

“Have you forgotten Your Inheritance?”

Written July of 2011

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:14-17

Introduction

The Message that the Holy Spirit has chosen for today is of great importance simply because it is one of the main reasons why People get discouraged, are depressed and live broken lives. The purpose of today's Message is to help all of us reflect upon this very important question: **“Have you forgotten Your Inheritance”**. Before we begin today I would like to invite the Holy Spirit to open our Hearts, Minds and spirits to understand what the Lord has prepared for this day.

Sermon

So that we can better understand the title of today's Message I would like to read to you the definition of the word inheritance.

- **Inheritance** = derive from parents or take possession of as an heir.

I would like to better illustrate this definition by the following illustration.

Illustration:

I would like a volunteer to please help me with this illustration. Now volunteer I am going to ask you to pick a number between 1 and 500. Choose wisely because this is a very important decision.

Now I am going to hand you this envelope; what if I told you that the number you picked coincides with the amount that could possibly be in this envelope. Oh but I am not done yet; add six zeros to the end of that number. Just in case your bad with math that would make that number into the MILLIONS. Got your attention now huh!!!

What if I told you, that what is inside this envelope is a blank check from a long lost Uncle left you as an Inheritance? You qualify to be an Heir because somewhere along the way you are related to him or part of his family. I bet you're already imagining all the things you could buy and how you would spend it right. Now comes the all-important question: **If there were in fact a check in here with all those MILLIONS of Dollars would you just leave it there and never claim it?** Now Volunteer think about that for a second. Before my Volunteer answers; **Congregation mentally ask yourself this same question.**

What if all you had to do was read a manual, and live by it so that you could inherit what is inside this envelope. It's kind of like reading the Driver's License Manual and you have to live by it, so that you can obtain and use your Driver's license. Would it still be worth reading that "Manual" in order for you to receive the Inheritance that is in this envelope?

Now Volunteer the moment of truth what is your reply to this very important question. Keep in mind you could use some of that Inheritance to help with the Church building fund. So what is your final answer Volunteer. Would you read the "Manual" and claim your Inheritance Yes or No?

Of course you would say YES, anyone in their right mind would read a manual in order to receive a Multi-MILLION Dollar Inheritance. It would be complete insanity NOT to do so. How many people agree? How many people here just became my Volunteers best friend right now?

Oh it gets better my dear Brothers and Sisters. Because you have been such a great Volunteer I am going to let you keep this envelope and it does have a "check" inside. Remember I'm not lying to you because that would be a sin and plus we are in Church. How does that sound? **Wait it gets better. Written on that check, is of more value than the original amount we were talking about; enough to cancel out all your debt and have so much overflow that you won't even know what to do with it.**

Would you accept this humble free gift today? I was hoping you would say YES open it and show the congregation what's inside please. *(A card with a big check mark and written next to it is the Blood of Jesus Christ)*. Volunteer thank you so much for your help, and I am glad that you have chosen today to accept the Free Gift of the Blood of Jesus Christ. AMEN!!!

This illustration of the word "inheritance" is so important to understand. Everyone completely agrees that it would be insane to not read and live by the "Manual" and Claim an Inheritance. We live by a manual every day when we drive our cars so that we can keep our Driver's license. Think about it NO ONE in their right mind would just leave an Inheritance there unclaimed, RIGHT!

Sadly most people and professed "Christians" take the MANUAL (The Bible) and dust it off once a week to go to church. Most professed "Christians" can't even remember where they left their Manual or Bible the week before. Think about this for a second; could you have ever passed your driving test if you never READ, STUDIED and APPLIED what you read in the Driver's License Manual?

We can't read what we never make the time to open. We can't study what we have never taken the time to read; and we cannot apply or live by, what we have never made enough time to study. It is because of this that sadly most people and professed "Christians" have FORGOTTEN their Inheritance. Worst of all in doing so we have forgotten God; we have forgotten God because we leave the key to our Inheritance unclaimed. We leave the greatest expression of Gods' Love to Humanity unclaimed and in most cases we reject it.

My dear Brothers and Sisters by not claiming our Inheritance through the Blood of Jesus Christ, we all have forgotten God and the awesome GIFT of His only begotten Son. Christ illustrated the word "Inheritance" for us masterfully in **Luke 15:11-32**. We all know this story / parable and have probably heard it a thousand times. It's the parable of the "**Prodigal Son**", honestly one of my favorite parables. But I would like to share with you how the Holy Spirit interpreted this parable to me in a different light.

