

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY



## "The Kingdom of God"



And when He was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, He answered them and said, The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

(Luke 17:20-21)

The Kingdom of God is within you. These words should mean a great deal to us. Struggling as we all are, through the vicissitudes of this changing life, we know the need for something dependable to stabilize ourselves and our affairs. Here, then, is our hope—the Kingdom of Heaven—not after we die, not far off beyond our reach, but here and now—*within us*.

This is a spiritual and a scientific fact. Few people now believe, as many once did, that God is far off and apart from His children. We now know that in the stillness of our own souls we can touch Him, *feel* Him when we withdraw from the distractions of the external—and *listen*. Then He speaks, in silent peace and beauty unspeakable; then our fears and worries fade away, and we *know* how near He really is.

Here is the Center in which we must *root* ourselves if we would engineer our lives serenely and victoriously. Until we do we are never secure—up today and down tomorrow—the sport of circumstances. But once we make our way to the Kingdom within; touch its steady-*ing* Peace and Power, we find that the adversities of existence begin to loose their grip. Soon weaker souls begin to sense our inner security and look to us for help; and we know at last the blessed sweetness of Service.

In *Questions and Answers* Max Heindel says that the heaven world penetrates every part of our planet, from center to circumference, but that "the First Heaven itself, the place where the spirits who have been liberated usually dwell, is beyond our atmosphere. The Second Heaven may also be truly said to be *within*, for the material of which it is constituted is here, and the spirits who are there might visit us."

So, scientifically too, the Kingdom of God is within us. The very atoms which constitute it are passing through our bodies continually for our use. But we use too little of this heavenly matter because the nature of our habitual thoughts, desires, and feelings is such as to require the grosser substances for their expression. When we purify ourselves we change the atomic constituency of each of our vehicles, throwing out the coarser and building in the purer, the stuff of which the Kingdom is made. This purification should be a systematic, constant procedure. *Try* again, and always again. With each successful effort we break down certain obstructions and new powers begin to express, God-powers that make us peculiarly happy—courage; peace; mastery.

In the seemingly casual words of the Christ is concealed the Way Out of human bondage into the liberation every one craves. All we need is here. When we *will* to change ourselves and persistently endeavor to do so, a miracle occurs within us. We discover that "whosoever will" includes us, that the least of us may take heaven by storm and enter into the joy of our Lord Who is within us. So may we be increasingly blessed ourselves and so may we become a blessing to every life we touch.