

You Are Blessed And Accepted By God

Eph 1: 3-6. *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ, God has given us every spiritual blessing in heaven. 4 In Christ, he chose us before the world was made. He chose us in love to be his holy people—people who could stand before him without any fault. 5 And before the world was made, God decided to make us his own children through Jesus Christ. This was what God wanted, and it pleased him to do it. 6 And this brings praise to God because of his wonderful grace. God gave that grace to us freely. He gave us that grace in Christ, the one he loves.*

We have been given every spiritual blessing in heaven - Heaven? Is where God is. All spiritual blessings in heaven means all the good things God gives us:

- salvation - a gift (Eph2:8);
- the gifts of the Spirit (Gal 5: 22-23);
- the power to do God's will (Philp 2:13 13)

Yes, it is God who is working in you. He helps you want to do what pleases him, and he gives you the power to do it); the hope of living forever with Christ (John 3:16; John 14 Jesus said, I am going to prepare a place for you and I am coming back to receive you that where I am you may be also)

These blessings can only be enjoyed through an intimate relationship with Jesus. All these spiritual blessings refer to divine privileges and resources available now.

1Cor 12 talks about some of the divine privileges like spiritual gifts - word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, prophesy, healings and miracles - and all these are for us NOW for the profit of all. We activated the gift of prophesy on Wednesday night and God spoke through us and everyone was blessed.

The question is whether we are using these spiritual blessings that have been given. Are we activating these gifts to bless the body of Jesus Christ? Are we using these gifts by faith or are we hiding from these in the face of challenges.

v4 tells us that in Christ we were chosen right at the beginning of time to be '*holy and without blame or fault*' - you and I have been made righteous through Jesus, His righteousness has enabled us to stand before a Holy God blameless! Hallelujah!

What a privilege that we have to be able to stand in the Fathers presence without a sense of guilt... without a sense of inferiority or self-consciousness... just as if we never sinned or missed the mark of Gods standards.

God chose you. His desire was that you will walk blameless before him and His desire was that you would walk in love. In a fallen world we don't see that. It isn't Gods fault, why? Because He gave us a choice! We are not robotic creatures of God. We are His children, with a free will to choose to accept or deny Jesus and all these blessings.

Salvation is a gift, and it is based on His willingness to give it, not because we deserve it, but because God is gracious and gives it freely.

We did not influence Gods decision to save us. It was his **plan** to save us. Before the beginning of time God had already planned salvation for us and it is hard to understand how God could accept us, but because of Christ we are holy and blameless - Jesus took the blame, the shame, the sin on the cross. When JESUS looks at us He looks at us as if we had never sinned.

v5 tells us that we were marked out beforehand... God decided to make us his own. It was not our choice but His. He decided to adopt us - to make us his own children- His inheritance is ours. Adopted children have the same rights as biological children (Rom 8:17) Heirs and joint heirs with Christ. . This is the strength of our relationship with Jesus.

v6 we are accepted in Jesus "the Beloved" . Accepted means, graced with grace, given special honour. Grace is Gods voluntary and loving favour given to those he saves. Cannot be earned. No religion or religious practise can gain this grace- it comes only from God's mercy and love.

Q: God has accepted you. Have you accepted Him?