

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS FOR BELIEVERS IN CHRIST (PART 3)

SCRIPTURE READING:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Eph 1:3).

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Spiritual Blessings are reserved for the “Saints” – Holy Ones (v. 1). Spiritual Blessings are the key benefits of a relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. These Spiritual Blessings are activated in Christian lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. Only those who have been **Born Again** have access to “Spiritual Blessings in Heavenly Places **In Christ**” (Eph 1:3).
- B. According to Dr. Terry Tuinder, “Who you are in Christ: You are blessed with every Spiritual Blessing – if you’ve accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, then you have every Spiritual Blessing in the Heavenly Places.”
- C. According to Charles Stanley, “God has blessed His children with every Spiritual Blessing in Heavenly Places in Christ (Eph 1:3). This gift has nothing to do with our behavior or performance. We receive it only because of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

For this Bible Study we will examine three Spiritual Blessings that God gives “To the Saints ... and to the faithful in Christ Jesus” (Eph 1:1). Note: A majority of this study is devoted to the Spiritual Blessing of Grace.

- I. **Believers Have Been Given Grace** (Eph 1:6, 7, 8; 2:5, 8)
Grace is biblically defined as God’s favor towards the unworthy or God’s benevolence towards the undeserved. Grace is an attribute of God’s character. It is related to God’s benevolence love and mercy. Grace is **freely given** to Believers – It is **a gift** to Believers from God.
 - A. **Who We Were Before Grace (Without Christ)**
 - 1. We were without “strength” (Rom 5:6)
We were helpless and could not do anything to save ourselves.
 - 2. We were “ungodly” (Rom 5:6)
We did not know God, Jesus Christ, nor the Holy Spirit.
 - 3. We were “sinners” (Rom 5:8; 1 Tim 1:15; Luke 19:10)
We are sinners by birth (Ps 51:5)
 - 4. We were Christ’s “enemies” (Rom 5:6, 10; 8:7)
We were hostile toward Jesus and His earthly mission. We did not give serious consideration to living for Jesus.
 - 5. We were unconcerned about eternal damnation in Hell (Matt 25:41, 46; Rom 6:23; John 3:16-18; 2 Thess 1:9; Jude 7; Rev 20:10, 15).

6. God's Grace is available to all who come to Him for Salvation (Matt 23:37)
Jerusalem's greatest sin was that the people rejected Christ as Savior. **"Ye would not"** means that Jesus would have saved them, but they rejected Him.
 - "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matt 23:37).
7. We deserved Hell (Rom 6:23)
 - "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).
 - "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (2 Pet 2:4).
 - "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet 3:9).
 - "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom" (Luke 16:23).

B. Who We Become With Grace (With Christ)

1. God's Grace that He extended to us is what saves us (Eph 2:8).
2. Grace is the essence of the Gospel (Acts 20:24).
3. Grace gives victory over sin (James 4:6).
4. Grace provides Believers eternal encouragement and Good Hope (2 Tim 2:16).
5. Christ is the embodiment of Grace coupled with truth (John 1:14).
6. Grace is a gift that is freely given by God (Eph 4:7).
 - a. The recipient of God's Grace receives it at no cost – Grace is a gift which means that nothing is owned in return.
 - b. The recipients of God's Grace do not owe anything for the Grace. However, it cost the giver – Jesus Christ – His life at Calvary.
 - "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scripture" (1 Cor 15:3-4).
 - "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor 5:21).

7. The recipients of God's Grace does not return the Gift of God. When the Giver (God) gives the Gift He relinquishes all rights to renege or to take back the Gift. God's Gift of Grace belongs to us forever.
 - "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" (2 Cor 8:9).
 - "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt" (Rom 4:4).
 - "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work (Rom 11:5-6).

II. **Believers Have Been Given Wisdom and Understanding** (Eph 1:8, 17)

Wisdom is defined as insight intelligence, seeing and knowing the truth, seeing and knowing what to do. God gives His wisdom and understanding to those who honor Him and His Son – this is Godly Wisdom.

- A. Godly Wisdom is the answers to the problems of life and death, God and mankind, earthly and eternity, righteousness and unrighteousness.
- B. The Godly wisdom of Christ is promised to all who search after Him with their whole heart.
 - "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Cor 1:30).
 - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil 2:5).
 - "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel" (Col 1:5).
- C. **Godly Wisdom** is different from **worldly wisdom** (James 3:13-18)
 1. Godly Wisdom (True Wisdom)
 - a. It is pure, peaceable, meek, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy, full of good fruit, without partiality, without hypocrisy and is the fruit of righteousness.
 - b. Godly Wisdom leads to living for God and seeing life from His perspective and acting accordingly.
 - c. The primary way Believers gain Godly Wisdom is by reading (Rev 1:3), studying (2 Tim 2:15), meditating (Ps 119:9, 47), and learning (Ps 119:169), the Word of God.
 - "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps 119:105).
 - "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Ps 119:130).

- “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).
- “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).
- d. Believers can develop Godly Wisdom by a careful selection of companions who they travel through life with or associate with– Beware of your company.
 - “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed” (Prov 13:20).
 - “Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me” (1 Cor 4:16).
 - “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor 11:1).
- 2. Worldly Wisdom (False Wisdom)
 - a. It is of the world. Its false teachings about God, Salvation and Biblical Doctrines. It arouses bitterness, envy, jealousy, strife, boasting, self-glorifying, and every evil work in a person’s heart.
 - “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man (Matt 15:19-20).
 - b. It is a person satisfying himself – living for self.
 - (Prov 23:17; Matt 23:12; Rom 12:16; Gal 6:3; Phil 2:3-4).

III. **Believers Have Been Given the Mystery of His Will** (v. 9)

Mystery is defined as a divine truth once hidden but now revealed through God, the Gospel, Doctrines, and the preaching of Jesus Christ. A previously hidden truth unveiled by God’s revelation.

- (Rom 11:25; 1 Cor 4:1, 14:2; 15:51; Col 2:2; 1 Tim 3:16).

A. God reveals His will – plans and purpose for our lives

- “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jer 29:11).

B. God’s greatest plan and purpose is that all would come to know Him through His Son Jesus Christ.

Before Salvation, Believers were blinded to God’s wonderful plan – it was a secret to Unbelievers.

- “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9).

C. As Believers, God’s will has been revealed to us through His Word:

1. The Roman Road to Salvation
2. Mystery of the Parables

3. Doctrines – eternal security, Trinity, Angels, Sin, Grace, Prayer, Rapture and Second Coming of Christ.

D. God has an eternal plan and purpose for the world and it is His good pleasure to bring it about.

Points to Ponder:

1. Every Spiritual Blessing is from God and available to all of His children.
2. Grace is freely given to all Believers by God through His Son Jesus Christ.
3. Godly wisdom, which is from above, is the answer to all the issues of this life and in the life to come.
4. God has a plan and a purpose for your life. What is God's plan and purpose for your life?

CONCLUSION:

- A. "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace" (Crosscard.com)
- B. We have a Father who has given us "every spiritual blessing ... in Christ (Eph 1:3). We have been chosen and adopted by Him (vv, 4-5). And we are assured of eternal life (Titus 1:2). No one is more blessed and no one can be as happy as we can be!
- C. **My soul is happy in Jesus the Lord,
He comforts my spirit with songs in the night;
The joy of salvation in Him I possess,
His blood my sin covers, I walk in the light. – White**

D. Romans Road to Salvation (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)

MEMORY VERSE:

"¹⁶ Rejoice evermore. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (1 Thess 5:16-18).



From the Teaching Ministry of:
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"... the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isa 40:8)