

ESF, Lord's day service message  
6/30/2019

**The Heirs According to the Promise**  
Galatians 3:26-29

*<sup>26</sup> So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

There was a Michigan factory worker who was earning less than ten thousand dollars a year. He had no savings and no financial future. He had lived far from his hometown and had never once contacted his family in 24 years. But one day an investigator contacted him. The investigator informed him that a benefactor of his family had died, and he was the heir to a half-million dollars from the benefactor. His financial life changed in a day.

Some people can inherit many good things from others by being legitimate heirs. But the most blessed heir is the heir according to the promise of God. 1 John 3:1 says, "*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God.*"

Then how can we be the heirs of God's promise and live with abundant blessings as his heirs?

**Become an heir by faith**

In this world, a person can become an heir by having a birthright or a legal right. Even if you want to be an heir of a rich and powerful person, you cannot be an heir if you don't have a blood relationship with that person, or if that person does not designate you to be an heir. In any case, you cannot choose to be an heir by your own will. The right to be

an heir totally depends upon your status at natural birth, or another person's will.

But there is a way you can be a blessed heir of God by your choice. It comes through the promise of God. God promised that the woman's offspring will crush the head of Satan (Genesis 3:15). He promised that He would save Noah and his family from the Great flood through an ark. He called an old man, Abraham and promised to give him a child and to make the child the source of blessing for all nations. He promised that He would bring the Israelites out of Egypt after they lived there as slaves for 400 years.

All these promises have been fulfilled through One Person whose name is Jesus. The woman's offspring who would crush the head of Satan is Jesus. Noah's Ark that would save people from the punishment of the flood of sin is Jesus. Abraham's promised son who would be the source of blessings for all nations is Jesus. The one who would set us free from the slavery of the power of sin is Jesus.

In Jesus Christ, God accomplishes all of His promises. The accomplished promises are given to those who are heirs according to the promise. How can we be the heirs according to the promise?

We need to do nothing but believing that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He died on the cross to make us children of God. *"You are all sons of God through Faith in Christ Jesus"* (3:26).

John 1:12 says, *"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"*.

Believing in Jesus Christ is the only way to become a child of God. If you believe that Jesus died on the cross to make you a child of God, you become an heir of the wonderful promise of God. In other words, you are the beneficiary of the inheritance in all God's promises. As His heir,

you have the right to receive all things that belong to God, the Heavenly Father. God's almighty power is yours. All God possesses in the universe are yours. God's infinite love is yours. God's eternal life is yours!

It also means that no human condition is necessary to become a child of God. Verse 28 says *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”*

“Neither Jew nor Gentile” means that you don't need a good religious or ethnic background to become a child of God. Even if you have never known or served God, by faith in Christ, you can instantly become a child of God.

Even if you are the worst sinner you can become a child of God in Christ Jesus. The thief who was crucified next to Jesus' cross accepted Jesus as the Son of God just before he died. He had no chance to do anything good to pay for his sins or to please God. However, Jesus did not say to him, ‘Sorry son, it is too late. You are too sinful to be forgiven.’ Jesus assured him that he instantly became a child of God by saying, “Today, you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43).

“Neither slave nor free” means you don't need any social or economic status to become a child of God. Even if you are the poorest or the lowliest person in the world, you can become a child of God.

“Neither male nor female in Christ” means that there is no distinction between man and woman in becoming a child of God. In ancient times, women did not have the same rights as men had. Fathers had the right to decide who could be the husbands of their daughters. Even in modern times, in some parts of the world, there is still discrimination against women. However, in Christ, man and woman have equal right to inherit God's blessings.

If you are a believer in Jesus, never doubt the fact that you are a child of God. Even in your sin, your status as a child of God will never be changed. So always be confident of your status as an heir according to the promise.

### **Claim the privilege of heir**

“The Mystery of the Missing Owner” read the headline on an unusual section of the Chicago Tribune on Sunday, February 6, 2005. The headline section was actually a legal notice published by the Illinois State Treasurer’s Office. The office was seeking to give money away to rightful owners--the contents of abandoned safe deposit boxes, forgotten bank accounts, security deposit checks, uncashed paychecks, and dividend checks. More than a billion dollars was owed to nearly five million people and businesses. But many of them did not claim the money.

When people die, they may leave their houses, savings, stocks, bonds and all kinds of assets to their loved ones. But if their loved ones know nothing about it or don’t claim their right to inherit the assets, they can’t inherit the assets.

