

Week One



When you heard about the year that changed your life, what came to your mind? How would you describe it and how did it change you?

What are the 4 "confessions of an heiress" of God?

1)

2)

3)

4)

Meditate on the first confession. As you place the emphasis on a different word, write what it means to you:

- **God** has made me an heir . . .
- God **has** made me an heir . . .
- God has **made** me an heir . . .
- God has made **me** an heir . . .
- God has made me **an heir(ess)** . . .

According to the following scriptures, what assurances do you have that you are a “live heir of God and co-heir of Christ”?

- **John 1:12:**
- **Romans 8:9:**

The process of legally adopting a child in the USA is based on the Judeo-Christian heritage and laws passed down through the centuries. After a time of comprehensive questioning and examination for months, the adoptive parents stand before the judge who asks them if they are aware that it is legally permissible to “disinherit” their biological child(ren). However, once the adoption papers are signed, and the adopted child takes on the name and full legal rights as a biological child, there is one difference; the adopted child *cannot be disinherited*. How does this knowledge affect you? It should bring to you a response of assurance and loyalty to the One Who adopted you as His own, granting you full and legal rights and co-heir to His Only begotten Son. The debt has been paid legally, by God’s own standards, to bring you fully into His family. He extends to you the full rights thereof. It is such a joy that we can call Him “*Abba, Father*”—a term of relationship, of kinship, and of permanence.



Selah As you think about the word “father” or “Dad”, what comes to your mind? In our human experience in the fallen state of this world, these words may bring feelings of pain, bitterness, or disappointment. There are many harsh or “absent” fathers. There are many who seek to fulfill their understanding of their position, but never feel like they measure up. And there are those who have been able to, despite human frailty, leave a positive legacy and mark upon their children’s hearts. Whatever your experience, ask God now to show Himself as **your Father**, and to write that truth upon your heart. Like the poem “Footprints in the Sand”, picture Him carrying you during difficult and disappointing times. Though we often derive our understanding of “father” based on our human experience and project it upon God, He is not subject to the frailty, temptations, and ravages of sin and selfishness. He wants to be truly known and trusted as your provider, protector, comfort, teacher and all the characteristics of a good and loving father. And it is His joy to call you His child!

We have been “legally” brought from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light (1 Peter 2:9); our names have been changed, we have become a new creation with a new destiny and destination (2 Corinthians 5:17). The enemy no longer has any “legal” hold over us and no authority to stomp over us. We now are God’s own children and the transaction was signed with His blood. No matter what picture we may have of an earthly father, we can experience peace in knowing the deep love our heavenly Father has for us. *Nothing* can separate us from it! (see Romans 8:28-39)

What are other things we have received based on the following verses?

	Not Received	Have Received
1 Corinthians 12-13		
Romans 8:15		
2 Timothy 1:7		

As we speak about inheritance, write out the many ways God is rich and what He freely offers us:

Ephesians 2:4:

Romans 9:23:

Ephesians 2:7:

Romans 11:33:

Ephesians 3:8:

Several times in Genesis God repeated the principle that things produce “after their kind.” One cannot expect peppers to grow from olive trees, or lions to give birth to guppies! As we are brought into the family of God and granted His own Spirit, our lives are destined to be “made in the image of His Son”. He wants us to be “like Father, like son” and gives us Jesus as the model and the Holy Spirit as the One who enables us. We have been chosen by our wealthy Father to live in His love, bear His name, carry His presence and represent Him to those around us. He so loves the Son that it is His greatest pleasure to see us becoming more like Him!

How does it feel to be ‘chosen’ for such an honor?

Selah Spend time meditating on these truths and complete the chart below according to the following verses:



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, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will. - Ephesians 1:3-6, NASB

A parallel version states:

How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son . . .

- Ephesians 1:3-6, The Message (See also Romans 8:28,30)

Who?	
What?	
Where?	
When?	
Why?	
How?	

Write out 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 in your own words:

“Boredom is dangerous.” (Beth Moore)

What are the implications of this statement in your own life? How would you rate your relationship with Christ? Is it the same as it was last year? How has it changed?

Read I Corinthians 2:9

Let the excitement of “the ride” of this adventure God has called you to well up within you. He is the Creator of joy, excitement and adventure. But remember, HE is the Driver!! It is not left to our own ideas or passions. But neither is it a walk of boredom.



Prayer Point As you have considered His promise, renew your commitment to allow Him to drive - and hold on! You're in for the ride of your life!!!



When you depend on Me continually, your perspective changes. You see miracles happening all around, while others see only natural occurrences and “coincidences”. You begin each day with joyful expectation, watching to see what I will do. You accept weakness as a gift from Me, knowing My power plugs in most readily to consecrated weakness. You keep your plans tentative, knowing that My plans are far superior. You consciously live, move, and have your being in Me, desiring that I lie in you. I in you, and you in Me. This is the intimate adventure I offer you.

