

## Survey Results and a Father's Day Mini-message

Happy Father's Day!

Just wanted to connect with you quick regarding the survey I sent out a few days ago and also share a bit of a word in season we have for you.

But first, Father's Day! You know, Father's Day is all about celebrating and recognize the contribution that fathers (or father-like figures) make to the lives of their children.

Nothing quite like being a father to help you understand and value more fully our Father's heart for us. When I think about what I would do for my own children and the extent I would go to see what's best for them come to pass in their lives... and to know that God's love for us as His children is even more pure and even more powerful and even more selfless... it's just remarkable.

So, many of you responded to my request the other day to complete a short survey. And the last question on that survey was: "Of the following, which two have you ever or most often experienced in your life?". There were multiple choice options of: things ranging from indecision, depression, to addiction or stunted growth.

Now, this certainly wasn't a scientific survey. But I found it telling that, far and away, the top two responses were: worry or anxiety and stress. This was our suspicion, but it was confirming to see it play out.

NY Times just ran an article last weekend titled "Prozac Nation Is Now the United States of Xanax". We're a culture under massive stress and we find it completely normal to worry about and have anxious thoughts about the future. The article said that Google searches including the word "anxiety" have more than doubled in the last five years.

I was thinking about all this this morning ... the survey results ... Father's Day ... our heavenly Father ... and I felt like God just dropped this verse into my spirit: "Do not be afraid and anxious, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32 (AMP)

Now the context for this is Jesus' teaching on the cares of this world. In the parallel passage in Matthew 6, the heading for this is actually "The Cure for Anxiety" in the Amplified. How good is that for God to give me that verse this morning!

So God's cure for anxiety is focusing on and seeking first His Kingdom. And it's his good pleasure to GIVE it to us.

But if you're like me, him "giving us the kingdom" and we "getting the kingdom" has kinda been a vague concept over the years. What does that really mean for me? Today?

A few years ago I began being transformed in a way that shifted my paradigm to focus on (eternal) truth rather than (temporary) facts. It's helped me approach life with a victorious mindset, and that's made all the difference!

It was like those magic eye pictures -- you know, the ones that look like nothing until you stare at them long enough and cross your eyes and--boom--the hidden image reveals itself. That's the way it was with the Kingdom for me. I was no longer simply told there was something there for me. With the right perspective, I could actually see the depth and expanse of what was there!

And I'm now experiencing Kingdom life more the way it was meant to be experienced.

In a few days, we'll post a follow video that we're excited about. It will talk about the key that "unlocked" the Kingdom for me and gave me "eyes to see" the hidden "3D image". So, look for that on Facebook and in your inboxes.

But before we go, Heather just has a quick impression that relates to this topic that I asked her to share and then we have a special magic eye to share with you that will give you a bit of a preview of the coming topic!

*Heather:* It's certainly easy to see that if someone is hopeless they need more hope, or if they're struggling with an addiction need more freedom, etc. But my impression is that there are people out there who are feeling bored. Or a hunger for something that you can't put your finger on. I got a picture of Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, where she was stuck living in a black and white world. There are people dying to experience a richer, full-color life. I'm excited when we talk about being part of an increasing Kingdom, because if it's an increasing kingdom, it's a thriving one. And you can't help but thrive when you plug into that.

So, we'd love to hear from you in the comments on Facebook or my website. What stirred in you as you watched this video? Do you resonate at all with knowing the Kingdom is there, but not seeing it? Does Heather's word resonate with you or someone you know?

Let us know! Share this if you think it might encourage someone. And we'll follow up in a few days!