

INHERITANCE

Hello I'm Jim Fuller. I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you about inheritance.

Usually when we think about inheritance we focus on things that we receive after our parents have passed away. Things like property, wealth, and possessions.

This can be a very positive experience or a negative one. If our parents are extremely wealthy we can inherit an extravagant opulent lifestyle, and if they are poor we can inherit a mountain of debt.

We also inherit things from our parents while they're alive. We inherit things like our body type, their curly hair and facial features, and their skin color.

We can also inherit other intangibles such as similar personality traits, a great singing voice or athletic ability.

Since we are all members of the human race, we've inherited certain things from Adam and Eve. I'd like to take a few minutes and focus on those things.

In Genesis 1.24, God said, let every living creature on the planet bring forth after their own kind.

Adam and Eve conceived and bore children after their fall from the Garden of Eden. Because everyone brings forth after their own kind, we inherited a number of things from Adam and Eve.

Their Spirits died when they disobeyed God and were cast out of the garden. Their soul or their senses became the preeminent part of their lives.

So we inherited a spiritually dead life, separated from God, with the only thing we have to give us our reality is our own senses.

We also inherited a fleeting, temporary life in a world ruled by Satan. Our own personal lives are ruled by our minds, our wills, and our emotions. None of which can give us the revelation of our destiny that God originally created us for.

This is probably not what every kid on the planet looks forward to inheriting.
But these are the facts.

Thankfully, there is a massive difference between the facts and the truth.

Jesus said I AM the way, I AM the truth, and I AM the life. John 14:6

The scriptures also make us aware of our natural sense's inability to grasp and lay hold of the destiny that God intended for His children.

In John 6.63 Jesus said,
It's the spirit who gives life, your flesh profits absolutely nothing.

The natural mind cannot even comprehend the things of the spirit. 1 Corinthians 2.14

Romans 8 says,
The mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.

The fall of man from God's presence, because of Adam's disobedience, created a huge unsolvable problem for his heirs.

God's intense desire to have a relationship with His people caused Him to implement the only plan that would restore men back into oneness with Him - the Gospel.

No religion of any kind or any effort by man could bring about this restoration with God. God is the only one in the universe who could make this happen for us, and He did it before we even asked.

The scriptures state that God has qualified us to share in His inheritance.

Colossians 1.12 amp reads,

Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified *and* made us fit to share the portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God's holy people) in the Light.

[The Father] has delivered *and* drawn us to Himself out of the control and dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.....

Now what qualifies somebody for an inheritance?

We know that our children stand to inherit everything that we've ever owned when we die. But the kids down the street won't get any of our inheritance. You have to be a member of the family to qualify.

Here's God's answer to that problem.

John 1:12

But to as many as did receive *and* welcome Him (Christ), He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name—

Who owe their birth neither to bloods nor to the will of the flesh [that of physical impulse] nor to the will of man [that of a natural father], but to God. [They are born of God!]

1 Peter 1.3 says,

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

This is not a religious teaching. It's the supernatural act of God that makes us members of His family.

There is not one person on this planet who by their own effort or their own energy can make themselves a member of God's family. God is the only one who can do it. That's why the gospel is called "the good news."

Since God is Spirit, and this is a spiritual act of God, it requires spiritual revelation to be able to comprehend what He has done for us. Our souls are completely inadequate for this.

Paul prayed for God's children in Ephesians 1.17,

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will 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 surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Because of God's work on our behalf, we can,

give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. Colossians 1.12

So what do we actually inherit as God's children?

Ephesians 1.3 declares,

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the

heavenly *places* in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons *and daughters* through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He favored us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our wrongdoings, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He set forth in Him....

Let's see now,

- *every spiritual blessing in heaven
- *being made holy and blameless
- *adoption as sons and daughters,
- *forgiveness and redemption,
- and
- *revelation of His will

This inheritance is quite a bit different than the one we received from Adam and Eve.

Ephesians 1.11amp states that,

In Him we also were made [God's] heritage (portion) *and* we obtained an inheritance; for we had been foreordained (chosen and appointed beforehand) in accordance with His purpose, Who works out everything in agreement with the counsel *and* design of His [own] will,

So that we who first hoped in Christ [who first put our confidence in Him have been destined and appointed to] live for the praise of His glory!

In Him you also who have heard the Word of Truth, the glad tidings (Gospel) of your salvation, and have believed in *and* adhered to *and* relied on Him, were stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy Spirit.

That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the first fruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption *and* our acquiring [complete] possession of it—to the praise of His glory.

In John 16.14 Jesus speaking of the Holy Spirit said,

He shall glorify me, for he will take of mine, and shall disclosed it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine, therefore I said, that He will take of mine, and will give it to you.

From these scriptures we can see that God is absolutely determined that we lay hold of our inheritance in Christ and He has held nothing back from us.

He not only provided the inheritance, He guaranteed it by our possession of His Holy Spirit.

Which brings up the question, how did He go about providing this inheritance for us?

God, knowing that man was completely helpless to accomplish this restoration on his own, set about bringing this restoration by His own supernatural effort.

He put all of mankind in Christ, then crucified, buried Him, and raised Him from the dead. So that whatever happened to Christ also happened to us. You can read about that in 1 Corinthians 1.30 and Romans 6.

Our old nature inherited from Adam and Eve was crucified with Christ. The life that God originally created for man, God's eternal life, is now available to us by faith in God's amazing work on our behalf.

Colossians 2.12

This is the difference between the gospel and any and every religion on this planet. God is the only one in the universe who could do this for us, and He did it before we even asked!

God paid man's penalty for sin, which is death, Himself, and we get the benefit of His incredible sacrifice of His Son.

Christ's sacrifice made His eternal life available to all men. Our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior makes it our reality.

Christ's sacrifice on our behalf was perfect. It ended our old useless life inherited from Adam, and made us new creatures in Christ.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Hebrews, explains how perfect Christ's sacrifice was and how it replaced the continual sacrifices of the old covenant.

His one time sacrifice made available to all mankind,
eternal redemption Heb. 9.12
eternal inheritance Heb. 9.15
complete sanctification Heb.10.10
and
eternal perfection Heb. 10.14

In John 17:22 Jesus said to the Father,
The glory which you have given me, I have given to them, that they may be one just as we are one

By Christ's incredible sacrifice, He made us one with God, members of His family and joint heirs with Christ of everything that God has.

And if that wasn't enough,
1 Corinthians 2.9 declares, things which eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and which has not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

Moses said, I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse, choose life that you may live.
In America we would call this a no-brainer. An easy choice that should be obvious to every one.

We don't receive an inheritance because we're great children. We receive it because we have an awesome Father.
Thank you Daddy!

God bless you.
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