

The Believer's Inheritance

An inheritance is a possession given to us by another. It is a blessing that is handed down to us when someone who loves us dies. When Jesus Christ our Lord died for us, a marvelous inheritance was presented to every one of His believers. Our inheritance is twofold: inwardly, the Lord Himself is our inheritance, while outwardly, He desires to give the nations for our inheritance.

THE LORD HIMSELF IS OUR INHERITANCE

The greatest gift a man could ever possess is the Lord Himself. God gave many blessings to the various tribes of Israel, but to the Levites it was said, *"The Lord is His inheritance,"* Deut.10:9. The highest calling anyone can have is to enter fully into the presence of God to minister to Him, Ezek.44:15-28.

So our first concept of inheritance should be that we are called to inherit Him – to have a full relationship with God. The Apostle Paul's first desire was to win Christ, not just to have a great ministry, Phil.3:7-14. The mark and the prize of the high calling that Paul mentions in these verses is to win Christ, to know Him, to have a better resurrection, and to be as close to Him in eternity as possible. This is the goal and the prize. Abraham was called to be a blessing to the whole world, but his central focus was not on this. His focus was upon what God had said to him in Genesis 15:1- *"I am your shield and exceeding great reward."*

Now in the same way that Israel had to drive out the enemies in order to secure Canaan as their inheritance, we must drive all the enemies out of our personal lives in order for us to inherit a full relationship with God. We have numerous enemies in our lives that hinder our relationship with the Lord – doubts, fears, wrong ideas, sins, etc. These dull our sensitivity and intimacy with Him. There are strongholds or areas of resistance within us that oppose and resist the Spirit of God.

THE HEATHEN FOR OUR INHERITANCE

God wants to give us people for our inheritance: people we lead to Christ, perhaps a church, a mission field, or even a nation, Ps.2:8. In both 1 Thessalonians 2:19 and Philippians 4:1 Paul said concerning his converts, *"You are my crown."* If the enemies have been driven out of our lives, we will have the experience and authority to drive out the enemies in the people God entrusts to us. They will be our inheritance, but we will also be leading them into their inheritance.

God's Word, the Sword of the Spirit, is alive and powerful. It will drive out the enemies in our listeners. Even after people are born-again, much idolatry and corruption in their minds and hearts must be dealt with by the sharp Sword. The people God gives you are your inheritance. Present them to Christ as a pure virgin, as Paul said in 2 Corinthians 11:2.

HE THAT OVERCOMES

In the Old Testament, God's people fought against human enemies. Today our battle is not against people, our enemies are more dangerous. We battle against the unseen forces of evil, and the weapons we use to fight them are also invisible. There are three main areas of conflict we must overcome to inherit everything God has promised. The first can be called "The World." This means the world system and the way the world thinks, along with its peer pressures and temptations.

The second of our enemies is "The Flesh." This refers to the battles within ourselves. Our greatest problems lie here, and are the hardest to overcome. We are struggling with a fallen human nature. Satan will manipulate

anything in our heart that is unconsecrated to God. When our inward battles cease, we can better fight the outer battles against Satan and the world, Jn.14:30. Our third enemy is “The Devil” along with his demons and fallen angels. Satan’s name means “Adversary” and he is also called the Tempter, the Accuser of the Brethren, and the Father of Lies.

Revelation 21:7 tells us, “*He that overcomes will inherit all things.*” There are qualifications to be met before we receive what God has promised, Heb.10:36. We cannot just “name it and claim it” as some teach today. There are battles that must first be won. Let us not settle for obtaining only part of our inheritance. The complete inheritance is gained by the fully mature believers who have overcome the world, the flesh and the Devil. Therefore, we must press in with all our hearts in order to reach the goal, win the prize, and possess our full inheritance.

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in many nations for over 35 years.*