- Jesus Calling, September 3

Week Two



Review the 4 confessions slowly and let them sink into your heart:

- God has made me _____ . (Galatians 4:7)
- I am a real, live heir of God and _____ of Christ. (Romans 8:17)
- Because I am a woman, technically I'm an _____.
- The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed I have a _____
_____ (Psalm 16:6)

In what ways will embracing these truths impact your perspective and daily life?

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives, And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you . . . – Genesis 12:1

Why did God call Abraham from all that was familiar to him? How much information did He offer Abraham about the journey? (See also Hebrews 11:8.)

Place yourself in the sandals of those mentioned in the following passages and fill in the command and promise given to each. Note anything you find in common:

		Who	Command	Promise
1	Exodus 3:10-12			
2	Deuteronomy 31:23			
3	Judges 6:14-16			
4	Matthew 4:19-20			
5	Matthew 16:24-27 <i>*See note below</i>			
6	John 10:27-28			
<p><i>*Note for Matthew 16:24-27: (The Greek word for "deny"(v. 24) means "to dis-own". Oswald Chambers writes, "No one is ever united with Jesus Christ until he is willing to relinquish not sin only, but his whole way of looking at things. To be born from above of the Spirit of God means that we must let go before we lay hold.... What Our Lord wants us to present to Him is not goodness, nor honesty, nor endeavor, but real solid sin (viz., <u>my claim to my right to myself</u>) - that is all He can take from us . . ."</i></p>				

In what areas might God be calling you to leave the familiar and comfortable to follow Him? How do you feel about the cost of going deeper in your walk with God? What is the promise that accompanies the call?

And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And (I will) make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing.

- Genesis 12:2

What does it mean to know that God initiates and blesses us?



Action Point **Blessings Journal**

Keep a designated “blessing journal” during this series, recording several ways God blesses you each day. (There are additional pages provided at the back of this homework binder) The more you seek, the more you will find! And the more we are aware of it and receive it with thankful hearts, the more He is blessed and honored. It goes full circle!

Receivers and Transmitters of His Blessing

Imagine you were given an inheritance but the message was never delivered to you; instead it was held onto by the lawyer or messenger. The *will* would not be transacted as designated by the benefactor. You would not receive your rightful inheritance.

In what ways do we (as messengers) have power to either allow the flow to continue, or to withhold His blessing from others whom He greatly desires to bless?

Remember, our inheritance in Christ is not ours to give or to hold back – it belongs to Him and is freely given. He has bestowed His blessing upon us and directs us to pass the good news and blessing along. (The beautiful thing about passing His blessing to others is that we are fulfilled in the transmitting of it, others are blessed in the receiving, which also honors and blesses the heart of God. The blessing is multiplied!) Like a stone dropped into a lake which sends ripples out all around it, so we, too, are part of a beautiful process of extending God’s love and blessing toward others. It’s part of the adventure, and one day we will see the result of ripples we are unaware of today!! God will use even a cup of water given in His name to bless another (Matthew 9:41).

Maybe you feel unworthy to receive so His blessing hasn’t freely flowed to you due to unbelief, feelings of shame/condemnation, unworthiness, etc. His blessing is available to *all* who repent, believe Him and receive it, without limit, and without restriction. ***It is His heart for you!*** Based on the promises in His word and His very nature, know that as your heavenly Father, He *longs* to bless you! Ask Him to show you who you are through His eyes of love and truth. *His* perspective (not on our own or even others) is the only reliable source of truth.

The message could be hindered from flowing through you due to lack of forgiveness, lack of love or extending grace toward others. 1 John 1:9 speaks clearly to this. You can be a vessel of God’s freely flowing blessing as you confess, repent and allow His living water to restore you and refresh others through you.

We've seen that God's nature is **to give** and **to bless**. Often, His vehicle for doing so is through His people. "His will [plan and purposes] on earth as it is in Heaven" comes as we listen for His voice and follow Him. Then we become the earthly reflection of our Heavenly Father. Our alignment with His desire to bless, by becoming a person of blessing, is a part of releasing His will on earth.

Prayer Point Take time now and allow the Spirit to reveal any way that you may be hindering or withholding His blessing from flowing through your life. He is faithful to bring that which is hidden into the light so we can confess and return to Him, and then redeem His blessing. Don't rush—offer Him time to speak to you.



Lord, I deeply desire the insight that comes from spending time with You. Open my eyes and help me to see myself through Your eyes, for You alone know me in the deepest and hidden places of my heart. I cannot trust even myself, but I do trust You. You see me through eyes of grace and truth. Please reveal to me Your heart for me so that I can receive all that You have stored for me.

Lord, I cannot give what I don't have. As You deepen my awareness of Your love for me, may the fruit of that come forth and produce life and blessing through me to those around me. Please reveal any hindrances to my freely giving Your blessing to others. Help me to see others through Your eyes of grace and truth. And in those times I have felt bruised or broken by others, show me the path of forgiveness, bring wholeness and allow me the privilege of being a freely flowing vessel of blessing in place of brokenness.

