

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 Cor 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 indwelling 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 Cor 6:17). Thus, your spirit was made new and alive unto God. This is what the Bible calls the “*new man*” (Eph 4:24). As Christians, we are called to “*walk in the*

Spirit” and yield the control of our lives to His influence (Rom 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.

■ -- Jason Peebles

Key Memory Verse:

“*He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*” **Romans 8:32**

Prayer for God’s Inheritance

“*Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I accept His sacrifice and commit my life to Him. Thank you for giving me a rich inheritance that includes spiritual and material blessings! Teach me to lay hold of them by faith. Thank you for your great love in my life. In Jesus Name – Amen.*”

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by Jason Peebles

Did you know that you have a rich inheritance waiting for you? It’s true! In Christ, you are a designated heir of God’s abundant resources. Ephesians 1:11 says, “*In Christ you have obtained an inheritance.*” 2 Peter 1:4 also says, “*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature.*” The fact is, once you know the truth, you would easily prefer GOD’S INHERITANCE over millions of dollars, if you had to make a choice. Why? Because God’s inheritance is UNLIMITED and covers every aspect of life, both material and spiritual. **If you had millions of dollars, you might deplete all your funds in a matter of a few years. But with God’s inheritance, your supply can be ongoing and endless.** Philippians 4:19 says, “*But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*” All of us should have the same attitude that a millionaire friend once shared with me. He said, “*Jason, if I lost everything, I could start again with just my Bible and my faith and find success with God’s help.*” This man truly understood the reality of his inheritance in Christ.

You are a Designated Heir!

For a moment, let's consider how a normal inheritance works. An inheritance is normally governed by an important document called the "Last Will & Testament." The purpose of this document is to outline how someone's assets are to be distributed after their death. Thus, when they die, the process of settling their Estate begins. A person called "the Executor" is responsible for the execution of the Will. The Executor is legally bound to follow the wishes of the deceased as outlined in the Will. First, the Executor must pay all outstanding debts that the deceased has. Only then can the remaining money and property be distributed to the designated heirs. Of course, the heirs have a part to play too. They must make themselves available to "receive" the inheritance. There have been many cases where the heirs could not be found and the wealth of the deceased went unclaimed. It's a sad fact that the same is true in God's Kingdom! Most believers go through life without ever laying hold of their inheritance.

Now let's compare all this to the inheritance that is waiting for you to receive by faith. The case of Jesus Christ is truly unique. Not only was He the deceased person (with unlimited assets), but He also rose from the dead to serve as His own Executor. He desires to distribute His resources to His designated heirs, one of which is you! First, He paid all outstanding debts – not His own debts mind you, for He was without sin -- but He paid YOUR DEBTS! The Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom 6:23). Through His sacrifice, all your "debts" to sin were paid in full.

Romans 8:32 says, "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall he not with Him also freely give us ALL things?" **What an awesome thought! God loves you so much that He sent His Son to die for you and pay all your debts. But he didn't stop there! He also gave you a rich inheritance to cover every need that you will ever face.** This means that you can go through your entire life trusting in God's abundant supply. And, when your life comes to an end, you can even pass through death knowing that your mortal body will one day be reclaimed via the resurrection (1 Cor 15:52). Oh, the wonders of God's grace!

God's Two-fold Blessing

Before we examine some of the specifics of your inheritance, let's take a quick glance at both the Old and New Testaments. *Doing so will help you understand God's two-fold blessing.* In the Old Testament, a lot is said about "material blessings." For example, when you look at Deuteronomy Chapter 28 it talks about various physical aspects of your life being blessed by God. In fact, I encourage you to study this chapter with a special emphasis on verses 1-14. It specifically says that God wants to bless your livestock, grain, land, health, children and, in fact, everything that you touch. Deuteronomy 28:8 says, "The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses and in ALL that you put your hand to." **Thus, as you study the Old Testament, it becomes obvious by anyone's analysis that God wants His people blessed with material things (and the OT, of course, was before Jesus Christ came).**

Now let's likewise consider the New Testament. From a general overview, the reverse is true. The emphasis changes to "spiritual blessing." The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ changed everything. Ephesians 1:3 says, "He HAS blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places" (notice that the tense is past tense, in the sense that it's already done and available because of the work of Jesus Christ). Christ bought and paid for all spiritual blessings through His death and resurrection. He canceled out our debt to sin and paved the way for all blessings! Thus, in the New Testament, there's a greater emphasis on spiritual blessings vs. the material ones (*again, not in every case, but in the NT this is generally true*). It's as if God assumes that we already understand His desire to bless us with material things based on what He revealed in the Old Testament.

