

Volume

2

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

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God's Great Offer

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Introduction

When God created man He gave him a great estate, a glorious inheritance. God the creator and possessor of heaven and earth decided to make man in His own image and after His own likeness. God delegated His authority to man. God was to reign in heaven while man was to reign on earth on His behalf.

“The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s but the earth He has given to the children of men” (Ps 115:16).

Man was to rule over all God’s creation on earth, but he wasn’t to rule independently. There was a fellowship, a communion between God and man daily. God visited him in the cool of the day to fellowship with him. Even that was a privilege, an inheritance money could not buy.

We cannot adequately explain the glory of that inheritance at this point. The implication of the estate in which man was to stand for God is beyond anyone’s imagination. But Adam lost this privileged position. It was not until Abraham’s time that God offered Himself again to man.

“Fear not Abram, for I am your shield and your exceeding great reward”. God offered Himself to Abram as a possession and an inheritance.

Through sin Adam lost this estate, but God is still committed to finding a man. Thank God for Jesus, the seed of the woman, who

paid the price by laying down His life for our sins, and regained the inheritance for man. This offer is available to all who desire to be conformed to the image of Christ (Rom 8:29). In this study we shall attempt to understand how we, too, can enter into this glorious inheritance.

1. The Scriptures tell us that we have an inheritance with God.

Eph 1:11,14,18; Col 1:12; 1Pet 1:3,4; Matt 25:23,34; Rom 5:17; 8:17.

Every child of God is a partaker of this inheritance, which is reserved for us both here and in heaven. We can reign in life with Christ.

2. What is our inheritance in Christ Jesus?

a) God delivers us, forgives us our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness (Rom 4:7,8; Hebs 8:12; 1John 1:9; Matt 1:21).

It is a blessing to be forgiven by God. It brings peace, joy and assurance to the heart. It makes us to stand righteous before God. Whereas sin brings disgrace and reproach and makes a man fearful, righteousness exalts and makes a man bold as a lion. Not only are we forgiven but we are actually delivered from sin and its consequence. Christ did it all for us. (Gal 3:13. 1Cor 15:56,57; Matt 11:28).

b) Adoption as God's children.

2Cor 6:18; John 1:12; 1John 3:1-3.

It is our inheritance in Christ. God becomes our Father and we become His children. Let us look at the implications of the adoption.

We have the Spirit of adoption (Rom 8:14-17; Gal 4:6,7; Ezek 36:26,27). Being children of the same father is not just by word of mouth, but by birth. God made our inheritance authentic by giving us the Spirit of adoption, the Spirit of His Son Jesus Christ. He removed the spirit of disobedience and timidity: that spirit that worked in Adam when he sinned, making him no longer to be bold. That's why he started hiding from God. But by the Spirit of adoption we have boldness to go into the presence of our heavenly Father. All that belongs to God is now ours. Even God Himself becomes our inheritance.

Discipline is also part of our inheritance as children of God. (Heb 12:5-8; Ps 23:4; Job 5:17,18).

Job recognized this and esteemed it as a treasure not to be despised. David passed through it many times and called it a comfort. Those who opt out of the discipline of the Father only prove that they are illegitimate. As you stretch out to receive God's offer just remember that discipline is an important part of it.

God Himself is our portion.

(Rom 8:17; Gen 15:1; Ps 16:5,6; Lam 3:24) What a great offer, to inherit God Himself. The Possessor of heaven and earth is our portion, our inheritance. So as His heirs whatever belongs to God is ours by inheritance. His nature, grace, power and all he possesses belong to us. There is nothing in heaven or on earth that is worthy enough to exchange with this glorious inheritance. No

wonder men like Daniel, Joseph, and Paul were willing to forsake all to retain this inheritance. May we not despise this great offer

3. **The Nature of our Inheritance**

- a) It is invisible yet real. (Gen 39:1-4, 15:1-3, 25:29-34; 1Pet 1:4; 2Cor 4:17,18). This can cause doubts in the minds of some Christians when their physical conditions do not appear to match their expectations. Take for example Joseph as a slave in Potiphar's house, yet a free and prosperous man in God. It was his awareness of this invisible inheritance that kept Joseph from sinning.

