

Partaking of the Inheritance

Many times today when believers look at their relationship with the Father and what has been given to them through faith in Christ, they see it in terms of how they have to act in order to receive the blessings of God. Some often possess an image of God with a measuring stick going over our whole life, seeing if we measure up to His standard. This makes them wonder if they're qualified to partake of their inheritance in Christ. There are several keys that enable us as believers to partake of the divine inheritance, which has been freely given to us through faith in the awesome sacrifice of Jesus.

Key # 1: We have an inheritance

I. *Colossians 1:9-14*

- Paul is praying a prayer for the Colossian church and in vs. 12, we see him praying that God opens their eyes to the fact that they have an inheritance to use in life
 - o Just as an earthly father would lay up an inheritance for his children, our heavenly Father has given us an inheritance to use every day we live
 - o Too many people have put off the enjoyment of this inheritance until we get to heaven, but we are clearly in *2 Peter 1:3* that we have been given everything that *pertains TO LIFE and godliness*
 - o God has already given us anything we could possibly need this side of heaven and to wait until we get to heaven to partake of it means we lack revelation of God's will for our lives
- Now in verse 12, we are told that we have been made able to be partakers
 - o In the Greek, this says that God has *qualified* us to partake of the inheritance
 - o This means that we can now freely partake of anything we need this side of heaven
 - o However, *just because we have been qualified to partake of this inheritance doesn't necessarily mean we will*

- To that some will say, “Well, then, God is holding out on me” or “It’s not his will for me to have everything”
- Just because God has made us able and qualified us to partake doesn’t mean that everyone will step out in faith and use what is theirs in Christ
- This lack of action on our part is usually due to only having small amounts of light concerning our inheritance; this makes our faith weak and if we don’t strengthen it with the Word, we won’t enjoy God’s blessings this side of heaven

Key #2: Exact Knowledge of God’s Word

II. *2 Peter 1:3-4*

- Verse 3 tells us that the only way we partake of our divine inheritance is through a clear and exact knowledge of God’s Word
 - God’s will for our lives is His Word and our only way of enjoying it is by having God’s Word written in our hearts
 - His Word must go from being heard on Sunday and forgotten by mid-afternoon to being written on our hearts and meditated upon each day (*Joshua 1:8*)
- Verse 4 then reveals that our inheritance is made up of the exceeding great and precious promises of God’s Word
 - Every believer must believe these promises in faith, which enables us to use our faith and see them manifested in our lives

III. *Colossians 1:9*

- (Amplified Version): “For this reason we also, from the day we heard of it, have not ceased to pray and make “special” request for you, asking that you may be filled with the *full, deep and clear knowledge of His will* in all spiritual wisdom *in comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God* and in understanding and discernment of spiritual things.”
 - A full, clear and deep knowledge of His will is what opens the door to our inheritance
 - This verse is basically saying that every believer should have such an exact knowledge of God’s Word that His will in any situation is not unknown to us
 - Example of PhD’s, Doctorates and Masters

- People who hold such degrees have put in extra times of study that far exceed the average person, which is why their knowledge level qualifies them as experts in their particular field
 - Children of God are to be the same way: we are to go beyond the status-quo of knowledge in our relationship with God to the level where His will in any situation is never in question
 - God did not deliver us from the powers of darkness to leave us aimlessly wondering around in the dark, but rather to be walking with Him daily
 - With the revelation of His Word, we can intimately follow the Lord with faith and obedience
- However, what usually prevents believers from rising to such levels of intimacy with the Lord is the fact that we have to be willing and obedient to sow one of our most precious commodities: TIME
 - it requires us to spend more time in His presence and in His Word to go beyond the status-quo and be transformed into bright beacons of light in a dark world

IV. *Ephesians 1:17-18*

- This prayer that Paul prays for the Ephesians tells us something very profound: if we ever desire to partake of the wisdom and revelation of the knowledge of God, it never comes before first knowing THE Spirit of wisdom and revelation, which is the Spirit of God
 - We love to be filled with the wisdom and knowledge of God, but this precious gift comes from time spent in the Word and God's presence
 - This means that we must force ourselves to quit thinking of our Lord as someone we run to and talk with only in times of desperation, but rather someone we closely fellowship with daily
- When we come to the place where we see God as someone we love and long to be in His presence, this is when our intimacy with God soars to new heights
 - Verse 18 shows us the result of our newly gained intimacy with God: the eyes of our understanding become enlightened by the Holy Spirit
 - This causes us to become fully aware that we not only have an inheritance, but we possess a revelation of the depth of our inheritance, which means we see how our inheritance touches every part of our lives

- We begin walking in the light just as He is in the light, and even in the midst of darkness and trying circumstances, we can be led by Him over our enemies and into victory every time
- Once we know that we have been given an inheritance to daily use and come to an exact knowledge of what our inheritance includes, we are then ready for the 3rd key

