

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT IN WORD, BUT IN POWER.



1st Corinthians 4:20

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The concept of taking the kingdom of God by force can we do this, is it possible?

Introduction:

The subject of , “taking God's kingdom”, has been mainly misunderstood and misinterpreted, primary because the body of Christ and man's human nature tends to lean towards an old testament works theology, ie. (what do I need to do to make it happen). It is my hope that this paper will give the reader further understanding of the principle of simply realizing and accepting what has been given to us and making the conscious decision to walk in the light of God's kingdom.

Taking by force, the common justification:

The scripture most often use to make the point, that we need to take God's kingdom by force is:

{Jesus said}, And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force, **Matthew 11:12**.

People then make an abstract case that we need to be violent when it comes to taking the kingdom of God, not really even knowing what that means. What they overlook are the two words, “until now”, that implies that things were once that way, but . . . In this scripture, Jesus does not talk about how things are now, or how things will be to come, He only speaks about how things were then. Consistency is the key, so we need to look at other scriptures.

To take something by force is man's way of striving to archive, perhaps we can easier understand the concept of taking something by force than we can simply seeking it and receiving it. Jesus came to restore man's relationship with God the Father and by Him, through Him, He has freely given us all things, **Romans 8:32**. Any time we believe that we can take hold of a spiritual concept or truth by means of our own physical carnal efforts, we actually hinder and stop ourselves from ever obtaining it. Spiritual things cannot be obtained by relying only on our physical abilities. For the spiritual realm is the parent force, everything that is seen was made from things that are not seen, **John 1:3, Romans 1:20**. Things that were made, do not have ultimate power and control over the One who made them.

Perseverance is a kingdom principle and we must seek and persevere to receive the things of God. It might seem that I am debating words and semantics, since all the methods point to the same result. In God's kingdom the method of which we go about to attain something, is the difference between us receiving it or not. We are not taking an external kingdom by force, for the kingdom is within us, **Luke 17:21**. However, scripture does say that we need to seek and pursue the kingdom, **Matthew 6:33**.

It is that same way with receiving salvation, first we need to desire it, pursue it and then we simply receive it. I have never heard anyone say that they were forcing their way into salvation or pressing into salvation, how silly would that be. Salvation is available to all of us simply by believing in Jesus, just as the kingdom is available to all believers, for the kingdom is within you, [Luke 17:21](#).

When we use the terms, “force” or “press in” it is easy for us to think of the kingdom as our prize. The kingdom is not a prize for being the best fighter or the most relentless pursuer, it is a desired lifestyle, a preferred way of living. And to force our way into a new lifestyle just does not work. We must desire that new lifestyle, rejecting the old worldly way, (otherwise no change will happen), and then over time our transition will effortlessly come to us.

The kingdom may be our rightful inheritance and a free gift, but it will take an effort on our part to possess it, it is not going to come upon us through osmosis. If we wish to receive the kingdom, we must receive it as a free gift. But, God will not force His kingdom upon us if we do not want it, we first need to desire it, seek it and freely accept it, and then we need to relentlessly hold on to it. Using the old testament as our example; When God gave the Israelites the land of Canaan they still had to take it, possess it and most-likely maintain their defense of it for a period of time. Some of the tribes did this well, some tribes compromised and yet a few of the tribes even forfeited their land inheritance, you can read about this in [Joshua 18 & 19](#). This is also a good example of how we must desire the kingdom, seek it and then hold on to it with all we have or else we will most-likely end up forfeiting it.

Concussion:

We cannot take the kingdom by force, rather we need to seek it and simply receive it. The kingdom of God is a free gift to us, because we are now called sons of God, [1st John 3:1,2](#).

For the kingdom of God is within us, [Luke 17:21](#), it is not external but rather internal. We need to desire the kingdom, pursue the truth of God's Word and His kingdom and then simply accept it. Walking in the kingdom is pretty much synonymous with walking in the light. If we believe we need to acquire the kingdom by force when it is actually within us, we will become frustrated and always be striving for something we can never quite grasp. To see and experience the kingdom of God we must access it through God's Holy Spirit, being willing to walk in the spirit and to forsake the ways of the flesh, (*the ways of this present world*). It is not about taking the kingdom by force, but rather acquiring the kingdom through grace with a resolve that nothing will keep me from this grace. The things that will actually keep us from God's kingdom is wrong teaching not knowing that we can dwell in it right now, and treasuring the things of this world more than God's kingdom, ie. not desiring to walk in the light, [Luke 14:33](#).