We all know the story, this rich man had two sons, the younger son wanted his share of the inheritance so the father gave it to him while the eldest son stayed faithful to his duties and stayed working the farm. The youngest son lost all his money, and a great famine fell upon the land, it got so bad that he got a job feeding pigs and was so hungry that he started eating their food. He then thought that even his fathers servants live and eat better than that.

So he set off, to ask his father to be a servant for him, because he was no longer worthy to be his son. Now let's read **Verse 20**, because there is something interesting here.

"And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him"

This phrase: ***"when he was yet far away, his father saw him"*** implies that he was most likely sitting waiting and seeking to see or find his son coming through the property gates.

The story continues, the father then puts the best clothes on him and throws a feast (house party). Then comes the eldest brother and asks for who is the party for, and a servant replies it's for your little bro who was lost and now he is found. That made the oldest brother angry and he refused to join the party. Now let's read **Verse 28**.

"And he (older brother) was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out and entreated (begged him) to come in"

Here's the catch phrase in this text **"therefore came his father out"** implying that his father was inside but came outside to find or seek out where his eldest son was.

Now this is what the Holy Spirit showed me about these two text that I had never seen before. The father went to seek or find both the youngest and eldest son. Here you have the youngest son or "Prodigal son" who lost Relationship with his father by leaving to a far off land and really messing up; resulting in him losing Relationship with his father, he lost Communion or Oneness with his father.

The oldest son had Relationship with his father because he was in his house **co-existing** with him. But as we see in **Verse 28** even though he had Relationship with the father he didn't have Communion or Oneness with the father because he was angry at the father's decision to celebrate the return of his younger brother.

Christ was showing us a deeper lesson in this parable, but this is for those who have ears to hear (Spiritual hearing). This parable shows us that if we choose to go into the World, we lose Relationship and Communion (*Oneness*) with God the Father. But it also shows us that even though you are in the Church and having a semi-Relationship with your Heavenly Father, we are in danger of losing Communion or Oneness with Him by not studying His Manual (*the Bible*) and talking to Him through Prayer.

Isn't it interesting that even though these two sons were on different paths in life, the father still went to seek both of them out. **God still does that today, right now at this very moment by sending His Spirit to touch your hearts.**

We are a part of a Heavenly family through the Blood of Jesus Christ. AMEN!!! As the Apostle Paul shows us in our Scripture reading from **Romans Chapter 8, Verse 17** tells us that we are **"Joint-heirs with Christ"** because we are His Children.

"We are children of God by Creation; but we become sons and daughters of God by Redemption."

By the Blood of Jesus Christ we are grafted onto the Vine and become part of God's Spiritual family. But what does that exactly mean? In **Philippians 3:20** this text tells us: **"Our Citizenship is in Heaven (Kingdom)"**. Have you ever wondered why Paul refers to members of the early Church as Saints? We are Citizens of the Kingdom; but what does that exactly mean and imply to us? This can best be illustrated by understanding the basic example of how an Embassy works and operates in a foreign Country.

Suppose you are a US Citizen and you go to live and work in a foreign country, in the US Embassy of that Country; you then become an Ambassador (*Representative*) of the United States in that Country. That basically means that even though that Country has its own laws and regulations they must follow, you are not bound LEGALLY by those laws. This is because whatever ground or area that has been declared the US Embassy, is considered United States territory or soil.

This means you are entitled to all the rights and privileges a US Citizen has. As an Ambassador you represent the Country, Culture, Customs and Values of where you originate from, which in this example is the United States. So in essence that US Embassy becomes a mini-version of the United States in a foreign Country even though you are not physically in the United States.

My dear Brothers and Sisters it is vital that you understand and embrace the fact that you become an Ambassador of the Kingdom when you are Born Again. As an Ambassador of the Kingdom we are not bound by this World, Country or Place we are in. Our Citizenship is in the Kingdom, in Heavenly places; which entitles us to all the Rights and Privileges the Blood of Christ has purchased for us. By Christ dying on the Cross He re-established our Citizenship again with the King (*Almighty God*). This means that wherever we go, we carry the Realm of God. ***“We are in this World, but not of this World.”***

The Apostle Peter explains this same concept in **II Peter 1:4** in saying that we are ***“partakers of the Divine Nature”***. In order to truly understand the depth of this text let me define for you very quickly the word Partaker.

- **Partaker** = one taking a share or having an equal portion of.