Some believers don’t know their right of heirs as recorded in the Bible and do not claim the right of heirs. They still live with a depressed and defeated spirit.

When Jesus died on the cross, He made all the blessed inheritance of God’s promises available to those who believe. If you believe that Jesus died on the cross to make you a child of God and claim your right as a child of God in Christ, all the blessed inheritance will be yours.

Ephesian 1:3 says “*God has blessed us ...with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*” The tense of the verb, “has blessed” tells us that it was already done in the past and continues working to the present. So, just claim the

blessing, “I have God’s blessing in Christ today.” Then you will see God’s blessed inheritance filling your life.

The best spiritual blessing we can claim as God’s children is the Holy Spirit. As children of God, we can confidently ask God to give us the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:11-13). The Holy Spirit empowers us to be bold when we witness of Christ (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit prays on behalf of us when we are weak (Romans 8:26). The Holy Spirit will give us gifts to serve the church joyfully and effectively (1Corinthians Ch. 12). The Holy Spirit enables us to produce the fruit of the Spirit such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Also, we can claim specific blessings as the heirs of God’s promise. Let’s see some examples. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, “*God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline*” In Christ, these blessings are already yours. You can claim, “I have a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So, I can be bold, I can love those who hurt me, I can control my emotion and desire.” Then you will be able to see those blessings working in your life. We can claim the inheritance of healing.

There is the promise of healing – 2 Chronicles 7:14, *if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land* (Also Jeremiah 33:6).

We can claim the inheritance of provision according to the promise of provision – *The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.* (Deuteronomy 28:11)

When we claim the blessing of God’s promise, we may not receive the blessing immediately. But we should not give up. When we keep

claiming the promise, the promise will surely be completed sooner or later.

If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the cross to make you a child of God, you are a child of God. As a child of God, you have the right to claim all the blessings in God's promise. Claim them for all your needs.

### **Use the inheritance according to God's will**

When God makes us his heirs and gives us his inheritance, he has a clear purpose. It is for us to use the inheritance to love him. *The Lord will delight in you and make you prosperous...if you obey the Lord your God...and turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul* (Deuteronomy 30:9-10).

In this promise, prosperity includes spiritual prosperity, physical prosperity and financial prosperity. If we use the inheritance to love God with all our heart, God will enable us to keep enjoying the inheritance. Also, God will bless our descendants with abundant inheritance.

An American educator, A.E. Winship conducted a research of the descendants of Jonathan Edwards almost 150 years after his death. His findings are remarkable. In the 18th century America, Jonathan Edwards faithfully served the Lord as a preacher and theologian in spite of many trials (Oct 5, 1703- March 22, 1758). After he died, his legacy includes: 1 U.S. Vice-President, 1 Dean of a law school, 1 dean of a medical school, 3 U.S. Senators, 3 governors, 3 mayors, 13 college presidents, 30 judges, 60 doctors, 65 professors, 75 Military officers, 80 public office holders, 100 lawyers, 100 clergymen, and 285 college graduates. (<https://www.ywam-fmi.org/news/multigenerational-legacies-the-story-of-jonathan-edwards/>)

Of course, not all families' legacy is the same as the legacy of Jonathan's family. But it is an evidence that God keeps blessing

believers' descendants with abundant inheritance. If you want to leave a great inheritance to your children, believe in this truth. Leave God's inheritance to your children. Serve and love the Lord faithfully. God will take care of your children with his blessed inheritance.

In addition, we must remember that God gives us his inheritance to share it with all people. Heaven is a place where people of every nation, tribe and language become one family in Christ and worship God in unity: *There ...was a great multitude..., from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. ...They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God* (Revelation 7:9-11).

Jesus teaches us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." By this prayer Jesus means that believers must share God's love with all people and worship the Lord in unity on earth as they will do in heaven. While we share God's love with all people and worship the Lord in unity, we experience the joy of heaven.

When we share God's inheritance with all people regardless of the differences of race, social status, economic status, or physical condition, God will let us enjoy His inheritance completely.

Our church has not been perfect. But by God's grace we have people of multi races, ethnic backgrounds and languages. God has given us the opportunity to immolate the life of heaven. Of course, from time to time we struggle to understand each other and love each other in the midst of cultural and language barriers.

But the joy of heaven in a multi- racial church is worth the struggle. Let's give thanks to God for this heavenly inheritance. Let's keep reaching out to people of all races. Let's keep sharing spiritual inheritance with people from all nations.