As an *outward* physical and worshipful expression of an *inward* aligning your heart to gratefully receive all that He has for you, right now raise your right hand open toward Heaven. Then, symbolic of your desire to be the vessel through which He can freely bless others, openly extend your left hand out toward the world around you as you thank God from Whom all blessings flow, dedicating yourself anew to allow the flow to continue its course through you.



Action Point **Blessings Journal**

In what ways can you determine to intentionally walk as a "person of blessing" this week? As you rise each day, invite the Lord to show you opportunities to reflect the giving and blessing heart of God. Include in your blessing journal any ways you've been invited by Him to bless others. *Let the "ripples" begin!!*

In verses #4, # 5, and #6 of the chart on page 8, those called were *to follow*. The Greek word for *follow* is *akoloutheo*, which means “*to accompany as a disciple, be in the same way with.*” As we accompany Him and follow, we also experience the blessing of the very presence of the Lord. Ever since the Garden of Eden, Satan has been seeking to separate us from the presence of the Lord. As we saw above he uses pride, disobedience, feelings of fear, unworthiness and shame to keep us from receiving God’s blessing and therefore reproducing His life on earth. To keep us from God’s presence, he also plants seeds that cause us to doubt whether God is good and has our best in mind.

In what ways have these strategies come between you and God?

Selah Do you see God as a Giver—or Taker? What do you fear He will take from you? Take time now to bring any hidden fears and doubts to the Light, confess them and turn from them toward the God Who loves you and desires to bless you. Receive His assurances of love, life and His own presence.



Also take time to replace wrong thinking and beliefs with the Truth of God’s word as you read these verses out loud and write out the truth they declare:

- **Psalm 16:1-2:**

- **Psalm 84:11:**

- **Romans 8:28, 32:**

- **James 1:17:**

A good teacher does not merely impart knowledge, but also creates a life-changing experience that sinks down into the heart. God, the Teacher on Mount Moriah, used Abraham’s experience to reveal and deepen deep fatherly feelings. Along with that came Abraham’s challenge - to either tenaciously take hold of God’s promises and rest on His nature - or turn away and try to protect or possess Isaac’s life.

God entrusted a part of His fatherly heart to Abraham, and through this experience foreshadowed John 3:16 and the Cross. In what ways has He entrusted you with His heart?

Write about a time when have you wondered “Will not the Judge of the whole world do right?” Are you at a point where you can see how “things worked together for good” or are you still waiting on the Lord to see His goodness and justice come forth? Even if we don’t experience full justice during our stay on earth, we can rest assured that the One True Judge will make all things right in His kingdom. You can fully trust that He will always do right—His time, His way. You can give Him your complete reliance as you tenaciously hold onto His promises and meditate on His nature and love for you while you wait on Him. His ear is inclined toward those who wait on Him.

Week Three



Write out Psalm 16:5-6:

Meditate on the precious promise found in verse 5:

“LORD, You are my portion and my cup [of blessing]; You hold my future.”

(Holman Christian Standard Bible)

He determines and sustains my destiny! What does this mean to you?

The question is not “*How much* did I inherit?” but “*What* did I inherit?” Too many times we are caught in our definition of “blessing” or inheritance and limit it to refer to money. God wants to expand our thinking so we don’t miss it or miss out. *Blessing* has several definitions but they all present the idea of “*to bring or receive a benefit or favor, to be happy, fulfilled, and/or whole*”. Ask God to open the eyes of your heart and see the deeper, hidden treasures He loves for you to discover as your inheritance.



Action Points Keep up with your daily journal!

Think of what you've inherited from your family, besides possessions. Some characteristics and qualities may be good, some not so pleasant, some downright challenging. Write a prayer of thanks to Him for those good things you see that He has allowed to come through the family line. (You may even consider writing a letter of thanks to your parents as *you look through His eyes* of grace to those good qualities they sought to pass along.)

Ask the Lord to reveal any negatives that have been imparted and ask Him to change you from the inside out and help you forgive others. Take anything He reveals and give it back to Him as an offering – He is the One Who redeems and brings **all things** “together for good, to those who love God . . .” (Romans 8:28). *You have the freedom and opportunity to choose what legacy you can pass on.* You could be the one in the family line that breaks a negative chain and ushers in God's redemption. It will require a willingness to see it as God does, trust in His power to redeem it and release it to His hand. You can be the courageous history-maker who is committed to charting a new course of honor and obedience. That is part of His calling for your life. He loves taking the tattered and broken stuff of our lives and breathing His life into it and building it something beautiful!



The past does not have to be your prison. You have a voice in your destiny. You have a say in your life. You have a choice in the path you take.

— Max Lucado (*When God Whispers Your Name*)

Meditate on Isaiah 61:3, 6-7. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts and write them down:

What are the 3 things involved in the theme of *inheritance*?

- 1)

- 2)

- 3)

What does the aspect of *Presence* mean to you?

What *people* (in your sphere of influence) has He entrusted to you?