Let me break this down for you in layman’s terms. By accepting the Redemptive Blood of Christ and asking for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit you will have equal portion of and will have an equal share of the Divine Nature. Does this blow your mind, because I couldn’t believe it myself when I first saw this. **By declaring and accepting our Inheritance through Christ Jesus we become part of Gods’ Spiritual family.**

Final Illustration:

I am going to need another Volunteer please. I am going to ask you to let me hold your watch or suit jacket. Now ask for it back. (I will tell them NO) Why should I give it back to you? Volunteer will most likely answer because its mine or belongs to me. Volunteer how do you know that; and what makes you feel bold enough to ask for what is yours? (Wait for reply, then OK) Thank you Volunteer for your help!

Are you timid when you go to claim something that is yours to begin with? No, you boldly go and with confidence claim what is rightfully yours. **Under Christ Blood we have our Birthright restored to us, once again we can be called Sons and Daughters of the King.** We have the right to claim the Authority and Dominion that Christ has re-established and purchased for us by His Precious Blood in both the Physical and Spiritual Dimensions.

Yet I see so many “Christians” walking around like if Christ never arose from the grave. They live broken defeated lives, stressed and worried about Physical elements of this World. Remember ***“We are in this world, but not part of this world.”

My dear Brothers and Sisters when are we going to stop giving glory to satan by allowing ourselves to live defeated lives and start giving Glory to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords by walking in the Authority Christ Blood has purchased us. It’s time to start exercising our Rights as Sons and Daughters of the King, and be a living testimony, as Christ was, that we belong to God and He lives in us, through the Kingdom in us.

We are NOT serving a little-itty-bity God. We are Children of the most High God. You are Sons and Daughters of the Great I AM, the God who spoke and there was light. The God who breathed life into Adam, the God who flung the Stars and Galaxies into orbit.

Yet even though God has done and can do all of these things; He has taken the time to create all of you my dear Brothers and Sisters. You are all beautifully and wonderfully made. You are a custom design by ALL Mighty God. God even knows the number of hairs (*some less than others*) you have on the top of your head. We are so special to God and so Great is His Love for us that He gave us His only begotten Son.

I love what the Apostle John says in **I John 3:1 “Behold what manner of LOVE the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons and daughters of God”.**

This is what our TRUE INHERITANCE is all about.

The true value of a person is not measured by the way you look, the color of your skin, your education, the car you drive or the house you live in, or even what others think of you. Your true value is determined by how you see yourself in Gods’ Eyes. Your True Value is determined when you finally realize you were bought with a price because you ARE the apple of Gods’ Eye.

The only way that we can truly claim our Inheritance is in and through the Christ Jesus by being Spiritually born into the Body of Christ. Yes my dear Brothers and Sisters, as Christ told Nicodemus in **John Chapter 3**, I tell you today you **MUST** be Born Again so that you can experience the benefits of the Kingdom.

We can never truly benefit from our Inheritance unless we are Born Again. This is why Paul tells us in **Galatians 2:20** we must **“bury and die to sin”**. In **Romans 6:4** Paul tells when we are filled with the Spirit we will **“walk in newness of life”**.

Titus 3:5 tells us we must be **“regenerated”** or be recreated by the Holy Spirit. In **Romans 12:2** Paul tells us we must **“renew our minds”**; which basically means that we must change our mindset. A Physical mindset which focuses on Earthly things will cause you to forget your Inheritance and in doing so you will also forget God.

Being Spiritually Minded is the only way we can know the Will of God. It is only by submitting to the transforming Power of the Holy Spirit that we can do this. Please turn in your Bibles to our final Scripture for today found in **John 1:12, 13**.

12) “But as many as received Him, to them gave He Power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

13) “Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

When we are Born Again we are Born into Gods’ Spiritual Family. We have the Authority under the Blood of Christ to Proclaim and Declare our Inheritance. **Hebrews 4:15, 16** tells us we must **“come BOLDLY unto the throne of Grace”**. Just like the story of the Prodigal are we acting and living our Faith like the youngest son thinking we are not worthy to be a part of the Fathers family and settling for being a broken defeated servant. Just like in the story our Father God is waiting for us to come home so that he can give us our INHERITANCE restore us back to HIS Family as Sons and Daughters of the King of Kings.

I began this Message today with the question **“Have you forgotten Your Inheritance”**, and I now pray that the Holy Spirit has enlightened you to answer the following question:

Will you be Bold enough today to Proclaim and Declare Your Birthright?

Altar Call

As the final song plays (Renew me O Lord or Renew my Life) if you feel stirred in your spirit to come forward for a special prayer, I encourage you to do so. God doesn’t care about the path it took to get here today, He only cares about whether or not you will allow Him to Renew your life with His Spirit. **Come forward if you want to boldly Claim your Inheritance in Christ Jesus.** Step forward today and declare that you want to be part of Gods’ Spiritual Family!