

# Spiritual Treasures

**Ephesians 1:3** [NIV] *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”*

When and because we have an intimate relationship with our Saviour Jesus Christ, there are many blessings that God will shower on us, now and in the future.

Note these are spiritual blessings that are **not** related to this physical life, and its physical needs.

These blessings can be divided into three classes.

The first class are those that come to us immediately upon our believing on Jesus Christ for our salvation from eternal death.

## Forgiveness

**1 John 1:5-9** [NIV] *“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

On confession of our sins, God faithfully forgives them because of what Jesus Christ our Saviour has done for every human being.

## Justification

We are just as if we had never sinned in God’s eyes.

**Galatians 2:16** [NIV] *“know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no-one will be justified.”*

We are justified by faith in Jesus Christ’s death and resurrected life.

## Regeneration

**Titus 3:4-6** [NIV] *“But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour,”*

We experience a rebirth, that is the starting of a new life that is directed by the Holy Spirit.

## Become Children Of God

**John 1:10-13** [NIV] *“He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”*

The “*he*” referred to in this passage of scripture is The Word [verses 1-2] Jesus Christ [verse 14].

Only through Jesus Christ do we have the opportunity to become part of the Kingdom [created family] of God.

## Peace of Mind

**John 14:27** [NIV] *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

This is a spiritual, eternal peace of mind that can **only** come through faith in Jesus Christ.

Through faith in Jesus Christ we possess all the above even before we know they are ours.

Knowledge of these spiritual blessings will come to us later through the study of the scriptures, some of which have been quoted above.

## The Second Class of Spiritual Blessings

**Titus 3:7** [NIV] *“so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”*

These are ours as part of our inheritance, but cannot be enjoyed fully until the second coming of Jesus Christ, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

## Mental and Moral Perfection [Holiness]

**Colossians 3:12-14** [NIV] *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”*

All Christians are called by God to become a holy people.

**1 Peter 1:14-16** [NIV] *“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”*

In fact it is a command that we become holy.

The Greek word translated “holy” is “hagios” meaning to be set apart for a life of purity, exhibiting all the characteristics of God.

**2 Peter 1:2-7** [NIV] *“Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.”*

Becoming holy is a process of addition, one characteristic leading to another.

**2 Peter 1:8-11** [NIV] *“For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is short-sighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”*

This becoming holy is a lifetime goal and vocation that must take first place in our lives.

## **Our Inheritance with Jesus Christ**

**Romans 8:18-25** [NIV] *“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. **We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.** For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”*

God has made it very clear that this final blessing from God will **not** be ours until the return of our Saviour to this earth.

The creation of God referred to is both physical and spiritual.

This physical earth that humans have polluted and not cared for as the first humans were commanded to do.

**Genesis 2:15** [King James] *“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.”*

The Hebrew word translated “dress” is “*âbad*” meaning to work and till in the attitude of serving. Humans were intended to be servants to the soil from which their sustenance would come.

Look around society today and see how far humanity has strayed from this command.

The Hebrew word translated “keep” is “*shâmar*” literally to hedge about, to protect, preserve and watch over.

This earth certainly needs to be redeemed from the curse that humans have brought on it through human sin.

**Genesis 3:17-19** [NIV] *“To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ **“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.** It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*

Only Jesus Christ can lift this curse that human sin placed on the physical earth.

**Galatians 3:13-14** [NIV] *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”*

The human sin that brought this curse was laid on Jesus Christ when on the cross.

Notice what is mentioned in this passage of scripture quoted above, a promise made to Abraham.

**Romans 8:19** [NIV] *“The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.”*

It is the created children of God who will be a key part of this redemption.

**Romans 8:23** [NIV] *“Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”*

What does this “redemption of our bodies” mean?

**1 Corinthians 15:49-57** [NIV] *“And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

This victory over death can **only** be ours through our relationship with our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** [NIV] *“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”*

Christians who have died and are asleep in their graves, will be resurrected and with those Christians still alive on earth, will rise up and meet their returning Saviour in the clouds.

What then happens to this multitude of resurrected Christians?

Note they will be with Jesus Christ eternally.

But where?

**Zechariah 14:4** [NIV] *“On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.”*

“That day” is a reference to the day that Jesus Christ will come to the earth the second time, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

This is the hope of the physical earth, when sin free children of God will set about restoring the earth to its former glory.

This is also a time of spiritual redemption, all humans left alive will be freed from the deception that Satan has blinded them with.

**Revelation 12:9** [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”*

Satan identified as who he is and what he has been doing to humanity from the first moments of human history.

**Revelation 20:1-3** [NIV] *“And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the*

*devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations any more until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.*”

Satan’s influence eliminated for 1,000 years.