Key #3: Faith in our Inheritance

V. *Hebrews 6:11-12*

- Faith is what propels us to go beyond mere head knowledge of the Word of God to stepping out and acting on His Word, often in spite of what natural circumstances says is wise or proper
 - This is the point where much of the body of Christ stops in the process: many of us have been told what our inheritance involves, but refuse to couple that knowledge with the key that will bring about the manifestation of our inheritance
 - The reason we stop at this point is because much of the time, we tend to focus on the problem rather than the promise of God; we get so caught up in the physical and the natural that we somehow forget that God as already provided the solution
 - The remedy for this is shown in *Romans 10:17*, where we are told to walk by faith and not by sight,
 - We must get our eyes off the problem and onto God's Word, believing that we have the answer to the problem
 - Then, when we stop giving undue credit to the problems of life and give it to the Lord, we walk in faith and partake of our inheritance, regardless of the devil's attacks

VI. *Colossians 3:22-24*

- In this passage, Paul shows us the attitude we must possess when it comes to partaking of our inheritance
 - The word *eyeservice* here implies a mere outward doing, having nothing to do with the attitude or manner with which it is done

- While men only look at the outward, God is always more interested with the attitude of our heart; he is more interested in the level of passion with which we pursue our inheritance
- When we do things heartily unto the Lord just as verse 24 says, this shows our faith to God
- This is what opens up the door to our receiving the reward of our inheritance
- Faith in our inheritance is demonstrated to God when we not only know about our inheritance, but pursue it with passionate faith and trust in Him, rather than stumbling around in doubt and unbelief, wondering if it is His will to care for us
 - This passionate faith pleases God and causes the floodgates of our inheritance to be released, the provision of God to come in and defeat any circumstance against us

VII. *Numbers 13:25-33*

- This passage is one of the most well known, if not the most well known, passage about possessing our inheritance on the Earth
 - The first thing to see in these verses is in verse 28 and it is the first word: *nevertheless*; In spite of all the great things in the promised land, the first word in this verse is a word of unbelief
 - It basically nullifies all the words of faith in the previous verses and puts the attention and focus on doubt, unbelief, fear and why God is not big enough to make them conquerors
- Very often, the devil appears to you as a giant standing in your way, trying to fill you with fear and distract you from the promises of God
 - He knows that God's Word never returns void and his only chance at defeating you in any arena of life is for you to surrender to him what is yours to freely enjoy
 - We have the choice to either focus on the giant in our way or to be just like Caleb in verse 30, urging his comrades to focus on God and by faith go up to possess the land
- Chapter 14 speaks about the results of doubt and unbelief, or when we put more faith in the enemy's ability to bring destruction in our lives than we have in God's ability to lead us to victory
 - Because the nation of Israel *focused on the giants* rather than what was already theirs, they did not inherit the land

- Instead, *they wondered in the wilderness for 40 years until that entire generation of unbelievers died*
- The reason they did not walk in faith is clearly seen in verse 33; the Israelites saw themselves as grasshoppers compared to the enemy
 - This shows that they were more aware of *their own deficiencies rather than the might of the God who delivered them* from the pharaoh's hand and did miracle after miracle before them
 - Believers cannot focus on the problem, but rather the fact that we are now sons and daughters of God who are called to reign as kings in this life
 - We must rid ourselves from the *grasshopper mentality and develop a righteousness mentality*
 - When we see problems in life, we are to immediately aware of our strength and ability through Christ than the evil report facing us
- God never promised His children that the battles would be easy; in fact, because our inheritance in Christ affects every area of life, *the enemy will fight that much harder to scheme believers out of their inheritance*
 - But when we are more aware of our righteous nature and relationship with our Lord, will do just as David did with Goliath: *not just have the courage to confront the giant, but to sprint at him in faith*, ready to destroy any attempt of the enemy to steal us of our inheritance

Key #4: The Wisdom to Partake

IX. Proverbs 8:20-21

To this point, we have discovered that we have an inheritance as children of God, we must possess an exact and comprehensive knowledge of our inheritance and have the faith to act according to God's Word to possess it

- But the equation is not finished yet; once we are filled with God's Word and are willing and obedient to step out in faith, we must have the wisdom of God to apply His Word
- This whole chapter depicts wisdom talking to the children of God and how its application brings prosperity and joy in life
 - Verse 21 tells us that when we add wisdom to our faith and knowledge, it results in the manifestation of our inheritance

- We must apply the wisdom of God to our faith so that when we know and believe the Word of God, we then possess the ability to skillfully apply His Word and see the giant defeated in our lives

- Wisdom is crucial to this equation because too often believers who have built up their faith act out in ignorance, resulting in defeat *even though they believe God and His Word*
 - Believers often step out in faith but are still defeated by the enemy because without wisdom, *they do the right things the wrong way*

 - We must not only possess faith in God's Word, but do just as Paul did in *Ephesians 1* and pray that the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God be in us and upon us daily

 - This results in the eyes of our understanding being opened to the truth concerning our inheritance

God is always ready for us to partake of our inheritance and delights in the prosperity of all His children. Once we are born again, we can either live life without the abundance of our inheritance or we can gain revelation of our inheritance and then partake of it in faith. Choosing to walk in our inheritance gives us all we could ever need in our lives. With our full, abundant supply, we can conquer any giant we face, filled with faith and clothed in the full armor of God. Every child of God can go from living hand to mouth to possessing God's best for their lives by gaining the revelation of our inheritance, stepping out in it in faith and applying God's wisdom for its complete manifestation.