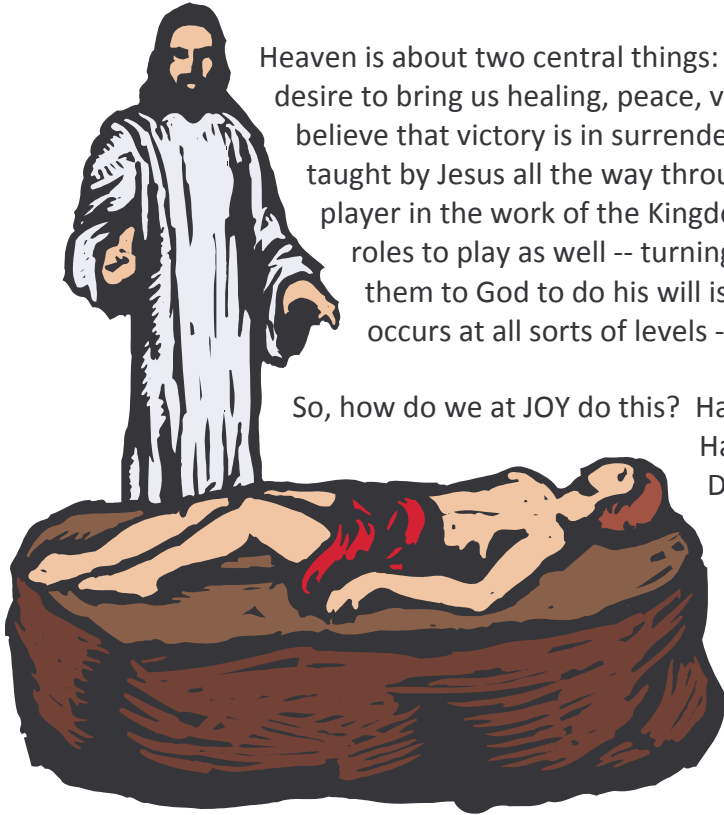


As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'<sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. **Matthew 10:7-8 NIV**



Heaven is about two central things: our surrender to the will of God and God's desire to bring us healing, peace, victory, and salvation. We find it so very hard to believe that victory is in surrender, but that is the principle of the Kingdom taught by Jesus all the way through Matthew's Gospel. While Jesus is the key player in the work of the Kingdom, he also reminds us that we have important roles to play as well -- turning the direction of our lives around and offering them to God to do his will is where we start. When people do that, healing occurs at all sorts of levels -- physical, emotional, and spiritual.

So, how do we at JOY do this? Have we opened our hearts to God's Holy Spirit? Have we acknowledged His Lordship in our lives? Do we accept His grace alone for forgiveness and ultimately our justification before the Father? Are we willing to share the love He has given to us with those to whom we come in contact? The rest will follow...healing will occur in the manner the Lord desires. Praise His name.

Mark Eichberger

***Prayer to consider...***

*Father, I confess that I have blocked your Kingdom from fully dawning in my heart. I have to battle self-will and my own rebellious spirit. Yet I want to serve you powerfully and faithfully, not just to be accepted by you, but to please you and honor you for being so gracious in sending Jesus to redeem me. Please forgive me for my sins and bring your Kingdom in all its fullness so all may worship you on earth as the angels do in heaven. In the name of the Lord Jesus I pray. Amen.*