People, those created in His image, are God's greatest treasure, so much so that He made the greatest sacrifice to bring us back into relationship with Him. He *entrusts* us with the ability to influence others – not to possess or have power over them. As a sacred trust, it is to be used to impart that which He imparts to us and *produce after His kind* – wholeness, goodness, kindness, truth, joy, love, and all that is life-producing. Following His message and example, we are privileged to “bring good news to the afflicted . . . bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners, to proclaim the favorable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God . . .” (Isaiah 61:1-3ff NASB). When we seek to see others as He does, HE allows us to be vessels of His love toward them, bring His truth and comfort into their situations and see them set free from sin and self to walk in the life that He offers.

Though the Lord often blesses us with *physical* things, you cannot fill a spiritual void with physical things. As co-heir of Christ, how has He provided you with a spiritual inheritance?

Think about the American Dream to be rich and to be able to purchase whatever we want and own the latest, greatest _____ (fill in the blank with whatever comes first to your mind).

What would be the value of stuff with no one who loves us to share it with or the security of a place to call our own? Think of the wisdom of God repeatedly stating that He Himself has stored up *things* (riches/rewards) in *heaven* (place/property) where they can't rust, be stolen or break down (Matt 6:19-21). When we *seek*¹ *first* His kingdom, then He promises to take care of our earthly needs.

Look up Matt. 6:33-34 and read out loud.

If you had to leave your house suddenly, what would you want to bring with you?

Consider whether *you own* your possessions or *they own* you. *There should be only One who "owns" you.*

Do you see yourself as one who has inherited people or things given you by God in order to steward (take care of another's property)? What will help remind you of that fact? Write it down as a mark of remembrance:

How does Beth's statement affect you personally: "*Nothing will kill more what you are called to do than comparing with someone else in that field*" (or even in another field)? What steps would the Lord have you take to *dispossess* the rut of comparing and walk in confidence of your unique placement by God?

You will know that you are walking in freedom from comparison when you freely ask Him to bless others in the field He has placed them, without regard for yourself. You will be aligning with His will for their life and coming "under the mission of" His plan for them; you will be joining with the Spirit of God in your own life who is making intercession for the saints and you will be blessed in the process.

¹ The Greek word for *Seek* is *zeteo*. The root describes one who urgently searches for something hidden of great value.

Prayer Point

Once again consider the field God has entrusted to you to sow in and garden. Pray and ask for wisdom as He leads you to steward each area:



- **Presence** – *Lord, in the midst of all the busyness and distractions in my life, I long to be with You and invite You into my day. I want to listen to Your voice above all the others that I hear. Thank You that Your desire is for our relationship to deepen and grow. Please increase my awareness of You so that I am aware of the slightest whisper of guidance, correction, or blessing You have for me.*
- **People** – *Lord, I long to join in the purposes and plans You have for others in my sphere of influence. You have entrusted them to me so that I can be a reflection of You and pass on what You have given me to bless them. Open my eyes so that I can see them through Your eyes of grace and truth. I want to receive Your heart for them and join You by coming under Your mission and plan for their lives.*



One of the subtlest burdens God ever puts on us as saints is this burden of discernment concerning other souls. He reveals things in order that we may take the burden of these souls before Him and form the mind of Christ about them... God never gives us discernment in order that we may criticize, but that we may intercede.

- Oswald Chambers

As God reveals things about others to us, we have the privilege of re-turning it to Him in intercession, praying His Word over their lives, and receiving not only His mind, but also His heart for them.

- **Property** – *Lord, please reveal how I can dedicate all that you have entrusted to me in ways that promote Your kingdom purposes. May Your will be done and kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven. I offer myself a willing vessel and all I have is available for Your use, since You've given it to me as a sacred trust.*



Heir to My riches, understand this Kingdom principle: Because you are fully instated as a citizen of My Kingdom, you never have to worry about anything. All the energy that citizens of the world-kingdom expend scurrying after earth-supplies, you will put to eternal use. Everything you need to operate in the earth environment, I have already set aside and earmarked for you. It is yours. Turn your energy and your passion to seeking and possessing kingdom riches.

– Jennifer Kennedy Dean, Secret Place of the Most High

Take time to respond to what the Spirit is showing you.

Week Four



Re-read and write out our theme verse on a 3x5 card, refer to it throughout the week:

Psalm 16:5-6

Fill in the blanks and declare out loud the 5th confession of an heiress:

- As an _____ of _____,
my life is _____ left to _____!!

Do you feel your “lot” has fallen in pleasant places? In what ways are you seeing how your personal “lot” is not a random, capricious, malicious, or “luck-of-the-draw” driven lot?

Beth spoke about Joshua being David’s hero. It appears that he recognized parallels in Joshua’s leadership perspective and calling with his own life. Which Biblical character do you align with and see as a hero? Why?

“To inherit” means to possess, but also means “to dispossess.” We’ve seen how we must drive out previous tenants who have robbed us of our rightful possession.

In what ways has the enemy bullied you in your life, discouraging you from using your authority in Christ to possess what He has already purchased for you?