**Revelation 20:4** [NIV] *“I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. **They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**”*

Resurrected Christians who had given up their lives for Jesus Christ, and had **not** followed Satan’s deceiving ministers.

**Revelation 20:5** [NIV] *“ (The rest of the dead did **not** come to life until the thousand years were ended.) **This is the first resurrection.**”*

This is of great encouragement for all who never ever heard of Jesus Christ or who had been blinded by Satan and his ministers all their lives.

**Revelation 20:6** [NIV] *“**Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.**”*

These promises do **not** come to Christians automatically at Christ’s return, nor do we have to wait for that day to claim them.

These spiritual promises are like the Promised Land that ancient Israel entered into.

**Not** all ancient Israel entered into that Promised Land, the vast majority died in the wilderness.

Following are four attitudes of mind a Christian must have to fully receive this inheritance, our Spiritual Promised Land.

## **1. We will get nothing unless we go after it**

**Matthew 11:12** [Amplified Bible] *“And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time **the Kingdom of Heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize], a share in the heavenly Kingdom is sought for with most ardent zeal and intense exertion.**”*

**God will not force anything on you.**

Just as Joshua fought his way into full possession of the Promised Land, we also must fight on towards perfection, meeting and defeating whatever enemies would stand in our way to challenge our right to possession.

The Kingdom will **not** come to us, we must go up to the Kingdom by the way of self-renunciation and detachment from this world’s society.

**Hebrews 6:1-2** [NIV] *“**Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.**”*

We are to travel in our Christian life on a path that leads to maturity or perfection.

Basic doctrines are but the first step on the ladder to perfection and eternal life.

**Hebrews 6:4-6** [NIV] *“It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.”*

To fail to make progress on this journey to perfection, using the available power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, is to reject the once only sacrifice of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Romans 12:1-2** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

This must be our “battle cry” as we take the kingdom by force.

## **2. We will receive as much as we insist upon having**

**Joshua 1:3** [NIV] *“I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.”*

This principle runs throughout the entire Christian Bible’s history of Israel.

This history of Israel is dotted with stories of those who pressed boldly to claim their possessions.

For example, Caleb.

**Numbers 14:22-24** [NIV] *“not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times, not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No-one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. But **because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly**, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.”*

Caleb followed God wholeheartedly.

**Numbers 32:11-12** [NIV] *“**Because they have not followed me wholeheartedly**, not one of the men twenty years old or more who came up out of Egypt will see the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, not one except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, for they followed the LORD wholeheartedly.”*

Entry into Promised Land demanded wholeheartedly following God.

**Deuteronomy 1:35-36** [NIV] *“**Not a man of this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your forefathers, except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the LORD wholeheartedly.**”*

Following Jesus Christ is what we have to do wholeheartedly if we are to enter into our promised inheritance.

When our requests are such as honour God we may ask as large as we will. The more daring the request the more glory accrues to God when the answer comes.

## **3. We will receive as little as we are satisfied with**

**James 1:5** [NIV] *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”*

God desires to give liberally to all humans.

But it is absurd to think that God's liberality will make a human being more godly than they want to be.

For example, a person who is satisfied to live a defeated life will never be forced to join in the victory we can share with Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 15:57** [NIV] *“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

The victory we can share is over death, it no longer is a source of dread or fear.

**1 John 5:1, 4-5** [NIV] *“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.” ... “for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”*

We share with Jesus Christ the victory over Satan and his society.

How?

**Revelation 12:9-11** [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. **They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.**”*

Victory over Satan by the blood of Jesus Christ and our living faith in our Saviour.

A person who is content to follow Jesus Christ as one in a crowd will never experience the wonderful joy and peace of mind that can be theirs in an intimate relationship with Him through the indwelling of the Spirit of Christ the Holy Spirit.

**1 Thessalonians 5:19-21** [NIV] *“Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good.”*

Don't be content to settle for less than the best by ignoring the desired work of the Holy Spirit in us.

**Revelation 3:15-16** [NIV] *“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”*

A lukewarm Christian is someone whom God finds revolting.

#### **4. We now have as much as we really want**

Every person is as close to God as they want to be.

**Matthew 5:6** [NIV] *“Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**”*

Here is a promise we all can claim.

God has placed before His redeemed children a vast chest of spiritual treasures.

But there are conditions to receiving them.

**Matthew 13:44** [NIV] *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then **in his joy went and sold all he had** and bought that field.”*

Buried spiritual treasure takes a lot of laborious work to dig out and carry it away, also a total life commitment.

**To ignore such treasures is a great moral tragedy for any human being.**