



GETTING OUR STORY STRAIGHT

PART 1

Introduction

Note: This lesson is a companion piece to a message Graham Cooke spoke at the Aglow International U. S. conference in Ontario, California, entitled *Getting Our Story Straight*. Please refer back to the original transcript of that message as you study for individual growth or prepare to mentor others.

Aglow is establishing global Kingdom communities that will reflect the atmosphere of Heaven on earth. For us to oversee these Kingdom communities effectively, it is necessary that we view ourselves as Heaven views us – as the Beloved of God – One who walks in favor, lavishly adored, fully equipped to do the work of the Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven.

(Communities refer to groups, places, areas)

While it is **true** that we were born on earth to our birth parents, the **truth** is that when we were born again by accepting Jesus into our hearts, we became citizens of another Kingdom - Heaven. We continue to live on the earth surrounded by earth things - earth systems, the governments of earth, the laws of earth, yet we belong to a completely different Kingdom or dimension and we are to govern in our earthly Kingdom communities based on the government of Heaven.

Psalm 145:10-13 *All Your works shall praise You, O Lord, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your Kingdom, and talk of Your power to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts and the glorious Majesty of His Kingdom. Your Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.*

Isaiah 9:6 *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder....*

Matthew 28:18 *Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on the earth."*

John 18:36 *Jesus said, "My Kingdom is not of this world. If it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jews. But now, **My Kingdom is from another place.**"*

Philippians 3:18-20 *For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But **our citizenship is in Heaven.***

Ephesians 2:19 *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but **fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household**, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the Chief Cornerstone.*

2 Corinthians 10:2-3 *I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. For **though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.***

Hebrews 12:28 *Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear.*

2 Peter 1:1-11 *Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His Divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that **through these** you may be partakers of the Divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is short-sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

After reading through these scriptures, it becomes very clear that we are living below the line of our privilege as the sons and daughters of God. At the new birth, God fully intends that we leave an old, dysfunctional life behind and enter into a new way of living. He wants us to fully live from the place where we see ourselves as Heaven sees us and that we live and move in the earth from that place of confidence *knowing* that all of Heaven is fully behind us and all of Heaven is attracted to Jesus who lives within us. In every situation we face, Heaven has gone before us and laid out a path of favor, promise, and provision for us. Stay on the path!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: For the leader of this lesson, you will need to prepare a handout that contains the scriptures in the lesson as well as the 3 scriptures in the questions below to be used to craft a personal confession that is in alignment with your new story.

1. When God looks at you, what does He see?

2. Colossians 1:13 (NKJ) says, "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love." What does this mean to you?

3. When you asked Jesus into your life, God picked you up and moved you out of the kingdom of darkness. Any sins you had committed, any bad habits or behaviors you had were totally removed from you. Anger issues. Feelings of low self-worth. Self-hatred. Fear. All gone. You literally were packed up by God and moved, lock, stock and barrel out of the kingdom of darkness. Your story changed!

Write out Colossians 3:7-9 and then tell what this means to you personally.

