

OUR INHERITANCE IN CHRIST



1. Every Spiritual Blessing

(Leaders Notes)

Introduction

In the Book of Proverbs 13:22 it says, 'A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.' Perhaps you have received an inheritance from your parents, or your parents received an inheritance from their parents. What a blessing! Not only did your parents provide for you during your early life, but they left you material and financial provisions, that you will receive when they die.

God has also promised his children an inheritance. In Colossians 1:12 it says that through Jesus we are qualified to share in the inheritance of the saints. Not only does our Heavenly Father care for us during our lives here on earth, he has an inheritance waiting for us when we leave his world and go to be with him. Let's learn more about this.

- ★ Who receives this inheritance from God according to Ephesians 1:13-14? What guarantee do we have that we will receive this inheritance one day?

(Everyone who believes the gospel message about Jesus Christ receives the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is the guarantee that we will receive our inheritance.)

The Holy Spirit is like the down payment, or the deposit, guaranteeing that we will receive all that God has for his children. This means we benefit right now from what God has for us!

- ★ What are the benefits we receive right now, according to Ephesians 1:3-9?

(We receive every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. This includes being chosen by God and adopted in his family; being redeemed and forgiven; and given wisdom and understanding of God's will.)

- ★ After sharing about these things, the Apostle Paul prays. What does he pray for in Ephesians 1:17-18? Why do you think he prayed this?

(Paul prays that we will know Christ and the hope we have in him, and that we will know the riches of our inheritance.)

- ★ What do you think is the difference between having an intellectual knowledge of our inheritance in Christ, and having a revelation of these truths?

(Intellectual knowledge doesn't transform us! The Holy Spirit has been given to us to reveal these things to us. Often it is a process and just as Paul prayed for the believers, it is good for us to ask the Holy Spirit to give us greater wisdom and understanding.)

It is easy for us to read these wonderful verses about the inheritance we have in Christ and simply understand them with our minds. However intellectual knowledge doesn't change us. It is only when God's Spirit opens our spiritual understanding, that these truths change our lives. The more we grasp that we are God's children and have been forgiven, the greater our joy and freedom, and our confidence that he will take care of us.

- ★ What difference has it made in your life, knowing you are chosen by God and have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus? Share your experience.
- ★ The gift of the Holy Spirit is the deposit guaranteeing our inheritance! So when will God's children receive the full inheritance? Ephesians 1:14, 2:7

(We will receive the full inheritance in the ages to come. It is the promise of eternal life and living with Jesus for all eternity. Nothing could be greater than that!)

We have focussed on the spiritual blessings we receive in Christ, but those blessings overflow into every area of our lives.

- ★ What are some of the other blessings we receive when we walk with Jesus? Matthew 6:33, 7:7-8, 28:20, 1 Peter 2:24
- ★ Share a blessing you have recently experienced.

Conclusion

Everyone who has asked Jesus to be their Lord and Saviour has received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be with us and live in us, every day of our lives. This means we can enjoy the blessings God has for us right now – his peace, protection, healing, encouragement, wisdom, strength and help in all we do. However the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is also the promise, or guarantee, that we will receive all God has promised for us after we die and go to be with him. That is our blessed hope!