

DIVINELY PERSUADED

I was spending time with God this morning. I asked the Holy Spirit, "I'm telling everyone who will listen, that everything that the Father has and everything that the Father is, is available to His children as their inheritance. I don't want to misrepresent you. Is that completely true.

He answered, "yes it's true, but you are sharing it from 50,000 miles away. I said," I don't understand please explain.

The Holy Spirit painted me a picture to explain it.

Here is how it went.

Imagine that my parents divorced when I was very, very young, and my father moved to the other side of the world. My mom didn't want me to feel abandoned, so she kept telling me that my father really loves me.

Every so often I would receive a postcard or letter that was signed, love Dad. Occasionally a package would show up at my house with a present or a toy and it was signed, to Jim, love Dad.

At this point my faith and my trust in my father's love was something that I created. It was based on what someone else said, what I read, or a few positive things that happen to me.

Then suddenly my mother dies, and I go to live with my father. When I wake up in the morning, my father smiles at me, he gives me a hug and a kiss and says, I really love you Jim.

Then he takes me in the kitchen and cooks me pancakes, my favorite breakfast.

Then we go to the park and play, come home and have a great lunch, and then afterwards, go to the swimming pool and have a great time swimming. In the evening he puts my favorite cartoon show on the tv, and afterwards puts me to bed with a big hug and says, I love you so much son.

This goes on repeatedly for months and months.

At this point my faith and trust in my father's love is not because of what someone said, something that I read, or a few positive experiences.

I actually experienced my father's love and was completely convinced that he loved me.

In the scriptures the Greek word translated as "faith" is the word "pistis." Here is its definition from Strong's concordance.

Faith is always a *gift from God*, and *never* something that can be produced by people. In short, *pistis* or ("faith") for the believer is "God's *divine persuasion*"

Under the old covenant the temple was divided into three areas. The Outer Court, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies. The Holy of Holies was the place where God's presence dwelt among them. It was divided from the other areas with a very heavy thick curtain, and no one could enter it except the priest on the Day of Atonement.

Let's take a look at the scriptures that the Holy Spirit made me aware of.

Hebrews 10.19

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith (God's divine persuasion), having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Under the New Covenant, after Christ's perfect sacrifice to pay our penalty for sin, He invited all of God's children into His dwelling place, the Holy of Holies, which was never accessible under the Old Covenant.

When Mary met Jesus in the garden after He was raised from the dead, He spoke to her saying, "Go to my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to my Father and their Father, to my God and their God. John 20.19

They were no longer His disciples, they had become His brothers. Sons of God and members of God's family.

Colossians 1.13 states that;

He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The definition of the word redemption is;

the release of a captive person by full payment of a ransom. Christ was our ransom.

Christ's perfect, supernatural sacrifice on the cross, did so much more than just forgive our sins.

Romans 8.15 explains;

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

Our Sonship didn't come about because of catechism, bible study, church attendance, discipline or behavior modification.

Jesus said in John 6.63;

"It's the Spirit who gives life, you're flesh profits absolutely nothing."

The Holy Spirit exhorted me that we need to accept, by faith, (God's divine persuasion) this new identity that Christ has made available for us, and all that it makes available to us.

The Holy Spirit gave me another picture.

Imagine a royal palace, like Buckingham Palace in England. Picture one of the royal princes, one of the sons of the king, is walking through the palace and feels hungry. So he asks one of the servants, "would you please make me a sandwich."?

Do you think that servant would ever say, "NO"?

Absolutely not. He is only there to fulfill the bidding of the king.

Christ supernatural sacrifice on the cross has made us sons and daughters of the King of Kings.

2 Corinthians 1.20 declares;

For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

God has given us the power of attorney to use His name, by virtue of our being His sons and daughters.

Christ is inviting us all into the family of God, in full fellowship with He and the Father, as His sons and daughters.

Jesus told the Father;

"The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

That's in John 17.22

If we want all of the people in this world to know that God loves them the same way that He loves Jesus, we need to stop worshipping from afar and allow the Holy Spirit "to fully persuade us" of our identity as sons and daughters of the living God, and let Him be everything that He is, in and through us.

Let me close with one last scripture, it's Ephesians 3.17. The Apostle Paul's prayer that includes all of us. It reads;

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith (God's divine persuasion); *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

We can live in His presence 24 hours a day for the rest of our lives and experience His love for us. He wants to love us like only He can, so that we can love this world in the same way.

God bless you.

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