

# Greatness in the Kingdom



**HE HAS MADE US  
A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS  
FOR GOD HIS FATHER.**

**ALL GLORY AND POWER  
TO HIM FOREVER AND  
EVER! AMEN.**

REVELATION 1:6 | MEC | VERSE FOR 2012

**Kingdom  
Character**  
(Matt 5:1-12)

**Kingdom  
Calling**  
(Matt 5:13-16)

**Kingdom  
Conduct**  
(Matt 5:17-7:27)

# Greatness in the Kingdom



... must  
surpass  
that of the  
Scribes and  
Pharisees ...

(Matthew 5:20)



... not as the  
hypocrites do ...

(Matthew 6:1-2)



## Righteousness Warnings

# Greatness in the Kingdom



In the same way, let your light shine before others, **so that they may see** your good works

(Matt 5:16)

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people **in order to be seen** by them

(Matt 6:1)



## Righteousness Warnings

# Greatness in the Kingdom



**Whose?**



**the Father's?**



**the world's?**



**Righteousness Warnings**



# Greatness in the Kingdom

... this has implications for how we ...



... **give** ...  
(Matt. 6:2-4)



... **pray** ...  
(Matt. 6:5-15)

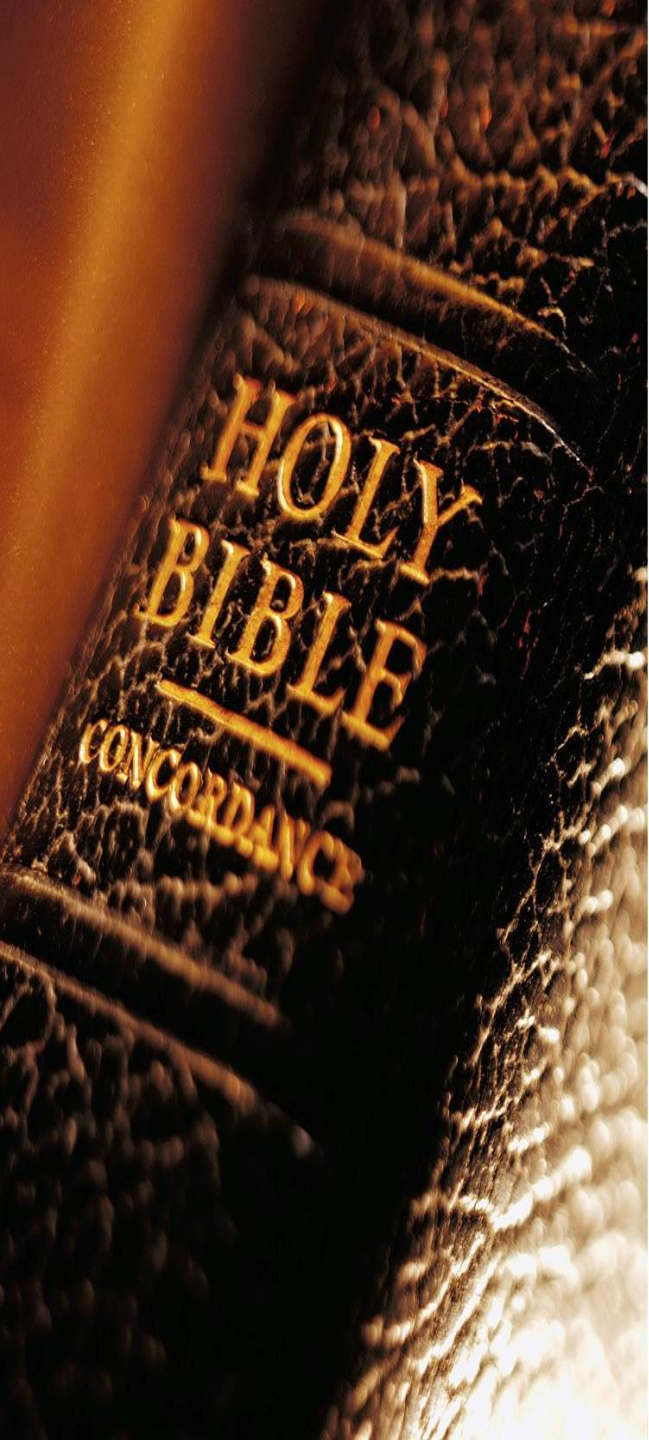


... **fast** ...  
(Matt. 6:16-18)