I know that for the right practice [of the presence of God], the heart must be empty of all other things; because God will possess the heart alone; and as he cannot possess it alone without emptying it of all besides, so neither can He act there, and do in it what He pleases, unless it be left vacant to Him. There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful than that of a continual conversation with God. Those only can comprehend it who practice and experience it; yet I do not advise you to do it from that motive. It is not pleasure which we ought to seek in this exercise; but let us do it from a principle of love, and because God would have us.

- Brother Lawrence, Practice of the Presence of God

1 Corinthians 10:4-5 speaks to the warfare in which we are involved:

For the weapons of our warfare are not physical weapons of flesh and blood, but they are mighty before God for the overthrowing and destruction of strongholds...

According to verse 4, what are our weapons *not*?

What *are* they?

A stronghold is a faulty thinking pattern and firmly held belief system based on lies and deception, orchestrated by the “father of lies” (John 8:44). These patterns stand in opposition to the Truth.

We refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the true knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ . . .

- 1 Corinthians 10:5

The Greek word for *obedience* in this passage is *hupakoe* - *attentive hearkening, compliance or sub-mission.* {It literally is *hupo* (sub, under) *akouo* (to hear, attend)}

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We will define *obedience* as actively listening to and coming under the mission (plan) of God.

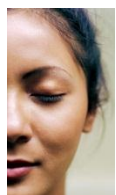
So the question is, to what or whom do we listen and allow to influence our thinking and actions? Are we **actively** seeking to hear the voice and counsel of the Spirit of God, who is Truth, or that which stands in opposition to Him? We have been given the power to choose, and when we give attention to the Truth and capture any wrong belief we gain a tremendous victory!

Ephesians 6:13-17 gives us further understanding as to the battle we are in. List any references to the ways God equips us for the spiritual battle:

SELAH *Pause and thank Him for the pure, solid, sure freedom He provides through His truth. As Joshua and David listened to the strategies of God and came under His guidance, the battles were won. So, too, He equips us and does not leave us defenseless. He, Himself, is:*



- The *shield* about us
- The *righteousness and truth* that covers us
- The *salvation* that protects our minds
- The *Prince of peace* that guards and guides our feet
- The *Sword* (the *Word* of God) that is our weapon



Prayer Point *Lord, please reveal any area where I may be holding to a wrongly held belief that does not line up with your Word or Your will. I don't want to embrace anything that stands in opposition to Your Truth. Please use Your truth to set me free from any stronghold. I want to exchange the lie for the Truth and firmly embed it in my mind and heart.*



Courage for the impossible can only be found in the possibility of humility. Slip on humility, make humility the mainstay of a heart's wardrobe, and the world enlarges. Open humility's drawer and there lies courage. Courage to go anywhere, try anything, meet anyone. If I wear humility, I'm not afraid of the falling.

- Anne Voscamp

We are afraid to prove ourselves weak and not perfect; perfectionism can discourage and distract us from the core issues. It can stand between you and your calling. Let His perfect strength be revealed *in your weakness*. He loves for us to recognize our incapable state apart from Him and allow Him to fill us. He is drawn like a magnet to a humble spirit (see James 4:6)

Read slowly and meditate upon the following verses. Ask the Spirit to direct your thoughts and highlight these truths when you face fear and doubt:

- 2 Sam 22:33

- Psalm 18:32

- 2 Cor. 12:9

- Philippians 4:13

How would God's strength be revealed if we had no need? Our desire should be that people are drawn to *His* strength, not ours. Read and ask the Spirit to reveal how these verses can direct your perspective:

- Isaiah 40:29-31:

- Jeremiah 9:23-24

Whatever comes out of your mouth influences others and reveals your heart. We've referred to *confession* on previous days. The Greek word is *homologeō* - to acknowledge and agree with (homo = same, logeo = word, "to essentially say the same thing"). When we confess our sins, *we agree with God's perspective* on our wrongdoing. When we confess Jesus as Lord, *we align with His truth* and our physical mouths proclaim spiritual truths, providing a space for His will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Jesus came not to be served, but to serve. The King of the universe, the Creator of all, took on the form of His created ones, and then served us! (see Philippians 2:5-7). It is His will, as servant-King, for us to follow in His steps, empowered by His Spirit to also serve "in the same manner."

How would you evaluate yourself according to the standard highlighted in these verses?

- John 15:12: *This is my commandment, love one another, **as (in the same manner) I have loved you.***

- Ephesians 4:32 *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, **even as (in the same manner) God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.***

Truth is, we cannot do something *in the same manner as Christ* on our own. As Christ dwells in us and we yield to His Spirit, our thoughts and desires become His, so the supernatural life of God becomes "natural" to us and the fruit that comes forth is in His likeness and *in the same manner* – His manner! **In what ways can you serve in the Spirit of Christ this week?**

Week Five



Our 6th confession of an heiress of God is:

- As a member of the New Testament _____ of believers and as an heiress
of God, HE IS _____.

