

BLESSED BECAUSE OF CHRIST

Believing in what the Bible says about **us** can be hard to accept unless the Holy Spirit reveals it to us - “*the eyes of our hearts enlightened*” *Ephesians 1:18*

Every verse that contains a promise, provided for us in Christ, requires a **faith response** from us.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies

Ephesians 1:3 is empty unless we accept who **Christ** is in God, and who **we** are in Christ.

WHAT ARE THE HEAVENLIES?

This phrase describes a spiritual realm where we have access to all God’s blessings through **faith** in Christ.

In the heavenlies, God has deposited all the treasures of our salvation; every spiritual blessing is located there and already in our name.

EVERY BLESSING IS ALREADY OURS

“*God ...HAS blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies.*” This is a statement of **fact!**

These blessings rest in the **heavenlies**, waiting to be **accessed** by us through **faith**.

Every blessing for our **body**, in health; for our **mind**, in soundness and understanding; for our **soul**, in cleansing; and for our **spirit**, in salvation!

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

Paul describes these “*blessings*” as spiritual, that is,

- They extend from our union with Christ,
- They come to life through the influence of the Holy Spirit in the Christian’s life, and
- They are located in the *heavenlies*.

Paul lists some of these “*blessings*” in *Ephesians 1:3-20*.

- *a blameless and holy life (vs 4)*
- *adopted as the children of God (vs 5-6)*
- *redemption and forgiveness (vs 7-8)*
- *knowledge of the plan of God (vs 9-10)*
- *freedom to live for God’s glory (vs 11-12)*
- *the promise of the Holy Spirit (vs 13)*
- *a guaranteed inheritance (vs 14)*

Paul sums up with three great statements (vs 18-19)

- the **hope** to which He has called us.
- the **riches** of His glorious inheritance.
- the immeasurable greatness of His **power**.

Hope: for our eternal future is secure in Christ.

Riches: of all the treasures offered in the promises of God.

Power: over all the powers of evil.

Two keys to unlock these “blessings” -

REVELATION OF HOLY SPIRIT

Ephesians 1:16-19 I never stop giving thanks for you, and in my prayers I keep on asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in your knowledge of him. I pray that the eyes of your hearts will be enlightened, so that you may know all about the hope your calling brings you, and how rich you are because of the glorious inheritance that is yours, and how immeasurably great is the power of God at work in all who believe.

These are not future **promises**; they are present **possessions!**

The truth must transfer from our minds and into our hearts.

With the heart a person believes and so obtains the blessing of God. Romans 10:8-10

We need an inner **revelation**, an inner **guarantee**, an inner **knowing**.

Head knowledge becoming **heart** knowledge; by the quickening of the Holy Spirit.

What has been **heard** is now **seen** or **known** by the spirit.

The Holy Spirit opens the *eyes of our hearts*, giving us spiritual awareness, so that His promise suddenly becomes a reality to us.

It comes by taking up a promise of God and praying over that promise until the Lord imparts *“a spirit of wisdom and of revelation and in the knowledge of Christ having the eyes of your heart enlightened.”*

How will you know when this has happened?
You will **know**, because you **know**!

Without this assurance within, the promises of God will remain empty words on paper.

RELEASE OF FAITH

Those things that are already our **potential** possessions will become our **actual** possessions

when we **release faith** to receive them from God.

This faith must be specific.

We must determine which is the appropriate spiritual blessing we need in the present time, and then decide to believe God for that one thing.

Genuine faith cannot function until a particular promise is applied to a particular need.

Faith shouts with confidence, in the provision God has already provided.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed me in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies.

We are blessed because of Christ!