

A Testimony According to Ephesians

As God purged me this year, He made me aware of several things regarding my condition before being plucked out of the present evil age. As I studied the epistle of Paul to the Ephesians, I became aware of the following.

Before being rescued by God, I was in a helpless and hopeless state. I was dead in my trespasses and sins. I walked according to the course of this world and was governed by the prince of the power of the air who now works in the sons of disobedience. I conducted myself according to the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the mind, and was by nature a child of wrath.

I was without Christ, without hope, and without God in the world. I was an alien from the commonwealth of God's people and a stranger to His covenants of promise. In relation to God, I was far off and a wall of separation divided me from others. There was enmity between God and myself and I was considered a stranger and foreigner.

I was like a child tossed to and fro and carried by every wind of doctrine and the trickery of men. I was carried about by the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting and walked in the futility of my mind. I had my understanding darkened and was alienated from the life of God. There was ignorance in me and blindness permeated my heart.

I was past feeling and gave myself to lewdness. I worked all uncleanness with greediness and conducted myself according to deceitful lusts. I was a liar, a thief and corrupt words proceeded out of my mouth. I was full of bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and malice. Some of my sins included fornication, uncleanness, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talking, and coarse jesting.

I had no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God because I was an unclean and covetous idolater. The wrath of God was upon me and I was in fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. My actions were shameful and I faced all the battles of life without armor, but my story does not end with my fallen condition.

GOD'S GOOD INTENTIONS

I discovered that God, rich in mercy and moved by His great love, took action on my behalf. He unveiled His heart.

He has good intentions toward me. The evidence is in the facts. He chose, predestined and made me accepted in the beloved. He redeemed, forgave my sins, and made known to me the mystery of His will. He granted me an inheritance, sealed me with the Holy Spirit of promise, give me a foretaste of His inheritance and will work in me until the redemption of the purchased possession.

He has good intentions toward me. He gave me a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Himself. He enlightened me by revealing the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints and the exceeding greatness of His power.

He has good intentions. He made me alive, raised me and made me sit together with others. He is revealing the exceeding riches of His grace. He desires to save me by granting me the gift of salvation. He has made me His masterpiece. He has created me for good works and has brought me near by the blood of Christ.

He has good intentions. He is breaking down walls of separation and abolishing the enmity in my life. He brings me peace, has reconciled me, and gives me access to Himself every day. He has made me a fellow citizen with the saints and a member of His household. He is building me on a firm foundation and has caused me to grow into His holy temple. He is building me together with others and has made me His dwelling place.

He has good intentions. He is making known His mysteries. I am enjoying unsearchable riches of Christ. I see the fellowship of His mystery and His many-sided wisdom. He gives me boldness and access to Himself. I enjoy stepping into His presence with confidence. He strengthen me according to the riches of His glory. Christ now dwells in my heart. I am being rooted and grounded in love. I am coming to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge. I am being filled with all His fullness.

H has good intentions. He has granted me ministry-gifts. I am being equipted by them. I can now do the work of ministry and edify the body of Christ. I am being brought to the stature of the fullness of Christ. The spirit of my mind is now being renewed.

He has good intentions. I have now put on the new man. I have received an inheritance in His kingdom. He has made me a light. I can now find what is acceptable in the Lord. He shines on me as I come to understand His will. He has filled me with the Spirit, given me a song to sing and a melody to hum. He sanctified, cleansed, nurtured and treasured me.

He has good intentions. I now do His will from the heart. Because of Him, I am strong. I stand because He has clothed me with His own armor. Because of Him, I love Jesus.

GOD'S SELF REVELATION

This year, I was blessed to see a fresh and wonderful vision of God. I was struck by the unity between Father-Son-Holy Spirit. Father conceived a plan, the Son accomplished it and the Holy Spirit is today applying it to the life of the believer. As I reviewed the epistle to the Ephesians, I was blessed to discover the following.

Father's Self-Revelation

All missions on earth are assigned according to the will of Father who works all things according to the counsel and good pleasure of His will. When His grace flows, peace always follows.

He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and of all. He is above all, and through all, and in all. He is the Father of glory, source of every spiritual blessing, a rewarder, and a master, He is rich in mercy and His love is great toward us. He is known as the revealer of mysteries and owns a kingdom. He is not partial. He dwells both in heaven and in all saints.

He chooses, predestines, makes us accepted in the Beloved, and gives us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Himself. He opens the eyes of our understanding and enlightens us by revealing the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints and the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ.

He has created all things through Jesus Christ and is going to gather together in one all things in Christ – in heaven and earth – in Him. He raised His Son from the dead and has 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. Father put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church.

Father makes us alive together with Christ, saves us by His grace, raises and makes us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Father is going to display to us the exceeding riches of His grace for ages to come. He is kind toward us in Christ Jesus. He is the giver of the gift of salvation and a creator of masterpieces.

