

TIDINGS

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

- 1 Peter 1:5

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The Promise of Eternal Life: An Inheritance

As a Sanctified man I find that the Holy Spirit can be felt working when sin presents itself. The scriptures tell us that upon conversion and Sanctification, the Holy Spirit will abide within us. This allows for us to live life untainted by sin, as it has been rooted out.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13)

These two works of salvation are crucial for having a personal relationship with God and to adhere to His commandments. He tells us in the scriptures that if we are obedient we will have everlasting life in His kingdom.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." (Jeremiah 29:11)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Jesus Christ said: *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."* (John 5:24)

You will hear many people in the world tell you that it is impossible to live without sin, but this is just plain wrong! In the Bible, it outlines our duties as believers and rules for living a Holy life. Through our fervent prayers and faith in the power of the Holy Spirit we can live a life without those blemishes.

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:19-21) So we see in the verses above from Galatians that it is lined out for us. No servant of God will commit these acts due to that second work of salvation,

Sanctification. Sanctification, or the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, keeps you clean.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

The above verse from 2 Corinthians outlines that your sins are blotted out and that you are new in Christ Jesus. We can rejoice and look forward to a great eternity!

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:23-24)

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1:2-5)

God is merciful and His mercy endures. If you are already Sanctified then you know the power of the Holy Spirit and what He can do. If not, do not wait. None of us are promised a tomorrow. Get God in your life. Get covered by the blood. Give Jesus the opportunity to work in you! Be blessed!

- Bro Jonathan Williams

More Than We Could Ask

I often have moments where God will bring a song or scripture to my mind that is just the blessing I need. He seems to know just what will bolster my courage or bring me peace in the midst of a challenge. Even as young as in middle school, I remember walking down the hallway with seeming peer pressure all around me and God feeding me lines of songs that got me through. He has always rescued me like that and I am grateful to Him for it.

As a teacher, my school years begin and end with greeting and then saying goodbye to little first graders. Each year's classroom presents different challenges and blessings that require adjustment, flexibility in strategy and varying amounts of patience. All last year I heard about this in-coming group of first graders. Constantly heard of how stressful this group was, how needy and how challenging. As I passed them in the hallway as kindergarteners, I would wonder, "Which ones would be mine next year?" Every day, I had to choose to not worry about next year. In my heart I heard the whisper, "The Lord I know ruleth o're everything, and all of my worry is vain."

Every year I adopt a new verse for the upcoming school year. My adopted verse of this school year was inspired at Campmeeting. God whispered to my heart, "This year I want to give you more than you could think, ask or even imagine according to my power in you." So I looked up the verse in my Bible and wrote it in 3 different places, the first page of my teacher planner, on a sticky note on my computer screen at work and as my screen saver on my phone. *"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."* (Ephesians 3:20)

Every time I looked at those 3 things I felt this great peace and assurance that his power was at work. I felt such wonder as I pondered and chewed on those words...More than I could even THINK to ASK him for?? What a wonderful thought!



Well, then I met the class and unfortunately, all the rumors were very, very true. Spot on. We struggled to sit. Struggled to line up. Struggled to listen. There were extreme behaviors. Mental health concerns. Concerns about neglecting homes...it was absolutely overwhelming and I was quickly just mentally and emotionally exhausted. After days and weeks of picking up my students from lunch and specials (art, music, etc.) I would hear the same report of "Talkative, wiggly, not listening..." and the earning of 2 or 3 Eagles out of a possible 5 (our school's reward system). Never a good score.

Back in the classroom, we would talk about it, make a plan for the next time and every day it was the same. These are not just misbehaving children, these are needy children. I wish I could paint a picture of just how much some of these students need help. More help than I know how to give them. The grown ups in their lives are frustrated and need help too. I wish I could convey just how much these students need HOPE, more hope than I know how to convince them exists. This broken world has I suppose just started to break them too. So my pep talks and prayers each day were more than just about earning Eagles and feeling better about my classroom behavior and having it easier. It was more about THEM feeling like they were worthy of earning 5 Eagles and overcoming their challenges. So I did all I knew to do. I asked God for help. I relied on him for every minute, every moment, every disciplinary word, every challenging moment...I begged God to be there and guide my actions and my mouth. I FELT him working through me. Still day after day, I heard the same reports and statements of "Your class is....phew. I don't know how you do it all day." It is an overwhelming emotion to feel like your efforts are making zero difference. But God...

