

And I'm gonna fix my eyes on Jesus
Walking with the One who walks on the sea
Oh, I'm gonna give my life to follow
Speak to me and I'll go
Wherever You lead

What can one who actually gives their life to follow Jesus expect?

to increasingly come to know *Immanuel*, as he is with us on our journey

to increasingly come to know God's ways and understand his will

to increasingly be transformed, becoming like Jesus from the inside out

to increasingly learn how to live in and from God's always present kingdom

to experience a grand welcome into our glorious inheritance in heaven

This is what Jesus meant when he said, "Seek first the kingdom of God...."

"A kingdom is the area of life over which one has the deciding factor; it is where one's will is done."

Elane O'Rourke

to increasingly come to know God's ways and understand his will)

to increasingly learn how to live in and from God's always present (kingdom)

"The kingdom of the heavens is where God is interactively and creatively present, and where those who are also present respond to God's will." Elane O'Rourke

"A kingdom is the area of life over which one has the deciding factor; it is where one's will is done."

Elane O'Rourke

Just as each of us has will – "the power or capacity to choose among alternatives or to act in certain situations" – each of us has a personal kingdom.

"A kingdom is the area of life over which one has the deciding factor; it is where one's will is done."

Elane O'Rourke

"Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
on earth as it
is in heaven."

Matthew 6:10 CSB

Just as each of us has a will – "the power or capacity to choose among alternatives or to act in certain situations" – each of us has a personal kingdom.

God doesn't want to destroy our will or annihilate our personal kingdom, he wants us to trust him enough to willingly – and wisely – place our will and our kingdom under the influence of his will and his kingdom.

Luke 9:23-24 CSB

"If anyone wants to follow after me,

let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.

²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will save it." "If anyone wants to follow after me

let him be willing to deny his will, take up his cross daily, and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his personal kingdom will lose it, but whoever loses his personal kingdom because of me will save it."

Luke 9:23-24

"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." John 4:34 CSB "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me."

John 6:38 CSB

"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Matthew 26:39 CSB

"...I do not seek my own will, but the will of him who sent me." John 5:30b CSB

"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, your kingdom come. Your will be done."

Therefore I will
give him the many
as a portion, and he
will receive the mighty
as spoil, because he
willingly submitted
to death....
Isaiah 53:12a CSB

For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2b CSB

"For whoever wants to save his personal kingdom will lose it, but whoever loses his personal kingdom because of me will save it."

give their life to follow Jesus, trusting him enough to daily place their will and their personal kingdom under the transformative influence of God's will and his eternal kingdom.

The smartest thing any human being can possibly do is