



BRAAM FAMILY

OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS (PART 2)

A study of Ephesians 1

The spiritual blessing that we find in Ephesians one can be grouped into 3. So, Paul's letter didn't only mention the blessings but he categorized them. He divides these blessings into 3 groups to separate the three types of blessings we have received from each person of the trinity. He continually repeats: "To the praise of the glory of his grace" in verses 6, 12 and 14, this phrase comes to conclude the blessings received by each person of the trinity. So there are spiritual blessings from the Father, through Christ, there's some from the Son and others from the Spirit. From verses 3 to 6, Paul mentions the blessings of the Father, the blessings of the Son are found in verses 7 to 12, and lastly the blessings of the Holy Spirit verses 13 to 14.

Here is how Paul grouped the Spiritual blessings that we have as believers:

What has the Father given us in Christ?

1. **ELECTION:** He elected us before the foundation of the world
2. **ADOPTION:** we can be called children of God

What does the Son give us in Himself?

1. **ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED**
2. **REDEMPTION BY HIS BLOOD**
3. **THE REMISSION OF SINS**
4. **KNOWLEDGE OF THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL**
5. **THE INHERITANCE** (according to predestination)

What does the Spirit give us?

1. **THE SEAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:** the stamp of belonging, a mark that indicates that we belong to Christ.
2. **THE GUARANTEE OF INHERITANCE:** assurance for the salvation of our bodies.

When it comes to **REDEMPTION**, it's a two-part role because there's one for the body and one for the spirit of man. There is a distinction between the **REDEMPTION** that we already have in the present by the Son and that by the Spirit that we will have in the future. The **REDEMPTION** of one's spirit is the work of the Son, and the **REDEMPTION** of the body is the work of the Spirit of God. The redemption of the body is the resurrection of the dead in Christ and the translation of the mortal body into a glorious body.

Paul gives light on the redemption of the body and attributes that work to the Holy Spirit in his letter to the Romans. Romans 8:11 says: "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you'. So when one is saved, the spirit is saved, but the body remains on earth awaiting the redemption from this body that is subjected to earthly things.



In this chapter, Paul highlights something important, which is, God's sovereignty in salvation cannot be changed and doesn't depend on anyone. In verse 5 we see that salvation is according to the good pleasure of His will (He does what pleases him). And in verse 11; salvation is according to the advice of his will (He does not seek any advice from anyone). It is this sovereignty of God that keeps His acts in balance. When God operates in His sovereignty, no opposing factor can come in the way of His sovereign will. He imposes his veto, and that is why we should be assured of our salvation.



These spiritual blessings are there to build and reinforce the identity that we have in and through Christ. It is important to know this because **IDENTITY** comes before **FUNCTION**, and we see this from verses 5 to 12. So it means' **TO BE** (in Christ) comes before **SERVING**, the **BEING** comes before the **TASK** at hand. It is not your service that gives you your identity but it is your identity that validates your service. Many hide behind what they do to create an identity or an image of who they are not in real life.

One is not a sinner because they sin, but is a sinner because of the sin of a man (Adam) who gave humanity the identity of a sinner. The identity of sin isn't in the act but in the nature of man (see Romans 5: 12). Otherwise, Christians would always be identified as sinners, because it happens that they can sometimes stumble into sin. The same principle applies for righteousness, therefore, you are not **JUST OR RIGHTEOUS** because of your good deeds or your obedience, you are **JUST** because of one person's (Jesus') good deeds and obedience (see 1 Corinthians 15: 21). God wants your life to belong to Him before your service comes back to him.

After all that Paul has to say about spiritual blessings for believers, he closes off with a prayer. Paul makes three requests from verse 15 to the end. This prayer is made because of the mysteries that have been revealed in the chapter. He prays that God gives us (the recipient of the blessings) a **SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION** so that we know Him more. He also prays that God illuminate the **EYES OF OUR HEARTS** to know:

1. The hope attached to His calling
2. The riches of the inheritance reserved for the saints (His wealth, which we have received)
3. The exceeding greatness of his **POWER** (every time we believe we release the same power that God used to raise Jesus from the dead)

Our God is a responsible God, He assumed responsibility by blessing us. To the point of blessing us in every position of His person that He occupies in the trinity. We are blessed by all that He is, so we're blessed by the Father, we're blessed by the Son and we're also blessed by the Spirit. His desire is for us to know Him more and become conscious of the blessings that He has availed to us. This awareness brings about your true identity in Christ. And when you are affirmed in these truths, you live and serve differently.

