care of us! Jesus came to be the shoulders we rely on, the perfect sacrifice that saves us, and the life more abundantly than we so need! Make Him your focus this year and His will and kingdom will become what you want most! What He wants for you will become the desire of your heart!