

## How to Prepare for the Kingdom

Matthew 3:1-6

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***“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”*** —Matthew 3:2

**We cannot really build, bring, or advance the kingdom, but to receive, inherit, and enter the kingdom, we can prepare by repentance and prayer, seeking and waiting.**

***“Make this valley full of ditches.”*** —2 Kings 3:16-17

Steve Furtick, 2011 Global Leadership Summit Speaker and author of *Sun Stand Still*.

**God had his own preparation plan.**

***“See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.”*** —Malachi 4:5

***“A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”*** —Matthew 3:3 (quoted from Isaiah 40:3)

## **1. Repent**

***“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”*** —Matthew 3:2

[Jesus] ***“From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”*** —Matthew 4:17

Repentance is **sorrow** for, **confession** of, and **turning** from sin.

***“Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.”*** —Matthew 3:6

Repentance is **continual**, the ongoing work of **Sanctification**.

***“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”***—Psalm 139:23-24

## **2. Pray**

***“When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.”*** —Luke 11:2

**A prayer for the Kingdom to come is really a prayer of Surrender to God’s will and reign.**

**In me, first in me,  
Then do your will among us,  
Do your will right through us,  
Spirit have your way with us, come.**

“Kingdom of God” —Cheryl Keafer ©2000

### **3. Seek**

*“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”* —Matthew 6:33

**Worship is “the Spirit empowered capacity to pay sustained attention to God.**  
—Dr. J. D. Walt of Asbury Seminary, Wilmore, KY

**Cell phone—a device that causes us to give continuous partial attention (CPA).**

*“Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he [Jesus] said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.”* —Luke 10:39-40

### **4. Wait**

*“Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body.”*—Mark 15:43

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*  
—Hebrews 11:1

**If we are sure.**

**If we are certain, we might act like the Kingdom of God is actually here, like Jesus is actually alive and coming back, and like Jesus will do what He promises.**

**If we are actually waiting in faith, we might undertake some bold actions.  
Do bold actions.**

**Dig some ditches in preparation for an outpouring of God’s Spirit.  
Thy Kingdom Come. Amen!**