**Righteousness Warnings**

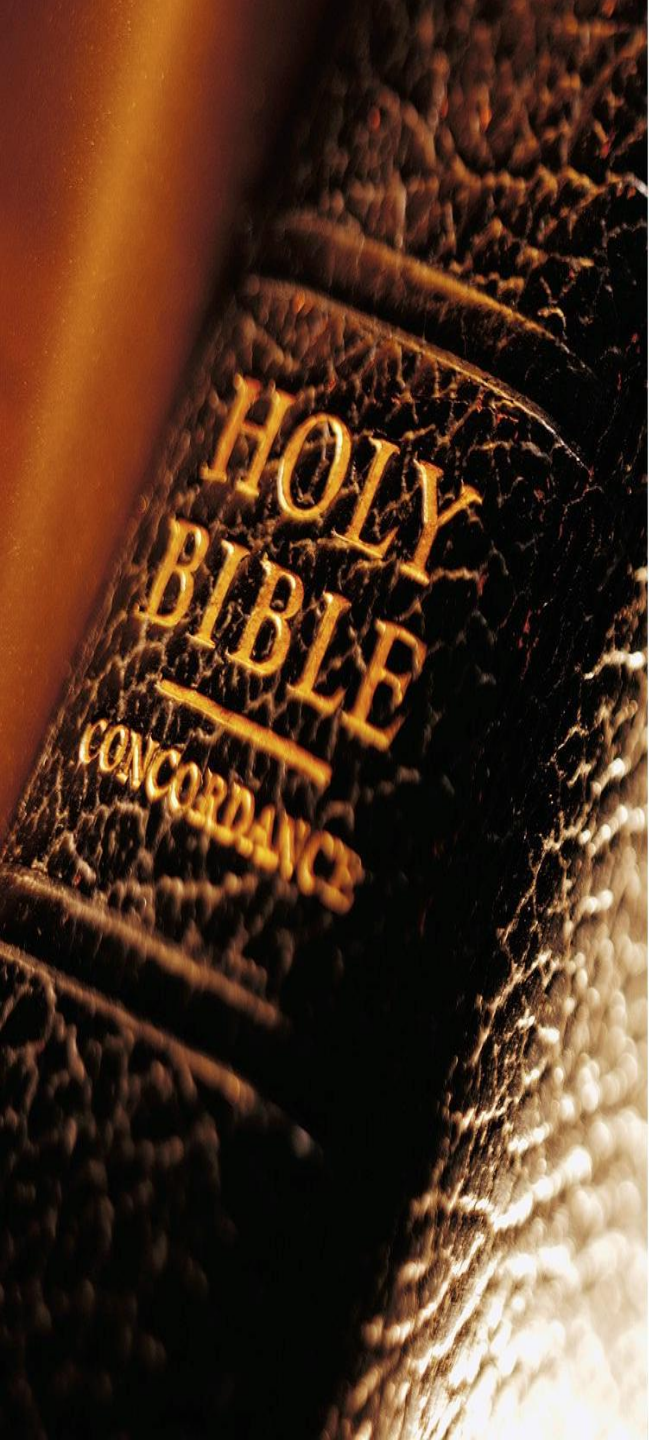




## **Matthew 6:1-2, 5, 16-18 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> “Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven.

