

GOD'S BLESSING
PART 3 - HOW DOES GOD BLESS US?
PART 1e - SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS
EPHESIANS 1:1-14

Introduction

Verse 3 is our text verse. The spiritual blessings we've been looking at come from being "*in Christ.*"

"All spiritual blessings" refers to every spiritual enrichment needed for the spiritual life both here and for all eternity.

Since these benefits have **already been bestowed** on believers (i.e. They are a present reality!), **we should not ask for them**, but rather **we should appropriate them by faith!**

(Exp.— It is the same way for us as it was for Joshua and the Children of Israel! They were not to ask for the Promised Land since God had already promised it to them and said it was theirs! But rather they were to enter into the enjoyment of that provision that was already theirs with the presence of God who was there to fight their battles for them!)

For the last four messages of this series, we have been looking at some of these Spiritual blessings that we have in Christ:

I'm not going to review the **seven Spiritual blessings** we've seen thus far. I just want to remind you of the two from last the last message!

WE HAVE ABUNDANT WISDOM AND PRUDENCE!

i.e. We said that God's grace is given to enable us as believers to understand spiritual things.

WE HAVE THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S WILL REVEALED TO US!

i.e. Believers are able to understand **God's divine purpose of the ages** and to see its relevance in the present time.

Sin's disorder will be removed one day (in the Millennium)and universal peace will be established on earth!

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Today, I want us to take a look at two last spiritual blessings revealed here that we have in Christ.

VIII. WE HAVE OBTAINED AN INHERITANCE!
(Vs 11; 1 Peter 1:3-4)

The **value of an inheritance** is based on **the wealth of the one GIVING it!** God has given us an inheritance!

Note several significant points:

A. The Inheritance Was Predestinated, That Is, It Was Determined Beforehand!

God works all things out **after the counsel of His own will!**
And nothing could be better than to be given **the greatest inheritance possible!**

We are in God's family which makes us **the very heritage of God—the very possession of God with all the rights and benefits as the children of God!**

Understand that our **inheritance** is the aspect of our salvation which is **primarily future!**

We who are in Christ were predestined, before the world or time existed, to fulfill God's purpose and will!

In Jesus Christ, believers inherit every promise God has ever made.

Look at **2 Peter 1:1-4.**

Now listen to what Paul told the Corinthian Christians in *2 Corinthians 1:20*, "**For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.**"

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Our **every need** is met by God's gracious provision in accordance with His divine promises!

So what are the promises that we have by inheritance in Christ? We are promised **peace, love, grace, wisdom, eternal life, joy, victory, strength, guidance, power, mercy, forgiveness, righteousness, truth, fellowship with God, spiritual discernment, heaven, eternal riches, glory and every other good thing that comes from God!**

Scripture says in *1 Corinthians 3:21-23*, "Therefore let no man glory in men. **For all things are yours; 22Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; 23And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.**"

Because we have been made *heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ*, we are **guaranteed possession of everything Christ possesses!**

Praise God, that we who have trusted Christ have been redeemed in this present age! And while we may receive **many of our spiritual blessings** here and now, we will receive our **completed inheritance** in the ages to come, when we enter fully into the Father's eternal heavenly kingdom!

"*In whom*" in **verse 11** is speaking of Christ! **Christ is the ground or basis of our divine inheritance!**

Listen to me closely, **apart from Jesus Christ, the only ultimate and eternal thing a person can receive from God is condemnation!**

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Now, when it comes to the blessings in this life the Bible says: *Matthew 5:45*—" . . .for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." **All men enjoy some of the blessings of God.**

Romans 2:4—"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

But listen, God's spiritual blessings are bestowed only on those who are in Christ!

You may be blessed in this life with material things, but hear me, **you are going to leave it all behind one day!**

The only riches you will have left, if you have any, will be the riches you have in Christ Jesus!

But if you are not in Christ, you will have nothing eternal to look forward to but condemnation in the lake of fire!

Acts 4:12—"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

So,

The Inheritance Was Predestinated, That Is, It Was Determined Beforehand.

