

JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST

Our Spiritual Inheritance

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I. Introductory Remarks.

One of the most exciting things that took place at the cross and then in Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven was the fact that we became joint-heirs with Christ. This was the greatest victory to ever take place in the universe and we have been made partakers of all that it represents.

Romans 8:15-17 *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

Galatians 3:29 *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (See Galatians 4:17 also).*

II. Two Aspects of Our Inheritance.

There are two aspects of our spiritual inheritance that are very important for us as believers to understand. Our spiritual inheritance in God is very important to us as believers, because it defines our position in God and who we are in God.

Ephesians 1:18-20 *...the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places...*

The first aspect of our inheritance is the eternal scope and the second is the here and now. God wants the eyes of our understanding to be opened to both of these aspects.

1. Our Eternal Inheritance.

Titus 3:7 *...that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

I believe it is very important for us to catch a glimpse of what our eternal inheritance is going to consist of, because it will help us to endure all that comes our way in this life when we see the greater glory that is awaiting us.

2 Corinthians 4:17 *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory...*

Revelation 21:2 *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (See vs 3-4 also).*

Revelation 21:4 *"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*

Psalms 31:19 *Oh, how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, Which You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men!*

1 Corinthians 2:9 *But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

The Bible is not real specific on all of the details that await us, but it does say that it will be beyond our expectations and imaginations. It's gonna be great!

John 14:1-4 *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

2. Our Spiritual Inheritance Here & Now.

Being a joint-heir with Christ means that we actually begin to partake of His blessings right now. He has given to us the Holy Spirit of promise as a down payment.

Ephesians 1:13-14 *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

Psalms 36:8 *They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.*

Those things included in our spiritual inheritance we can continually draw from now are as follows:

- All things that pertain unto life and godliness – *2 Peter 1:3*.
- Partakers of the divine nature of Christ – *2 Peter 1:4*.
- Power and anointing in the Holy Spirit – *Acts 1:8, 1 John 2:27*.
- Forgiveness of sins and freedom from guilt – *1 John 1:9 & Romans 8:1*.
- Divine health and healing – *Matthew 8:17*.
- Freedom from poverty – assurance that our needs will be met - *Matthew 6:36*
- The prosperity in all things including our soul – *3 John 1:2*.
- Love, joy, peace and righteousness in the Holy Spirit – *Romans 14:17*.
- Victory and freedom from the bondage of sin – *Romans 8:11*.
- More than conquerors in all things – *Romans 8:37*.
- An abundance of grace for every good work – *2 Corinthians 9: 8*.
- An understanding of the mystery of God's will – *Ephesians 1:9*.
- Divine guidance - *Romans 8:14*.
- Happiness – *Matthew 5, Beatitudes*.
- Security – *Psalms 91*.
- Co-laborers with God – *1 Corinthians 3:9*.
- Seated in heavenly places with Christ – *Ephesians 2:6*.

Isaiah 12:3 *Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

III. Keys To Possessing Your Inheritance.

1. Believe That It Belongs To You.

As you can see from the above list, there are many things that have been given to you to enjoy in this life that will help you to be productive and successful in fulfilling God's purpose and destiny for your lives. But you have to meditate on these things so that you get God's word firmly established in your heart believing that they actually do belong to you. We have to be like Abraham and not waver at the promises God has for us.

Romans 4:20-21 *He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*

2. Cultivate a Lifestyle of Faith & Obedience.

A big part of gaining our inheritance has to do with cultivating an obedient lifestyle before the Lord. We are told in Proverbs that a faithful man or woman will abound with blessings. As we are faithful to cultivate a heart of faithfulness in obedience and faith, we will abound in the inheritance God has for us.

Hebrews 11:8 *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.*

Isaiah 1:19 *If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land...*

1 John 3:22 *And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*

Our spiritual inheritance is the land of promise and can only be attained by living a life of faith and obedience of which requires continually going from faith to faith. When we are consumed with the carnality of our mind and worldly pleasures, we are forsaking our spiritual inheritance for something that is temporal.

3. Walk in Strength & Courage.

One of the things that God delights in is that of presenting us with challenging circumstances that in the natural seem somewhat difficult or uncomfortable to us. It is during times like this that we must approach whatever it is with courage and strength in God, if we are to gain the inheritance that God has ordained for us to walk in. Joshua experienced this as he faced the monumental task of leading the children of Israel into the promised land after wandering aimlessly for forty years in the wilderness.

Joshua 1:6 *"Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.*

There are many times in my life, that only after exercising courage to deal with something, that the peace and joy of God has come.

4. Give Your Life For It.

Whatever we give our lives to, whether it is some carnal pursuit or spiritual pursuit, we will reap what we sow. Therefore if we give our lives for the kingdom and the inheritance that comes with it, we will reap the blessings that come with it.

Matthew 13:44 *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field,*

which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

5. Whatever You Do, Do It Heartily.

Colossians 3:23-24 *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

IV. Concluding Remarks.

Remember, this is your inheritance. It belongs to you. Use it for the glory of God and draw from the wells of salvation and you will be filled with the abundance of God's blessings He has given to you.