

QUALIFIED

I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you.

Over the years I've heard people say I don't know why God would love someone like me. I've even said it myself. We say these things for two reasons.

#1. We're acutely aware of our history, our weaknesses, and our sins and Satan continually reminds, and accuses us of our failings.

#2. We really don't understand the love of God. Oh, we've read about it in the Bible, and we've heard it preached a thousand times, but knowing it as our reality isn't the experience of most Christians today.

Let's read Colossians 1.12

Giving thanks to the father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the Saints in light, for he delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have Redemption the forgiveness of our sins.

This scripture says that we have been qualified to share in the inheritance of the Saints. What qualifies somebody for an inheritance?

When we die, our children stand to inherit everything that we've ever owned. But the children down the street won't get any of our inheritance. They're not members of our family.

Everything that we receive as Christians comes to us by inheritance. Being God's children is what qualifies us.

Do you remember the story in Luke 15 of The Prodigal Son? Jesus shared that story to reveal how our Heavenly Father relates to his children.

The Prodigal, assumed that his fleshly failings had disqualified him from sonship, and the older brother assumed that his good performance qualified him for sonship.

The older brother accused his father of being unjust for killing the fatted calf and lavishly receiving his rebellious younger brother and not rewarding his good performance even with a little goat to barbecue with his friends.

The father made it very, very clear to him that you're a son because of me, not because of your performance, and you are my heir for the same reason. Everything that I have is available to you and your little brother, because you are my sons, not because of your good performance or his poor performance.

One thing I've noticed since I've been a father for quite a few of years. My daughter never has to ask permission to get into my refrigerator for a soda or a sandwich, even now that she's full grown and married. Everything is available to her because she's family.

Jesus often used parables to help explain what he was trying to say. I'd like to share a hypothetical story with you to try and explain my next point.

What if my father passed away and I inherited several million dollars from him and I put the money in the bank for safekeeping. Let's say I wanted to pay my child's college tuition, or buy her a wedding present, or even purchase an automobile for my wife. So I go to the bank to make a large withdrawal.

What if the teller said, oh you can't do that, we have a new bank policy and we will only allow you to withdraw \$500. I know that I would make that bank teller, and that bank president very, very aware, in no uncertain terms, that I was not asking their permission.

That money is mine, and I don't care what their bank policies are. I placed those funds in that bank for safekeeping to accomplish my purposes, not theirs.

Let's go to the scriptures for a minute.

Let's look at mark 11:24

Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted to you.

This scripture puzzled me for many years. My mind couldn't figure out how I could ask for something as though I already had it and then expect to receive it.

But when I asked the Holy Spirit to reveal it to me, His explanation made complete sense.

He explained to me that everything the Father has, is made available to me by inheritance. So when I pray for something, I'm not wishing, and hoping, and praying that maybe I will receive it. I'm simply claiming a portion of my inheritance. Just like the withdrawal of my inheritance money in the bank example that I just gave.

John 16:15 Jesus said,

Everything that the Father has is mine, and I've sent the Holy Spirit to give it to you.

We can claim every bit of our inheritance boldly, because it's been promised by our Father, and all of the promises are yes in Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:20

I'd like to share a little more about accessing our inheritance.

In Acts 2.

When the lame man at the gate beautiful asked Peter and John for alms they said, silver and gold we don't have, but that which we do have we give unto you, rise up and walk.

Please note that they didn't stop and petition God to heal the man. They didn't actually pray at all. They made a claim on their inheritance that they had received from God, by Jesus' perfect sacrifice, and then they spoke the word of God to the man, by the Holy Spirit.

In John 10:10 Jesus said that

Satan comes to steal kill and destroy, but I have come that you would have my life and have it abundantly.

2 Corinthians 9.8

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you would have an abundance for every good work....

God's will is not satisfied by forgiving our sins and meeting our needs. He intends for us to lay hold of the abundance of our inheritance so that we would have plenty to share with this entire world.

The only caveat that I've seen in the scriptures about this process is in James 4:2 it reads,

You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you can spend it on your pleasures.

I do believe that God wants to meet our needs according to the covenant He made with us.

But I also know that he wants us to fulfill His purpose for creating us in the beginning.

We are God's supreme creation to manifest his life to the entire Earth. He has commissioned us to do exactly that, until the whole world is filled with his Life and His glory fills the entire Earth.

Let me close with a story that I heard quite a few years ago.

You all know that the president of the United States is protected with a lot of security. Outside the White House, or inside the White House, or when he travels he is attended by many highly trained, highly skilled Secret Service agents.

If you want to get within a thousand feet of the President of the United States in his Oval Office, you better have an appointment and go through some rigorous screening by his protective detail.

I remember a story that I heard about one of our previous presidents. There were secret service agents positioned at the door of the Oval Office, down the hallway, all the way to the front door, and throughout the entire White House. No one would even think of approaching him under those conditions.

But when his grandchildren showed up, they ran right past the Secret Service agents into the Oval Office and climbed up into the president's lap, to receive warm hugs and all of his attention.

They were exempt from all of the protocol and scrutiny, because they were family.

Romans 8.16 says,

The Holy Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, and joint heirs with Christ....

When Jesus met Mary in the garden after the crucifixion, he said,

Go tell my brothers, but I'm ascending to my father and your father, my God and your God.

God didn't send Christ to suffer the horrors of crucifixion, death and resurrection to establish a new religion. He came to re-establish our original relationship with our Father.

He didn't come to create Church meetings, Bible studies, doctrines to argue about or Bible stories to share with our kids.

He came to reveal the Father's incredible love for us, and made a way for us to be members of his family, and citizens of his kingdom.

It was a supernatural act of God that he did for us, that we can receive by faith, with no religion required.

The result is an eternal, supernatural relationship with the God of Heaven and Earth for the rest of our lives.

I say, thank you Daddy.

God bless you

Jim Fuller