B. The Result Of The Inheritance Is That We Will Exist Eternally To The Praise Of God's Glory! (Vs 12)

God gives the believer an **eternal state of being—an eternal existence with Him!**

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We, who deserved nothing but death and hell, **get the riches of God in Christ!**

But get this, **the believer himself is the inheritance of Christ!**

The believer is given the glorious privilege of being lavished, not only with the grace of eternal life, but also with all the riches of God so that we will live forever as Christ's most cherished possession and heritage!

We will live forever in the new heavens and earth as the perfect demonstration of God's glory!

The fact that God would take sinners—totally depraved sinners—and save them, will cause praise upon praise to be heaped upon His name!

C. How Does A Person Receive This Inheritance? (Vs 13)

1. By Hearing The Word Of God.

A person has to hear the Word of God before he can ever know the truth of the glorious Gospel of salvation! One cannot believe in Jesus Christ unless he first hears about Christ!

Romans 10:17—“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

1 Peter 1:23—“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

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2. By Believing And Trusting In Jesus Christ.

John 5:24—“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

Romans 10:9-10—“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”

D. What Is The Nature Of Our Inheritance? (1 Peter 1:3-4)

- 1. Incorruptible!**
- 2. undefiled!**
- 3. Unfading!**
- 4. Reserved In Heaven!**

WE HAVE OBTAINED AN INHERITANCE!

IX. WE HAVE BEEN SEALED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD! (Vs. 13-14)

Men have always wanted assurances! Because the promises of other men are so often unreliable, we demand oaths, sworn affidavits, surety bonds, guarantees, warranties, and many other such means of trying to assure that what is promised is received.

Because of who God is, His simple word should be sufficient for us!

But in His graciousness, He makes His promises even more certain—if that were possible—by giving us His own guarantees!

Here the Lord guarantees His promises with His seal and with His pledge!

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The word “*seal*” indicates “*security, authentication and approval, certification of genuineness, and identification of ownership.*”

God is the One Who seals! Christ is the sphere in which the seal is done! The Holy Spirit is the instrument of the seal!

Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit! That is why He is called **the Holy Spirit of promise!**

The word “*earnest*” means “*a pledge, a guarantee, a down payment.*”

The Holy Spirit, who seals, is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance! He is a down payment with a guarantee of more to come!

The Holy Spirit is given to the believer to give the believer perfect assurance of his salvation and his ultimate inheritance in Christ Jesus!

In essence, the down payment of the Holy Spirit is a little bit of heaven in the believer's life with a guarantee of much more yet to come!

Romans 8:16—“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God”

Galatians 4:6—“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father”

We know that we are redeemed—that we are God's cherished possession—by the Holy Spirit Who lives within us!

2 Corinthians 1:22—“Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts”

Why does God give us such a glorious guarantee as His own wonderful presence in our lives? **That His glory might be praised eternally!**
(Vs 14)

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And note that the believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit until the redemption of those who are God's purchased possession!
(Cf. Ephesians 4:30)

This redemption is not the release from the guilt and bondage of sin that we spoke of in verse 7. Instead, this is the believer's ultimate, final release from the presence of sin! When we are ushered into God's very presence!

Conclusion

Now over the last five weeks we have looked at these nine “*spiritual blessings*” that come from being in Christ! The question is still the same, are you “*in Christ?*”

Have you obtained an inheritance in Christ? We only obtain it by salvation! Have you been sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise? That comes only if you have been born again!

Does the Holy Spirit bear witness to your spirit that you are a child of God? If not, why not come and let us show you how you can be “*in Christ*” and how that you can obtain an inheritance from God that is guaranteed by His Holy Spirit!

Now, for those of us who are Children of God by faith in Christ, are you appropriating the spiritual blessings that we have talked about over the last five weeks? It's a crying shame to be rich and live like a pauper!

All the promises of God are ours! But just like Joshua and the Children of Israel whom God gave “The Promised Land,” we have to leave the wilderness and go in and possess our possessions!

Are you living a wilderness experience as a Child of God? There is no need! The abundant life is available for those who know Jesus Christ!