A few weeks ago, when I picked them up from specials class, honestly dreading it...the teacher turns and says, "Mrs.Bryant, I don't know what to tell you. They have just improved so much. I'm giving them 5 Eagles!" I showed my shocked face and the kids were all beaming up at me. I said, "Are you teasing me?" (I really and truly couldn't believe it.) The kids started belly laughing at my face and their joy was so infectious. One of my little girls said, "Nope we are not teasing you! See Mrs.Bryant...we did MORE than you asked!!"

continued on p. 3

TIDINGS

I asked, "What do you mean, more than I asked?" She said, "You said to get 4 Eagles and we got 5! That's 1 MORE than you ASKED us to get!"

As I looked at their faces grinning up at me, I felt like God just positively shouted to me again in my heart, "exceedingly, abundantly, more than you ask or think - according to the power that worketh in you." Thank you Jesus.

For the past 15 days straight, my students have earned 5 Eagles at Specials. Those who are mentally capable are sitting, lining up and listening as good as any class I ever have had for most of the school day. I now have support for those who are not mentally capable of doing those things and support for their extreme behaviors. Definitely better than the picture that was painted for me in the hallways last year. Definitely MORE than I could ASK or even THINK to ask of him. Is it perfect? No. Is it ever perfect? No! But I had settled in my mind this was just "that class" but God had other plans. Bigger and better ones.

Remember that God's will is for you and I to have an abundant life! John 10:10 says, *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* As much as I could try, I cannot manufacture that kind of life on my abilities and talents alone, we cannot strive for it! We receive it only when we surrender our will to the Father and ask for his will to be done. Period. We can trust God with this submission! He sent His son to die for our sins so that we could have this abundance of Him, His power IN US. "The Lord I know ruleth o'er everything and all of my worry is vain."

If this is true, then we should NEVER settle for anything less than God's will of an abundant life for us. What else in my life am I possibly settling for? If He shows up in a classroom of 6 year olds, He can come to wherever you are. He can come in our marriages, our parenting, our relationships, our finances and our everyday lives...EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY MORE than we could ask or think, according to the POWER that worketh in us. Thank you God for your sweet, sweet promises and for always whispering to my heart. Friends, listen closely and you WILL hear Him whispering to yours, calling you to an ABUNDANT life in Him.

- Sis Diana Bryant

Why We Serve God

The reason we serve God is a topic that seems so easy to explain that even a small child can understand it, yet I often find myself seeking to know further why we serve Him. Christ said, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled"* (John 5:26). As far as I have read in the Word of God, nowhere does it promise us a life of Earthly comforts and riches. It is said that *"his divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us unto glory and virtue"* (2 Peter 1:3).

But I find still that so many people, often without even trying to, have a preconceived notion that a life serving God is synonymous with a life of worldly success. It has been made clear to me of late that we are nothing without God, and a life void of Him will provide nothing but heartache. As we come to God, broken and in need of a Savior, we have a mutual understanding that we can offer nothing to Him but our love and our life. We must acknowledge that we are deserving of nothing and have made nothing of ourselves and if we are able to go through the rest of our lives in that mindset it won't be hard to see the blessings of God.

In 1 Samuel 4 the children of Israel went to war with the Philistines and at this time the laws and statutes of God had fallen out of practice and were not being upheld. As a result of this they began to lose the war and about four thousand men of Israel were slain in the first battle. In this time of turmoil, they decided to bring in the ark of the covenant in hopes that it would bring with it the presence and protection of God. The battle began again, and thirty thousand more men of Israel were killed. Because they had so blatantly turned away from God in times before, His presence was not with them in these battles. Why is it that in times of prosperity it is so easy to neglect our one-on-one service with God and ride on the fact that seemingly life is good?

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

As far as the calendar year of our church events is concerned, it seems as though we are in a time of spiritual prosperity right now. I trust that each one that had an opportunity to attend has been as rewarded and as blessed as I feel, now that we are coming to the close of this Fall Feastmeeting season. I pray that we are not riding solely on the fellowship and joy those meetings provide us but are using them as times to stir our hearts and minds and encourage us to dive deeper into our daily communion with God. Because just as things seem to be going so well, the trials of life will come, and we must have a rock to stand on.

I love each one of y'all and you are all in my prayers.

- Bro Adam Spencer

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FALL 2023

TIDINGS

CHRIST'S SANCTIFIED HOLY CHURCH

*" Before the mountains were brought forth, or
ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world,
even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art
God."*

Psalm 90:2

