

BUILD YOUR KINGDOM HERE

Sunday, October 30

*1] Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your Church
We need Your power in us*

CHORUS:

*Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here we pray*

*2] We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause
We are Your Church
We pray revive this earth*

*3] Unleash Your kingdom's power
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your Church
We are the hope on earth*

We sing this song quite often at our church but I wonder if we ever stop to think about the words we are singing. This praise song is really a prayer. In an interview Gareth Gilkeson, the leader of Rend Collective and one of the writers of the song said this:

“Amidst all of our making music and playing concerts there's one desire that we have, which is for God to build His Kingdom wherever we go... This song came from a place of calling the Church back to the place of praying for revival. I feel like we've matured, and we must mature beyond just asking for God to come and do stuff. Jesus sent the disciples out in twos to proclaim the Kingdom. It seems the more mature approach is, yes, pray for God to build His Kingdom here, but also say, yes God, I'll be the hands and feet and I'll be the vehicle for Him to build His Kingdom.”¹

Rend Collective is a Northern Irish Christian folk rock worship band who released their first album in 2010. Their name derives from Joel 2:13 where the prophet pleads with people to “rend your heart and not your garments” and “return to the Lord.” The song ‘Build Your Kingdom Here’ first appeared on their second studio album (2012) and again a year later on their live album “Campfire” (2013). It peaked at #12 on the US Hot Christian Songs chart and has been sung in churches all over the world.

Almost every line in this song comes from a quotation of Scripture.² The main thoughts come from the Lord's Prayer where we are to pray for “Your kingdom come.” We also see Jesus' words in Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” As we read through these lyrics we see an earnest prayer for God to use us to build His kingdom. We cry out to “set our hearts ablaze with hope like wildfire in our very souls.” Our desire is to “refuse to waste our lives” and we realize that God “made us for much more than this.” Each verse concludes with a reminder the “We are Your Church” – recognizing “we need Your power in us.” That revival comes from God and that “we are the hope on earth.” We are the hope because of God's kingdom power “changing hearts” as His people are filled with the “strength and love of Christ.” The prayer of this song is “Set Your church on fire.” Gareth concluded his interview by saying:

“The idea of “Build Your Kingdom Here” is that wherever you are, at school, at work, at home, that here is exactly where you are right now. God's Kingdom is His Church. Not, God please build Your Kingdom in Africa. It's right here, right now. As the body of Christ, our hope is that as churches around the world sing this song, it will be stirring their faith and they'll live out the Truth of the song.”¹

Listen to ‘Build Your Kingdom’ by Rend Collective on YouTube @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbdJXKqVgtg>

¹ https://www.newreleasetoday.com/article.php?article_id=1127

² A good discussion on the Scriptures cited in the song @ <https://www.thebereantest.com/rend-collective-build-your-kingdom-here>