Read 1 Peter 2:9, 10. How do these verses bring understanding of *Who you are* and *What mighty purpose* God has called you to?

Sometimes we compare ourselves with others and see what we don't possess and miss what we do possess. As we seek to look at what God values and see through His eyes, our perspective changes. This session dealt with the Levites not receiving a portion like the others. When given the option in Exodus 32:26, *they chose God* and sought after Him with all their hearts; in response, though the other tribes received property, He was honored to give them that which they valued highest – *Himself!* And *HE chose them for Himself*, giving them a place of honor in representing Him to the rest of the tribes and standing in the place of ministry, intercession, and worship because they knew Him best.

Look up Deuteronomy 10:8-9. What words are used to describe the Levites?

Notice that the Levites did not have distraction or responsibility of caring for land at that point. They were responsible for people and bringing them into the presence of God. He was their greatest "possession" and, in turn, they were the ones nearest to His Presence! In the same way, think of the principle that occurs when the more we yield ourselves to Him, the greater capacity we have to be influenced by His very Spirit!

Read Ex 32:29.

As HE chose the Levites to be separate from the others and know His presence in a more intimate way, so too, He chooses us.

What does it mean to you to be “set apart”? Does it have a positive or negative connotation to you?



Jesus is the Chosen One. From all eternity God has chosen his most precious Child to become the Savior of the world. Being chosen expresses a special relationship, being known and loved in a unique way, being singled out. In our society our being chosen always implies that others are not chosen. But this is not true for God. God chooses his Son to reveal to us our chosenness. In the Kingdom of God there is no competition or rivalry. The Son of God shares his chosenness with us. In the Kingdom of God each person is precious and unique, and each person has been given eyes to see the chosenness of others and rejoice in it.”

- Henri Nouwen

Think of ways a groom *sets apart* his bride and treats her differently than any other woman. His eyes are for her, his heart and the intimate thoughts and secrets are privately shared between them. She has been chosen from the others and set apart and given place in his life to share in those things no other can. Christ speaks of preparing His Bride to share in His life. It is a place of honor and blessing!

Selah We were created to *worship* – “*reverent devotion, to honor, love, adulate, deify, esteem above all others, exalt, glorify.*” What do we emulate, lift up or magnify in our thoughts? That which consumes our thoughts, feelings and heart is what we in turn are captured by. Where do your thoughts lead you – spending time on fears, desires, shame – or meditating on the love of God, His nature, and expressing thanks for His promises and place in your life? Read Psalm 100. Write a psalm of praise and thanks to the Lord in your journal as an offering of worship to Him.



The longer Moses was with God on the mountain, the more nervous the Hebrews became and substituted an idol for God's place in their hearts.

Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

– Exodus 32:1

Think to a time (maybe even currently) where you had to wait on the Lord. What fears seek to harass you?

We've looked at the lives of several people of faith who experienced times of waiting. These are just a few examples:

- **Abraham/Sarah** – 25 years for the promised son - Hebrews 11:11 (note: Genesis 21:22)
- **David** – approx. 13 years between *anointed* to be king and *appointed* to be king (years spent as lowly shepherd, hiding in caves, etc) (note 1 Samuel 18:12)
- **Moses** – 40 years in the desert, learning the ways of God, 40 years in desert teaching the ways of God
- **Simeon** – the devout man at the temple (Luke 2:25-32) and *Anna*—the 84-year-old widow (Luke 2:36-38), both waiting years upon years for the Promised One, and had the divine gift of seeing Him as a newborn.

If you're in a period of waiting, you're in good company. Waiting is not just spending time aimlessly or passively. It is fixing our eyes not necessarily on a particular goal, but on the One Who holds the promise in His heart, the timing in his hand, and the power to bring it to pass. *He is faithful Who promised* (Hebrews 10:23). When fear or doubt sets in while we're waiting, we are to meditate on His nature and remember His precious promise - *He is with us, even in the "waiting room" we may be in. Thank You, Lord!*

- He cannot lie (He IS truth)
- He cannot go back on His Word (He IS the Word)
- He is "faithful and true" (Rev. 19:11)

Because Satan is not unaware of our vulnerabilities, he continues the strategy that he began in the garden ("Did God really say . . .?" Genesis 3:1). We need to counter with the Truth of God and rely on His promises and faithfulness.

What other aspects of God's nature can you list?

Waiting on the Lord (and Waiting Some More!)

As you read the following verses, circle the phrase that begins with “Wait . . .” We’re not told to wait on empty promises, on wish or a desire; we’re waiting on/for the LORD ALMIGHTY, the One who holds all time and events in His hand. (And as much as we’d like it, we’re also not given a time frame for our waiting – otherwise, how would He build our faith?)

Underline the results of obedience:

- Ps 27:14 Wait* on the LORD: be of good courage and he shall strengthen your heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.
- Ps 37:34 Wait* for the LORD, and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you will see it.
- Proverbs 20:22 Do not say, "I will repay evil"; Wait* for the LORD, and He will save you.

