

Four Things I Must Know - Part 3
THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS

Ephesians 1:17-19

Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

That You May Know

The Christian walk is by experience. However, our experience must be preceded by knowledge. Our knowledge of God must be the root, foundation and bedrock of our experience of God. Without that, our experience becomes shallow, fleeting and transient. Paul constantly prayed that God's people "may know"

Knowledge produces conviction. Therefore, knowledge supersedes experience. What you know influences and determines your behaviour. Therefore, we need to know the facts and truths about God, for they will define and deepen our experience.

What Paul Prayed That We Might Know

1. The Father
2. The Hope of His Calling
3. The Riches Of The Glory Of His Inheritance In The Saints
4. The Exceeding Greatness Of His Power Towards Us

We will focus on the third one - The Riches Of The Glory Of His Inheritance In The Saints.

- It is important to know the riches of our inheritance as such knowledge deepens our HOPE.

Ephesians 1:18

"That the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know... what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints..."

Romans 9:22-24 (NLT)

"In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction. He does this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory. And we are among those whom he selected, both from the Jews and from the Gentiles."

THE INHERITANCE

Before we talk about the riches, we must first explore and determine the inheritance. What is our inheritance, as saints?

Colossians 1:12 NKJV

"Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light..."

What is the inheritance?

1. God is the Giver and we are the recipients
2. Our inheritance is obtained in Christ – God has given it to us in Christ
 - Our Inheritance was purchased for us. It was lost in Adam, but Christ purchased it for us

Adam - Garden of Eden – Genesis 2:8-15

- God created a beautiful Garden and made all provision available within it. -
- Man lived and walked in the Presence of the Triune God. It was a place of peace, protection, provision, prosperity. A land where God dwelt with humanity, where man had a right standing with God. Unfortunately, Adam lost the inheritance through disobedience, but God determined that it would be redeemed and restored to man

Abraham

Acts 7:2-5

"And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.' Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell. And God gave him no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when Abraham had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him."

Abraham walked with God in faith and obedience and God made a covenant with him to give him an inheritance, not just for himself, but also, his posterity. Through Isaac and Jacob, Abraham's son and grandson, God affirmed the covenant of an inheritance.

Israel - Canaan

- When Israel was in bondage to Egypt, God appeared to Moses and promised to deliver Israel and bring them to the Promised Land, Canaan, the inheritance promised to Abraham and his descendants.
- But Israel – was disobedient and rebellious and failed to possess the inheritance.

Christ and The Saints - The Kingdom

- Christ died and with His Blood purchased back that which was lost. The redemptive plan including our redemption and restoration as well as the repossession of the lost inheritance.

- God's promise to Abraham was fulfilled in Christ, and all who by faith would believe in Christ – *Galatians 3*
- Joint Heirs – Through faith in Christ Jesus we have become God's children and joint-heirs with Him – *John 1:12; Romans 8:14-17.*

Galatians 3:26-29

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Ephesians 1:11

"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will."

3. Our inheritance is a future promise.

- It is the object of our hope - a future goal and expectation. That is why Paul prayed that we might know the hope to which we have been called.
- Just as God promised Canaan - a land filled with milk and honey - to Israel, so has He given us an inheritance in Christ, which is the Kingdom of God

4. The Holy Spirit was given to us as a guarantee of our inheritance

Ephesians 1:13-14

"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

- Although it is a future promise, we are required to know as much of its details as the Word of God and the Holy Spirit reveal to us.

5. It is an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance.

1 Peter 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

6. It is an eternal inheritance –

Hebrews 9:15 NLT

"That is why He is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant."

7. Our inheritance is the Kingdom of God

Daniel 7:18

But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.'

Luke 12:32

"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Matthew 25:34

"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'"

THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF OUR INHERITANCE?

- The riches of our inheritance are all found in Christ, however, like everything about God, they are unsearchable and unfathomable.

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered the heart of man...

The bible describes the various riches we have in God because of Christ – the riches of His wisdom, knowledge, kindness, mercy, grace and glory are just a few examples of what is in store for us. However, focus on two, for now, and attempt to discuss them (since they are unsearchable)

1. THE RICHES OF GRACE

Ephesians 1:7

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"

Ephesians 2:6-7

"and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

The riches of grace include God's love, grace, mercy, goodness, longsuffering towards us, which not only leads us to salvation, but also enables us to live and walk the Christian life, and builds up our hope

Romans 2:4

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

- a) Salvation – *Ephesians 2:8-9*

- b) Redemption through His blood and the forgiveness of sins – *Ephesians 2:1-5*
- c) Predestined to adoption as sons by Jesus himself – *Ephesians 1:5*
- d) Accepted in the beloved - brought into the commonwealth of Israel – *Ephesians 1:6*
- e) No longer strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God – *Ephesians 2:19*
- f) Received an inheritance – *Ephesians 1:11*
- g) Seated in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, giving us access to God – *Ephesians 2:6*
- h) Predestined that we should be to the praise of His glory – *Ephesians 1:12*
- i) Sealed with the holy spirit of promise who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. - 1:13-14

Romans 8:29-30

“ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

- I. Salvation – we have been saved by grace from eternal death and damnation
- II. Justification – we have been justified and made righteous by God
- III. Sanctification – we have been set apart and are being sanctified and prepared for glory
- IV. Glorification – we await our glorification – a state of eternal joy, dwelling with God and in His presence

We Are Heirs of Grace

Titus 3:1-8

Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. 2 They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarrelling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone. 3 Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. 4 But—When God our Saviour revealed his kindness and love, 5 he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. 6 He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Saviour. 7 Because of His grace He declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. [NKJV— that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life] 8 This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. These teachings are good and beneficial for everyone.

Colossians 3:23-24

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

- Knowing we are heirs of grace and its riches, must affect our thinking, conduct and lifestyles. We must live as those who have no inheritance on earth, but rather, those who are heaven-bound.

2. THE RICHES OF GLORY – weight, essence, majesty, splendour

Riches – wealth – fullness and abundance

- When Moses asked God to show him His glory, the Lord revealed His character to him. God's character is the essence of His glory and who He is.

Exodus 33:19-22

Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by.

Exodus 34:6-7

And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

Moses saw God for who He was! This revelation caused such a transformation in Moses, that His face began to shine – Exodus 34:29-30

- However, what we have is even greater than what Moses experienced. God's glory does not only cause an outward transformation, but also an inner one

2 Corinthians 3:9-19 (NLT)

*"The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading away. **8** Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life? **9** If the old way, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new way, which makes us right with God! **10** In fact, that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new way. **11** So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever! **12** Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold. **13** We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away. **14** But the people's minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ. **15** Yes, even today when they read Moses' writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand. **16** But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **17** For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18** So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.*

The riches of God's glory brings transformation in our lives so that we become more and more like Jesus.

Ephesians 3:16-19 NKJV

"That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The Holy Spirit has been given to us as a guarantee of our inheritance. His duty is to prepare and preserve us for our future with Christ. As He continues His work in us, we become more like Christ, reflecting His very image, likeness and glory. We begin to shine.

Revelation 21:10-11

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.

The Glory of our incorruptible bodies:

1 Corinthians 15:39-58

39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh[c] of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. **40** There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. **41** There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. **43** It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. **44** It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. **45** And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. **47** The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. **48** As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. **49** And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. **51** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. **54** So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." **55** "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.