Now what is the point of all this? The point is that God wants you to have THE TWO-FOLD BLESSING – MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL. Yet, it's vital that you clearly understand that the spiritual blessings are the more important. Why? **Because they are the eternal things that give depth and meaning to the temporary material blessings. The spiritual blessings are your keys to the Kingdom.** In fact, you will never fully enjoy material things until you have a firm grasp of the spiritual blessings.

All Spiritual Blessings

There are many places in the New Testament that tell you about your inheritance in Christ. Perhaps the most concise place, though, is the book of Ephesians. As we pointed out earlier, Ephesians 1:3 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who HAS blessed us with ALL spiritual blessings in heavenly places." Notice that in Christ you ALREADY HAVE all spiritual blessings. Then, after verse three, Paul goes on to innumerate some of the major spiritual blessings that are ours.

As you study the spiritual blessings, keep in mind what we said earlier. If the spiritual blessings seem less appealing than material things, then it is vital to remember that they are what give life meaning and eternal purpose. Some of the most pitiful people that I have met in my travels round the world were super-rich by this world's standard – yet, they were spiritually and morally bankrupt. In some cases, they ended up losing everything and their eternal future was uncertain. Their lives were like houses built on sand.

To get you started in your study about your inheritance, let's examine a few of the major spiritual blessings that Paul outlines in Ephesians Chapter one:

IN CHRIST YOU ARE BLESSED!

1. Ephesians 1:4 says - "Chosen in Him to be holy and without blame before Him in love." Key word – CHOSEN. The very first thing that Paul wants you to know is that in Christ YOU ARE CHOSEN. This wonderful truth goes to the very heart of your sense of "value" and "self worth." In this life, if you don't have a sense of value, then you won't get very far. This world has a way of tearing you down little by little. We all make mistakes, we all sin, and others may treat us unfairly. But never forget that in Christ YOU ARE CHOSEN. Your hurts and failures do not devalue your value any more than dirt cannot devalue a hundred dollar bill. Never forget that God Himself died for you! You are now part of God's great plan for the universe that He set in motion ages ago.

2. Ephesians 1:5 says - "Predestined for adoption as children by Christ Jesus to Himself." Key word – CHILDREN. From the beginning, God wanted a family – and now you are part of it! You have been adopted into God's very own family. You didn't earn it or deserve it, but God Himself adopted you into His FAMILY. He was able to do this because of Christ's sacrifice for you. Just as the heart of a good mother and father are tender towards their children, so God's heart is towards you to bless you. In God's mind your past does not matter. He loves you and wants to help you as any good father would. Armed with this knowledge, you should have confidence and strength because you are a child of the Almighty God! Regardless of what has happened in your life, you can have a sense of "family" in God's kingdom.

3. Ephesians 1:6 says - "Made accepted in the Beloved." Key word – ACCEPTED. One of the most destructive forces that anyone can face is the feeling of rejection. The worst type of rejection can come from people that we love and care for. Yet, regardless of the rejection that may come your way, you can rest assured that with God you are ACCEPTED. The barrier of your sins that kept you from full fellowship with God has been removed by Christ's sacrifice. In God's mind, you stand clean before Him as though you had never sinned. Thus, regardless of how others may treat you, renew your mind to the fact that you are an "accepted person." Don't allow the rejection of others control your future.

4. Ephesians 1:7 says - "Redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." Key word – REDEMPTION. Redemption means to "buy back." Perhaps you never knew it, but Satan had the legal right of ownership over your life because of your sins. Ephesians 2:2 says, "Wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air." All of us were like slaves in Satan's slave market. But the good news is that God purchased us back. Ephesians 1:14 refers to us as God's own "purchased possession." Jesus Christ redeemed you! He then placed you in God's family and gave you an inheritance! Thus, never forget that you have been redeemed (bought back) from the enemy through the sacrifice of God Himself.