*This Hebrew word for wait (*qavah*) means “to bind together (perhaps by twisting), to expect:-- look patiently, tarry”. We bind or twist ourselves to the truth of God and disallow anything to come between us. We so firmly bind ourselves and cleave to God that we are aware and in line with any move or touch of His Spirit. Picture a rider in a horse race. The horse and rider become as one entity – the powerful muscles of the horse are sensitively aware of the slightest touch of the experienced rider. They move as one.

What does the following verse say to you?

For from of old they have not heard nor perceived by ear, Neither has the eye seen a God besides Thee, Who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him.” – Isaiah 64:4



Prayer Point

Lord, thank You for Your constant reminders of Your constancy in My life. You are with me and will never abandon or leave me. That truth is not dependent upon my feelings or whether I see You in the moment. It is a truth I can stand on when the doubts come. I reaffirm my trust in You. Help me to see the blessings while I’m in the waiting room. Help me to be still, and know that You are God, and remember that You are at work behind the “seems.” You are my refuge and strength. I wait, cleaving to You and attentive to the slightest whisper of Your Spirit.

Week Six



Write out the 6 confessions of an heiress:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7) For now, the Kingdom is _____

but _____ are not _____.

Re-write this scripture in your own words:

“ . . . the mystery which has been hidden from the [past] ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which **is Christ in you, the hope of glory.** “
– Colossians 1:26-27



A spiritual kingdom lies all about us, enclosing us, embracing us, altogether within reach of our inner selves, waiting for us to recognize it. God Himself is waiting our response to His presence. The eternal world will come alive to us the moment we reckon upon its reality.
– A.W. Tozer, Pursuit of God

Once we are united into God’s family our permanent residency has been established in the Kingdom of Heaven. We live by its principles and our King is Jesus who reigns in our hearts. We’ve seen how we are caught in the war between the two kingdoms—the kingdom of darkness that once held us captive, and the kingdom of Light in which we now serve guided by God’s love and Truth. What an amazing thought that Christ has chosen us and now reigns in His kingdom existent in our hearts. Through the power of His Spirit, we are free to walk in truth and free to bless others and invite them to receive the same invitation into His kingdom.

. . . and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, and He has made us [to be] a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him [be] the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
– Revelation 1:5-6

What a glorious purpose He’s called you to! What you do today will impact your “assignment” in the Kingdom of God—both now and in the future. This earth is not our permanent home, but it is a temporary training ground. We were created for so much more than we see or experience here. He called you to be faithful in the present with what He gave you, which includes your gifts, talents, environment, and rightly applying the Word of Truth. **Even the smallest decision or act of obedience, intentionally dedicated to Him and His purposes can yield far more than we can imagine in the future.** The more we grow in faithfulness, the more we will see with the eyes of faith.

INTIMACY

As you consider the diagram of the boundary lines of your life, note that intimacy with Christ is at the top. It is on-going and never-ending. Your belief about Christ frames your perspective and the posture of your heart toward Him determines your intimacy, obedience and purposefulness in His Kingdom.

Journal:

What steps can you take to grow in your intimacy with Christ? What hinders it from going deeper? You can be assured that intimacy with Him is His deepest desire for you. You were created for intimacy found in Him. He wants to reveal Himself and the intimate mysteries He has stored up for those who seek after Him. Many of His parables are given as a mystery to separate those who really want to know Him from those who want a “casual” relationship, or seek His hand (what He has to offer) more than seek His face (His presence and life).

OUR PASTS

What “all things” (Romans 8:28) in your past do you want to distance from and wish you could erase or change? It is territory open to the enemy to possess and harass you if you refuse to claim it as ground for Christ, to provide perspective, victory and redeem it for His own. It is either surrendered to Satan or to God – there is no “middle ground”.

“If pain will not kill us, meaninglessness probably will” (Beth Moore). **How does this statement impact you?**

We often ask “Why?” of God when we experience pain, sorrow, and other challenges. They test our faith because logically they seem to have no good purpose. The nature of God is purposeful, and His purposes are based on love and wisdom far beyond our comprehension. He cannot work against His nature. With the trust of a child, we can ask God to reveal His purposes for His glory, and give us the faith to believe and possess our “land” even in those areas we don’t fully understand.

LIFE EXPERIENCES

Allow time to consider what positive and negative life experiences shape your thinking.

Prayer and Action Point



Draw a personal time line. Ask God to reveal the most significant events in your life and mark them on the line. As you ponder them, read over Romans 8:28 again and declare God’s goodness over each one, whether it is evident to you today or not. It is truth. Each event, good or bad, is to be given to Him as an offering; we then seek His wisdom and power in how to respond, and claim it as His territory so He can redeem it and use it for His kingdom purposes.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

What gifts are you aware that function in your life as you consider I Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and I Peter 4. These are not exhaustive lists and your gift can function in a variety of ways according to your personality and opportunity. Your teaching gift could be expressed in music, or your giving gift could expand in more ways than financial giving. There are assessments available if you’d like more information regarding them in week 7. Another good way might be to ask those close to you how they see you function. Gifts can be used for God’s glory – or misused for selfish reasons – or not valued and “buried”. It is time to evaluate your use of those things God has placed within you for His glory.