Abraham did not at first understand it (Gen 15) and nearly lost it because he was looking for something tangible.

Esau didn't get it at all, and he sold his birthright to satisfy his hunger. By the time it dawned on him what he had given away it was too late.

- b) It is enveloped and enclosed in God's promises (Gal 3:18; 2Pet 1:3,4; Gen 12:1-3).

It is contained in God's promises, and not in visible, countable material things. Abraham received his inheritance through promises. Even when it was invisible he believed God. When God told Abraham to

leave his country for a place yet unknown he obeyed at once. We too need to obey God's word even without any visible proof

4. God is committed to our possessing this glorious inheritance.

(Gen 17:4-8; Mk 7:25-29) Many times Abraham disappointed God but He always looked for ways to restore him back into his inheritance. When he went after Hagar contrary to God's word, and backslid for 13 years God didn't give up on Abraham. He reintroduced Himself to Abraham and stated His commitment to him afresh. Once God promises something He will always make sure it happens. He is a covenant-keeping God.

Discussion Point

Are you committed to possessing your inheritance?

What are the secret things that are making you despise your birthright? You need to identify and decidedly deal with them, lest they rob you of your inheritance

5. **What is the way into this inheritance?**

a) The new birth (Jn 3:1-3; Heb 2:11). The new birth in Christ Jesus is what ushers us into this inheritance. Jesus has received the inheritance and God has committed everything into His hands. Anyone who would partake of this inheritance must therefore be of the same stock, the same nature, of the same father with Him. Because it is an inheritance it belongs only to the children of the same father with Jesus. You must be born again into the family of God. (John 3:5,6; 1Cor 15:50; Isa 59:1,2; 1John 1:9; Rev 3:20; Rom 10:9,10; Ezek 36:25-27).

b) Spiritual growth.

(Gal 4:1-3; Eph 4:13,14; Heb 5:12-14)

Lack of spiritual growth make us liable to demonic oppression. It causes instability in our faith and makes us become beggars for crumbs when in actual fact we 'own the whole estate' (Gal 4:1). False teachers can make mincemeat of spiritual babes. No one commits precious things to a child, and so with us. God will not entrust the things of the kingdom into our hands unless we grow up.

c) What is the yardstick, the pattern for our growth? (Eph 4:13; Rom 8:17,29; 1Pet 2:21) Jesus Christ is the standard: the pattern for our development. It is His life God uses to measure our growth. He has laid our example for us and we have been called to conform to

His image and follow in His footsteps. There is no other person in the Bible or in our contemporary times that God introduced to us as His pattern Son, only Jesus. As we grow in the Lord we must not remove our eyes from this pattern Son. We keep looking at Jesus and His lifestyle and pattern our life after Him.

- d) Discover from the scriptures that God's method for making us to conform to the image of His Son is discipleship (Matt 4:19-22, 11:28-30, 28:18-20; Acts 4:13,14). Following Jesus and learning of Him is the secret to becoming like Him.

Being a believer alone will not take you into your inheritance. Even demons believe and tremble (James 2:19), yet they have no part in this inheritance. Many believed in Jesus in John 2:23-25 but Jesus did not commit Himself to them. That meant he would not entrust the inheritance to them. We must enter into this discipleship relationship with Jesus

Personal Assessment Questions

- 1. Share with us how you became a child of God.
What was your life like before this experience?
In your personal assessment what has this new birth brought into your life? Explain the various dimensions in which this experience has affected you.*
- 2. Spiritual growth is so crucial in your receiving the inheritance: what has been the major hindrance to your spiritual growth? What steps have you taken or are you taking to address this problem?*
- 3. In what practical areas would you say you are becoming like your Master Jesus? If none, what is your challenge?*
- 4. Have you experience any form of discipleship? Tell us when, how and under who.*