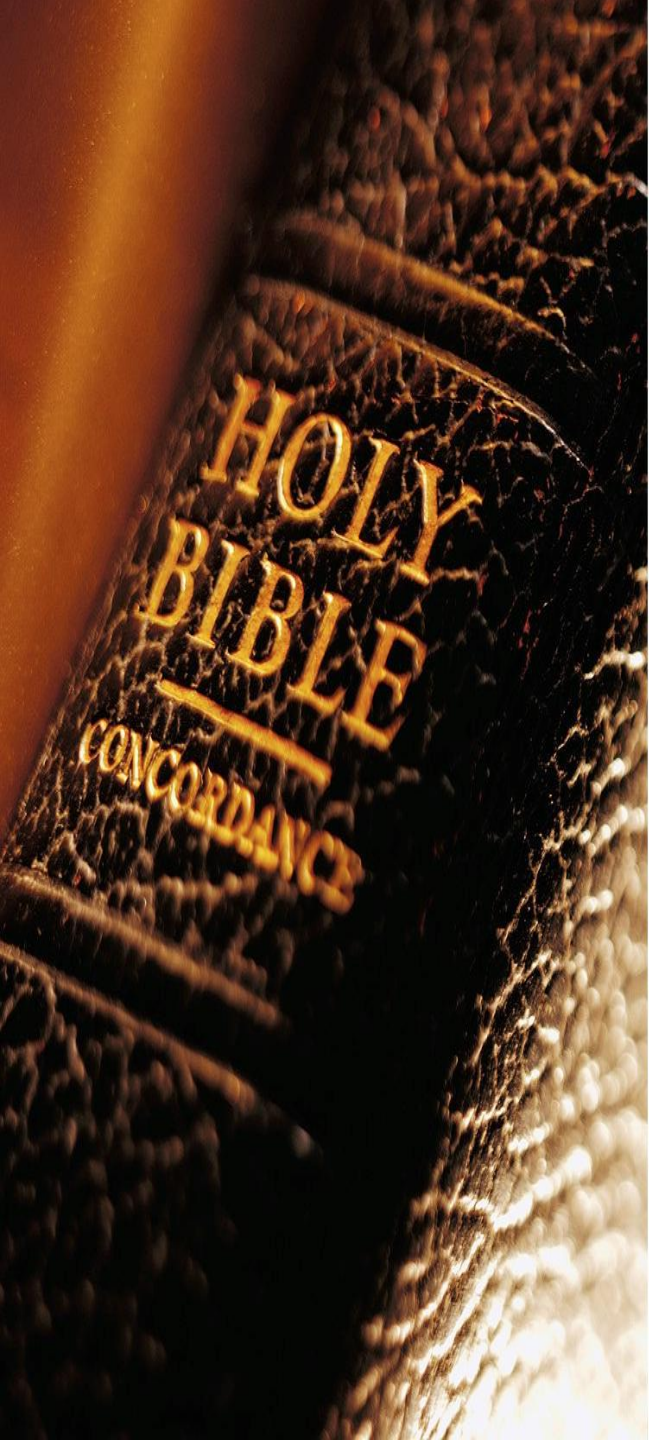
<sup>2</sup> When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get.



## **Matthew 6:1-2, 5, 16-18 (NLT)**

<sup>5</sup> “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get.

<sup>16</sup> “And when you fast, don’t make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and dishevelled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get.



## **Matthew 6:1-2, 5, 16-18 (NLT)**

<sup>17</sup> But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face.

<sup>18</sup> Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.



# Greatness in the Kingdom



- Few Western Christians fast
- Jesus fasted  
(Matt 4:1)
- Early Church fasted  
(Acts 9:9, 13:2, 14:23)
- Church History: John Wesley, George Whitefield

**When you fast ...**  
(Matt 6:16, 17)

# Greatness in the Kingdom



- Only required on Day of Atonement  
(Lev 16:31)
- Pharisees fasted two days each week  
(Mon/Thu)
- Looked miserable  
(Matt 6:16)

**Don't make it obvious,  
as the hypocrites do**  
(Matt 6:16)

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- Not a requirement to look unusually glamorous!
- Business as usual (Matt 6:17)
- **Fraff**: fasting is a sign of deep spirituality

**... comb your hair  
and wash your face.**  
(Matt 6:17)



# Greatness in the Kingdom



## Fasting & Repentance

- Purification (Lev 16:31)
- Weep/mourn (Joel 2:12)
- Confession (Neh 9:3)

**Fasting is rewarded by the Father**

(Matt 6:18)

# Greatness in the Kingdom



## National Crisis

- Destruction (Neh 1:4)
- Genocide (Esth 4:3)
- Invasion (2 Chron 20:1)

**Fasting is rewarded by the Father**

(Matt 6:18)

# Greatness in the Kingdom



## Social Justice

- True fasting (Isa 58:5-12)

**Fasting is rewarded by the Father**

(Matt 6:18)

# Greatness in the Kingdom



## Church Vision/Purpose

- Saul/Paul (Acts 9:9)
- Missions (Acts 13:1)
- Elders (Acts 14:23)

**Fasting is rewarded by the Father**  
(Matt 6:18)

# Greatness in the Kingdom



## Spiritual Warfare

- Jesus (Luke 4:2)
- Disciples (Mark 9:29?)

Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power.  
(Luke 4:13-14)

**Fasting is rewarded by the Father**  
(Matt 6:18)



# Greatness in the Kingdom

prayer & fasting

is it time to recover a  
vital discipline?

God's mercy  
on this  
nation?

Revival for  
the Church?

God's kingdom  
in our  
community?

**Fasting is rewarded by the Father**

(Matt 6:18)