Week Seven



Read Ephesians 1:3-12 slowly, out loud, taking in the precious promises:

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

⁹ God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. ¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. ¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. ¹² God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. ¹³ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁴ The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him." (New Living Translation)

Underline every spiritual blessing that you can see in this passage.

Hopefully, during the course of these last few weeks, you are not seeing God as a “hard man” (Matthew 25:24) but a Giver – and a generous One at that!

Consider again, the astonishing truth that *God Himself* dwells within your body, set apart as His earthly temple. Pause and ponder the magnitude of that thought. There were those among the Hebrew nation during the time of their deliverance from Egypt who wanted Moses to hear God for them – they didn’t even want to get close to the mountain where God dwelled because of fear (Exodus 20:18,19).

God Himself! Not just around me or even with me—but in me!! *He* is our portion—and we are His! We are His treasure! We cannot even compare the riches on earth with the richness of His presence and the blessings that it brings!

What does Scripture say about the riches on earth in Matthew 6:19?

What does I Peter 1:4 say about our inheritance?

God is not opposed to those who have riches on earth. How could He- everything we have comes from Him! But He is always looking at our hearts and responses and compares those who are rich in things of this world to those who are rich in God.

Read Luke 12:16-21. What is the bottom line?

In Matthew 6:21 the determining factor is what we set our heart upon. What we treasure will determine the decisions we make. It will determine what drives us. It will determine the fruit that comes forth.

Read Philippians 2:6-13.

Because He set His love upon us and we are His treasure, Jesus was willing to empty Himself and humble Himself to the point of death in order to redeem our lives. Amazing love – not just in word, but demonstrated sacrificially! We saw in week 4 how we are told to “have this same mind/attitude in us” (Phil. 2:5). How do we go about observing that command?

He didn't just save us to try to make it on our own. He continues to be at work in us to bring out the best in us – fruit that is well-pleasing. And He imparts gifts within us to bring about those things. Not external gifts that can be stolen or subject to destruction, but internal gifts that are the very expression of Himself through us (I Corinthians 12:4-7; Ephesians 4:11-13).

Do you know what gift(s) you have been given? What are they?

Here are a few questions you can think about:

- **What are the things that energize you? Things that bring a sense of God's pleasure?**

- **What “fruit” of your labors give you the greatest sense of joy and /or fulfillment?**

- **What particular gift(s) do others affirm in you?**

There are times we can operate in our gifts unknowingly, and it is wise to seek the counsel of those whom we trust.

What specific dimensions of your ministry or interactions do others say is life-giving and directs them toward God?

There are times we can operate in the “natural” or in the flesh, and not be led by the Spirit, so it is always important to seek God’s mind and heart and let love for Him and others be our aim. God honors a heart postured in humility toward Him, one who desires to align and come under the mission and purpose of God in any circumstance.

We saw last week that God is the Giver of gifts and desires that the gifts are used for His glory, for the building up of others, and for the furthering of His Kingdom (I Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:12). We receive so that we can also transmit. We receive so that we can be the display for His glory on earth, a window that reveals His nature and the working of His kingdom principles. We receive so that we can be the expression of our Father, and produce after His kind! We receive so that we can reflect the generous and good nature of our Father. We receive gifts so that we can bless, influence and edify those within our sphere of influence – for His honor and fame. What a marvelous privilege He has entrusted to us!

As the stewards in the parable of the talents chose to either hide or invest that which was given to them, so we have the opportunity to use our gifts for God’s glory or may choose to “bury” them.

What practical ways will you develop and share your gifts this year?



"It isn't very difficult to see that we are not all the same. Some people seem to have gotten an overload when God was handing out talents; others seem less gifted. But be assured there is divine talent in you. It is both waiting to be unleashed and depending on your being a faithful steward with what you've been entrusted. While we may be unable to perceive it, the great things of God come out of the small acts of faithfulness. When He finds we can be trusted with small things, we then are given responsibility over bigger things. How we serve exposes how we would lead."

- Erwin McManus, **Stand Against the Wind**

Resources

For additional resources in assessing your personal spiritual gifts, check with your pastor or see:

Discover Your God-Given Gifts

Young Ladies Christian Fellowship

<http://ylcf.org/you/spiritual-gift/>

(with links to additional information on spiritual gifts)

Don and Katie Fortune

Heart to Heart International Ministries

<http://www.heart2heart.org/fortunes.htm>

Gifts of Grace Survey/Booklet

Teaching the Word Ministries, Leola, PA

<http://christcenteredleaders.com/store/products/gifts-of-grace-character-of-christ-in-his-people/>

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

www.churchgrowth.org/

Spiritual Gifts by John Piper

<http://www.soundofgrace.com/piper81/031581m.htm>

Spiritual Gifts Test

http://spiritualgiftsworkbook.com/free_spiritual_gifts_test.htm