He has created us in Christ Jesus for good works which He prepared beforehand. He makes us fellow heirs, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel. His manifold wisdom will be made known by the church to the principalities

and powers in the heavenly places. He has accomplished His eternal purpose in Christ Jesus our Lord.

He strengthens us with might through His Spirit in the inner man according to the riches of His glory. He has forgiven us in Christ and directs wrath toward the sons of disobedience. The fellowship of His mystery has been hidden in Him from the beginning of the ages. Father desires that we be rooted and grounded in love. He wants us to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height of His dimensions. He desires that we know the love of Christ which passes knowledge.

Father desires that we be filled with all His fullness, understand and do His will, and be filled with the Spirit. He desires that we use His armor so we can stand against the wiles of the devil and withstand the evil day.

Father desires that we understand that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this age, and spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. He desires that we use the following armor: truth, righteousness, the preparation of the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the Word, and prayer

Son's Self-Revelation

A review of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians will show that Jesus Christ is our peace, chief *cornerstone* and Lord. He is an offering and sacrifice. He is called God's sweet-smelling aroma. Jesus is the giver of light, head of the church and Savior of the body. He is its sanctifier. He cleanses the body with the washing of water by the word. He nourishes and cherishes the church. The whole family in heaven and earth is named according to Jesus Christ. He loves the church.

He desires to dwell in our heart through faith. Jesus redeems, forgives our sins and makes the riches of His grace to abound. He makes known the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself.

Jesus has granted us an inheritance. He predestines us and draws us to Himself by His blood. He unites us, breaks down walls of separation, abolishes enmity and reconciles us to God through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity that exists between God and us.

He gives us the gift of the grace of God by the effective working of His power. He leads captivity captive, and grants us gifts. He ascended far above all the heavens that He might fill all things. He descended into the lower parts of the earth.

He teaches us. He has given the following as gifts: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Through Him we have access by one Spirit to the

Father. Christ gave Himself for the church and will present her to Himself a glorious church. He gave Himself for us and desires to dwell in our heart through faith. We now make melody in our heart. The Lord desires that we submit to one another in the fear of God. Grace flows to us and peace follows from the Lord Jesus Christ. The truth is in Him. Peace and love with faith proceed from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit's Self-Revelation

Paul also reveals some wonderful things about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is said to be the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession. The Spirit is the revealer of secrets. Through Jesus Christ we have access by one Spirit to the Father. We are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise and enjoy the unity He brings men. There is one Spirit and He will continue to seal us for the day of redemption. The fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.

GOD'S EXPECTATION OF ME

In the epistle written to the Ephesians, God calls us to act. We are to be holy and without blame, to trust Him, to hear the word of truth, believe and praise Him. We are to have faith in the Lord Jesus, and love for all saints. We are to know the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance and the exceeding greatness of His power.

We are to be saved through faith, to walk in preordained good works. We are to remember our previous condition, be built, and fitted with others. We are called to understand His mystery and make known His manifold wisdom. We are to allow God to strengthen us. We are to be rooted and grounded in love, comprehend with all saints all His vast dimensions. We are to know the love of Christ, be filled with all the fullness of God, and walk worthy of His calling.

We are called to bear with one another, endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit, equip the saints, do the work of ministry and edify the body of Christ. We are to come to the unity of the faith, the knowledge of the Son of God, to be a perfect man and come to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

We are to be children who are not being tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. We are to speak the truth in love, grow up in all things, and do our share. We are to be careful not to walk as Gentiles. We are to hear Him and be taught by Him.

We are to put off our former conduct, be renewed in the Spirit of our mind, put on the new man, put away lying, speak the truth. We are to be angry and sin not. We are called to ensure that the sun does not go down upon our wrath, or to give place to the devil.

We are to labor in order to give. Corrupt words should not proceed out of our mouth. We are called to speak words that edify and impart grace to the hearer. We are to ensure that we do not grieve the Holy Spirit and that we put away things contrary to God's standard. We are to be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving. We are called to imitate God, walk in love and give thanks.

We are called to ensure we are not deceived. We are to walk in light as children of light and find out what is acceptable to the Lord. We are to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, rather, we are to expose them. We are called to awaken, arise, walk circumspectly, and not as fools. We are to walk as wise, redeem the time and understand what the will of the Lord is. We are not to be drunk, but instead

filled with the Spirit. We are to sing and make a melody, give thanks, speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We are to submit to one another.

Wives are to submit to their husband in everything. Husbands are to love their wives and leave father/mother and be joined to them to become one flesh. Children are to obey and honor father and mother. Fathers are to ensure that they do not provoke their children to wrath. They are to bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Servants are called to obey their masters with fear and trembling, in sincerity, not with eye services, but as to the Lord.

We are called to do the will of God from the heart, be strong, put on the whole armor of God and stand against the wiles of the devil. We are to take up the whole armor of God and withstand in the evil day. We are called to gird our waist with truth, put on the breastplate of righteousness, shod our feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace, take the shield of faith and quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. We are to take the helmet of salvation, the sword of the spirit and pray always.