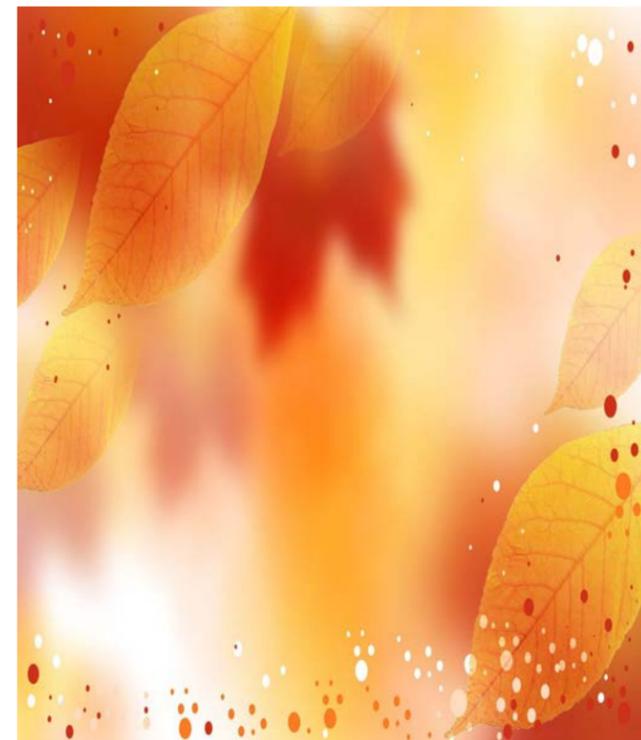


Your Inheritance (cont.)

5. Ephesians 1:8 says - "The riches of His grace, wherein He has abounded toward us in all wisdom and understanding." Key word - WISDOM. This verse says that God has "abounded" toward us with His wisdom and understanding. This means that you don't have to face life's decisions on your own. He wants to give you His wisdom and guidance. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all men liberally, and it shall be given." God will help you right where you are -- mistakes and all -- and start leading you. John 16:13 says that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide you, and show you "things to come." His wisdom is available to help you succeed.

6. Ephesians 1:9 says - "Having made known unto us the mystery of His will." Key Phrase - HIS WILL. The ultimate will of God is a mystery to most people - but it has been revealed to Christians. Paul states in verses 9 and 10 that God's intent is to bring all things "into Christ." In other words, this world, all nations, and all people will eventually submit to His rule and we shall reign with Him on the earth (Rev 5:10). In another place it says, "Eyes have not seen nor ears heard the things that God has prepared for them that love Him" (2 Corinthians 2:9). Dear friend, you and I have the glorious privilege of participating in God's plan for the ages and the universe. He saved us, placed us in His family, gave us an inheritance, and has destined us to rule with Him. You have an exciting future and eternity in front of you!



7. Ephesians 1:13 - "Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." Key Phrase - HOLY SPIRIT. The greatest blessing of all, after salvation, is the in-dwelling Holy Spirit. This verse makes it clear that once a person believes in Christ they are "sealed" with the Holy Spirit. Perhaps you were not aware of it when it happened, but it did! At salvation, God's very Spirit came into your heart and immediately joined to your human spirit (1 Corinthians 6: 17). Thus, your spirit was made new and alive unto God. This is what the Bible calls the "new man" (Ephesians 4:24). As Christians, we are called to "walk in the Spirit" and yield the control of our lives to His influence (Romans 8:5,6).

Before we conclude this area, let me mention three important things: 1) First, this short list is certainly not your total inheritance. By no means! Ephesians 3:8 refers to the "unsearchable riches of Christ." So in reality, the list goes on and on. 2) Your inheritance includes ALL the promises of God for spiritual and material blessings! 2 Corinthians 1:20 says, "For ALL the promises of God in Him are yes' and in Him 'Amen' unto the glory of God by us." All the promises in the Bible are yours. And, 3) There will be certain blessings that are specific to your personal situation. For example, in the past, we needed an airplane for our ministry and God made provision for us to own several. Thus, as you are led by the Holy Spirit, God will show you certain blessings that you should believe for.

Receive Your Inheritance

1. In Christ Verses - start by marking all the verses in the book of Ephesians that say "in Christ." Anytime it says "in Christ, in Him, in Whom" etc., mark it. These are the verses that declare your inheritance.

2. Faith in God's Promises - the promises in the Bible are like capsules to medicine - they contain the inheritance. Thus, make it a habit to mark and claim the promises of God. Recall God's promises through the day and put your faith in them.

Dear friend may the Holy Spirit help you use your faith to lay hold of your inheritance in Christ.

¹⁶Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof *and* conviction of sin, for correction of error *and* discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action), AMPC

The second requirement on the list is to love mercy. It says to love mercy not just show mercy. There is a difference. Jesus called mercy one of "the weightier matters of the law" in Matthew 23:23. It is sometimes easy to show mercy if you are touched in your emotional realm. However, if you love mercy you will be moved with compassion even as the Lord Jesus Christ was in His ministry to others. In John 8:3-11 the Bible tells us the story of the woman caught in adultery. The Scribes and Pharisees found a woman sinning and brought her to Jesus. Of course, they wanted to trip Jesus up with what they thought He would be forced to say. However, Jesus had the Holy Spirit and answered completely differently than expected. It threw a huge wrench in their plan. He was extremely

compassionate, however, towards the woman who had sinned. In fact, if you read it carefully you see that Jesus never once says the name of her sin to her. He says instead, "where are your accusers?" How compassionate, how kind is the Lord? Mercy does not condemn, it may convict, but it never condemns. He is mercy personified. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 5:7, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." I recall an unusual incident of over thirty years ago. I was at a local church teaching on a Wednesday evening for Bible Study. There were about 80 people there. This was quite a lot for a tiny church. I was teaching on the fruit of the spirit. A very obviously drunk woman made her way up to me and began yelling at me in order to disrupt the service. I was acutely aware of my subject and here was a giant test in front of all these folks! I had a moment of sheer terror but thank God for the Holy Ghost! He had me wrap my arms around her and say something very kind into her ear only for her, from God. She immediately began to weep and apologize. It seemed a sobriety came over her. The Holy Spirit is full of compassion. I learned that so well that day. In the natural I would never have done that. We are only the vessels of God to show forth

(continued on page 8)

