

AWAKEN (5) 25th Sep – 2nd Oct

ADVANCE: As a verb advance means to move forward in a purposeful way; to approach or to gain ground. Other words like breakthrough, discovery and development express a similar meaning. We see throughout scripture that The Kingdom of God by its very nature is an advancing Kingdom. Jesus used different metaphors in some of His parables to affirm this reality of The Kingdom of Heaven on the Advance. This advancing rule of God can be seen through history. Right from the beginning, man was given a mandate to exercise and advance the rule of God the earth. Through God's dealings with Israel it was His design and desire that His glory will fill the earth and that through His people every nation will be impacted.

However, advancing does not occur without resistance and conflict from the enemy. It is no surprise then that the theme of conflict which began when Satan rebelled in heaven still continues today. The arch enemy of God has tried everything from deceiving man in the garden to influencing humans to outright disobedience to hinder the advancing reign of God on earth.

The good news for us is that Jesus has overcome. We are called us to be an army of soldiers as Paul told Timothy. Our responsibility is to submit to our Commander in chief. To take instructions from the Holy Spirit and follow His Divine strategy written in scripture and often given through Spirit filled godly leaders who exercise delegated authority in His Church. There is a lot happening around us and yet the Lord encourages us not to be afraid. As the battle intensifies it is not a time to retreat but rather to press in more and stay close to Him whose perfect love casts out all fear.

Many of us are aware of the privilege we have, to play our part in advancing His rule on earth. Our confidence in the power of the Gospel should inspire us to continue to proclaim it. It should challenge and encourage us to be the Good News people that He has called us to be, who love and serve people in our spheres of interaction and influence. It should inspire us to be more prayerful than ever before.

As we take our stand and exercise our authority in Christ we should choose to submit to Christ and resist the enemy causing him to flee in our personal lives, our homes, our churches, our places of work and the wider community. As a royal priesthood He has called us to enforce His victory and to partner with Him to see His Kingdom advance here on earth.

This is why the work of discipleship is vital - the equipping of the saints to be effective in doing the work of the ministry. Every leader must remember that our priority must be to train men, women, children and young people to know their identity in Christ and to take their place to be a prophetic people who live as salt and light in order shape and influence people and places for the Glory of God. **With this in mind...let's take our authority, play our part in advancing the Kingdom and Pray! #AwakenSep**

Key Bible Verses

Isaiah 9:7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. [NIV-UK]

Matthew 13:31-33 The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches...The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about thirty kilograms of flour until it worked all through the dough. [NIV-UK]

Colossians 2:14-15...having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. [NIV-UK]

Isaiah 60:1-2 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. [NIV-UK]

Prayer Points

- Pray for the Kingdom of God to break in and break out in your life, your sphere of influence and in your community and frontline. Ask God to give you boldness and wisdom to bring Kingdom influence wherever you go.
- Pray into any areas you see resistance from the enemy. Where do you and/or the church need to advance?
- Pray for the Gospel to advance. Name those who don't yet know Jesus. Pray for people in key places of influence to become Jesus followers. Pray for the people of God to rise up and live as salt and light.
- Pray for Church Leaders and Leadership Teams to be empowered by the Spirit to equip God's people for works of service and to be Kingdom carriers.

Creative Ideas

- Find out different workplaces and frontlines. Maybe get an image or a uniform to represent them. Pray for those places that the Kingdom would come. Great ideas from LICC about praying for frontlines and work. www.licc.org.uk

LIFT UP



- Use the Lord's Prayer creatively. Show a video or illustrate it. Let your Kingdom come here as in Heaven. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WYiOIFa8e8>
- Map out on a map of your local area – all the places people from your church work or have their frontlines. Use this to pray for the Kingdom to be advanced. Why not make a copy for people to take home and pray?