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## Ephesians

### 1. Your Identity (c) Blessed (2)

Last week we had looked at what it means blessing in detail. This lesson we are going to look at in detail where are the blessings you have been blessed with.

Let us read from Ephesians 1:3-14,

God's heart is that He wants to bless us and HE has blessed us. There is nothing makes God will become good but God is good and He has blessed us.

We looked it our first lesson that God when HE created Adam and Eve and HE blessed them. Genesis 1:28.

We looked at in detail about what are blessings in the new covenant and also we learnt that a blessing is Eternal for us!

Mark 10:29-30, *Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You." <sup>29</sup> So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, <sup>30</sup> who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, **with persecutions**—and in the age to come, eternal life. (NKJV)*

When Peter asked this question what about us who left everything and followed you? Jesus answered and HE said you will receive hundredfold with persecution. (Note no wife is mentioned on the hundred fold haha!!)

Ephesians 1:3, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **in Christ**,*

So the first and foremost is that you have been blessed 'in Christ' That's our first foundation. Secondly you have been raised by the Holy Spirit to be called as 'saints'

You have been blessed '**in the heavenly places**'

You and me are living in this earth and what benefit it is going to be when you are being blessed in the heavenly places?

Is there a benefit on this earth by the blessings the so called heavenly places blessings?

**How could I have access to these heavenly place blessings?**

We are not just humans and our life is not only concerned here. We are the citizens of heaven and Ambassadors of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:20, *Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*

How does an ambassador live?

An ambassador acts as a representative for her or his home country. Ambassadors usually live in a country different from their home and work as a delegate for and representative of their home country. They are sent from their home country to a different country. This means that they are responsible for understanding the

culture in which they live as an ambassador, but they must always work to keep the best interests of their home country in mind.

Ambassadors attend and host events, give speeches and meet with the country's leaders - all with the goal of improving relations between their home country and the country where they're posted.

To representing their country's interests, ambassadors represent all their home country citizens living in that country, and must look out for their welfare and safety.

The residence and the office of the Ambassador generally known as the embassy, is governed by rule of the home country not by the country where the ambassador resides. Example, if the British Embassy in America governed by the rules of British not by the American. When the American police or law wants to enter then they need to take the special permission from the British Government even though it's in their land.

Ambassadors serve on different administrative bodies and committees, they must gather lots of facts and regularly report back to their home country. Their home government then makes important decisions based on this information given by the Ambassador.

We are Ambassadors for Christ so

1. We are from Heaven, living in this Earth on an assignment
2. We are governed by the rules and regulations of the Kingdom where we belong.
3. Our responsibility is to promote our Kingdom, organising events and speeches to promote Heavenly Kingdom.
4. All our needs will be met the Heavenly Kingdom
5. We live in a different culture than our Kingdom culture but we understand this culture but we need to practices the Heavenly Kingdom.

Philippians 3:20, For our **citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 2:19, From now on you are not strangers and people who are not citizens. **You are citizens together with those who belong to God.** You belong in God's family.

John 14:2, There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that **I am going to prepare a place for you?**

Hebrews 13:14, For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a **home yet to come.**

1Peter1:4, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, **reserved in heaven** for you,

Luke 22:29-30, And just as my Father **has granted me a Kingdom, I now grant you the right**<sup>30</sup> to eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Finally when Jesus rose from the dead HE did give us the Great Commission in that HE mentioned that HE will be with us but this time with Power and Authority over Heaven and Earth.

Matthew 28:18-20, And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**<sup>19</sup> **Go therefore** and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (NKJV)

Have you ever wondered why do you need authority in heaven?

Why did Jesus mention that all Authority in Heaven and Earth is given to you?

John 3:1-13, Nicodemus speaking to Jesus illustrate a clear example of how Jesus lived His life on this earth.

V13, *No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the **Son of Man who is in heaven.***

Though Jesus was sitting here on the earth very much but yet HE makes them know that HE is also sitting in the heaven positionally. When you are born in the flesh you know the fleshly things but when you are born again in the Spirit then you can see the spiritual things.

In the Old Covenant the people did not have access to God anytime unless God Himself reveals to them. Their prayers were God somehow you open the heaven and show us yourself.

Isaiah 64:1, *Oh, that you would burst from the heavens and come down! How the mountains would quake in your presence!*

But this heaven was parted rather tore open when Jesus took water baptism.

Mark 1:9-11, *One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. <sup>10</sup>As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove.<sup>11</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."*

So anything and everything what Jesus did was according the heaven so HE had the access to the heavenly realms. Please do note that until Jesus was baptised HE did not perform any miracles.

While Jesus was on the earth before going to Calvary HE did mention that we will be able to do everything what He did and also greater things than that.

John 14:12, *"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the **same works I have done, and even greater works**, because I am going to be with the Father.*

After His resurrection Jesus told His discipleship to wait in Jerusalem for 'the promise'

Luke 22:46- 49, *Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,<sup>47</sup> and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> And you are witnesses of these things.<sup>49</sup> Behold, I send **the Promise of My Father** upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."*

Before Jesus was taken up to heaven after His resurrection he spoke again

Acts 1:4, *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for **the Promise of the Father**, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;*

### **The promise**

There are so many promises in the Bible, many of the scholars say that there are over 6000 promises in the Bible. But there is only one is called 'the promise'. "The promise" from the Father is baptism of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus spoke about 'the promise' HE told His disciples to wait for that to be fulfilled.

Acts 1:5, *for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now."*

Acts 1:8, *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be witnesses to Me** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

So when the Holy Spirit baptism has come upon you then you will be witness for Jesus Christ to the ends of the Earth.

*Acts 2: 1-4, When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.<sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.<sup>3</sup> Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.<sup>4</sup> And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

On the Day of Pentecost they were all baptised by the Holy Spirit. They spoke in new language. They did receive the promise of the Father. Thus we have been given an open access to heaven.

How did Jesus live here on the earth?

His entire life was focused on What the Lord God was doing and simply doing the same. His complete Body, Soul and Spirit were filled with God.

**Eye:**



As we have seen in detail how important is our physical eye is for the human being. Most of our learning close 90% of all our learning comes through our eyes.

John 5:19, *Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.*

Jesus eyes were focused and watching what the Father was doing always!

**Ears:**



Rest of our learning after our eyes our learning comes through our ears. As we all know the verse in Romans 10:17, Faith comes by hearing. So when you keep your ears close to What the Lord God is saying then the chances are that you are perfect in your walk.

John 5:30, *I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*

## Mouth and Speech



Jesus spoke what He heard from His father not on His own. As Matthew 12:34 says out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. So the speech comes from what you have stored within yourself and also from what you have heard and learned from them.

So Jesus is categorical when it comes to speaking that He spoke and taught what HE heard from HIS Father.

John 8:28-29, *Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as **My Father taught Me, I speak these** things.<sup>29</sup> And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”*

John 12:49-50, *For **I have not spoken on My own authority**; but the **Father** who sent **Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.***

*I don't speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me **what to say and how to say** it. (NLT)*

*The things I taught were not from myself. The Father who sent me told me **what to say and what to teach.** (NCV)*

<sup>50</sup> *And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, **whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.***"

## **Food**

How did Jesus eat? Was HE a vegetarian or Non-Vegetarian?

Early in His ministry when Jesus was tempted by Satan with food Jesus answered him and said that it's not that food is important but hearing from God is more important.

Matthew 4:4, *But He answered and said, "It is written, '**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.**'"*

John chapter we see another great example, Jesus was hungry so the disciples went into the nearby town to get some food. But in the meanwhile Jesus was sitting by the side of the well in Samaria the lady comes to fetch the water. Jesus spoke to her prophetically and ministered to her. When the disciples return with food Jesus says that HE is not hungry.

John 4: 31-34, *In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."<sup>32</sup> But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."<sup>33</sup> Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?"*

<sup>34</sup> *Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.***

So Jesus ate to live but to live to eat and did what HIS Father told HIM to do do.

## **Will of His life**

John 6:38, *For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the **will of Him who sent Me.***

John 8:29, *And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for **I always do those things that please Him.***

### **Show us the Father**

Finally, when the previous night before the Calvary Jesus spoke to HIS disciples in the Upper Room which is recorded in John Chapter 14 to 16. The question was asked by Thomas, Disciple of Jesus, Lord show us the Father. His reply,

John 14:10, *Do you not believe that **I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?** The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.*

So Jesus made this categorical statement that if you have seen the Me then you have seen the Father.

Jesus lived under the open heaven and we too have the same option available to us.

John 20:21, *So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the **Father has sent Me, I also send you.**"*

As we have seen in the purpose that we ought to become like Christ Jesus, Romans 8:28-29, *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.<sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the **image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

You and me should be able to live and show like how Jesus lived on this earth, this is the greatest blessing what the Lord has blessed us with!!

So all our Blessings in heavenly places are placed in Christ. "In Christ" is the key!

2 Corinthians 1:20, For **all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen**, to the glory of God through us.

So seek the Blessor and live in HIM not the blessings because you are already blessed In Him.