

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BLESSED WITH ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

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May 1, 2016

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus. It's such a blessing for me to come to you today in this webcast. I know you are going to be deeply blessed by the message that we have for you today. The vision that we have is simply to see people's hearts established in the Good News to bring the Spirit of life to them and introduce them to the message of God's life, the love of God, so that they could be energized by that Spirit and have the fruit of the Spirit in their life and have peace and joy and have the kindness of God as they patiently wait for the Lord to manifest immortality in their life. That is what we are preaching. That is what we are giving. The Lord has brought this message of the Gospel to my heart and the passion that I have is to share it with as many people as possible and to see people's lives come to a place where they can tap into the Truth and have their own relationship with God, and walk in their journey with God and just have the peace that God has intended for them. Glory to God!

Before we get into the Word for today, I would like to pray for us.

Father, thank You so much that every person that watches this message can just be absolutely blessed, absolutely be impacted, made new, renewed by the Gospel that You have. Thank You, Holy Spirit, that You come powerfully and speak to people today. Amen.

We will start off in Ephesians 1. We are going to talk about being blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places and what God means by that.

I grew up in the Dutch Reformed Church and what we learned there was that everything is in the future or in the past. All the gifts of the Spirit has happened and it is not for today so you can't pray in tongues today because it was only for then. Healing was for then. It is not for now because, for now, glory to God, we have the doctor. That's the kind of reasoning that people had and that's where I come from but we believe in Jesus and then what we believed was that we are part of the people of Abraham and God made a covenant with Abraham and because we are the children of Abraham, the covenant of Abraham is ours. It was a perfect mixture between Judaism and what Jesus Christ actually brought for us. It was an absolute mixture.

From there, I received the Lord and I became born again. After that happened what took place in my heart was I met with the Pentecostal Movement and the Charismatics. What we got there was, "Everything is now." We have NOW been blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places, blessed God! We are the healed and we are the prosperous and we have everything that you can imagine. We've got the jets, we have the houses. We have it now and if it's not mine, blessed God, the devil has stolen it. We are going to get that devil with the name of Jesus and we are going to overcome him by the blood of the Lamb and he's going to give back sevenfold, everything that he has stolen from us for the scripture says "We HAVE been blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places. That car is mine. That house is mine. That miracle is mine. It's mine! It's mine! It's mine!" That is what I was part of and do you know what happened to me? My heart became sick.

That's what happened. My heart became sick. I got to a place where I didn't know what to believe anymore because it's almost as if there were spiritual blessings but not ALL spiritual blessings. There were some spiritual blessings in heavenly places that were mine. It was difficult to get that blessing to manifest. It was like God blesses me with stuff and then He puts it in heaven. Then I needed to follow these ten steps in how to get it from heaven to earth. It's like, well, my blessings are in heaven, my car's in heaven, my bank account's in heaven, my healing is in heaven, my prosperity is in heaven, my obedient children are in heaven. Everything is in heaven. I think that is why we always want to go to heaven because that's where the best is. We just think that it's all in heaven and we can't have anything today and then He has this list of things that we need to do in order to get this blessing now which is from heaven to earth.

The other day I listened to a guy preach and what he said was, "Don't look at my blessedness I have now. Don't dare to look at the life I live now." This guy has a massive church and as he preaches he has thousands of people applauding while he says this. What he said is, "Don't look at the life I have now. This is the fruit of twenty plus years of faithfulness to the Gospel where I sowed my life, where I tithed, where I've been obedient, where I have submitted and all those kind of things and now this blessedness from heaven has fallen on me." My goodness! What a lot of rubbish! That is not the Gospel. That is not the Good News that's going to set the people of God to a place where their hearts can be enlightened with the goodness of God.

I don't want to point fingers at preachers and say that this guy is good and that one is wrong, this guy is bad and that one is not or anything like that. I am just trying to say something that I think will be relevant to a lot of the people who hear this message. That is what it is all about so when the Bible says that we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places, why would Paul even say such a thing? How does something pertain to us which is in heaven? Wouldn't it be better if God has put His blessing on earth? Some say, "Yes, it is on earth, but we have this channel called faith. We can pull it down!" Let's see if it is really like that.

Ephesians 1

:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: (So it's to the saints that are in Ephesus and to the faithful in Christ Jesus.)

:2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. (Then all of a sudden it's almost as if Paul loses a bit of his flow in his writing and he comes and he says,)

:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

What is he saying? This is simply what He is saying is, "I see God in heaven and as I behold the grace of God, as I behold the goodness of God, as I behold the kindness of God, as I think of the Father and the Son in heaven, I can't but want to bless God." Because seeing the Father and the Son in heaven meant something to Paul.

I'd like to explain to you just what the Apostle Paul believed and what was in the heart of Paul when he wrote certain things. The background of Paul is this: Paul was a Pharisee which believed in the resurrection. What they believed the resurrection would be like is that all the special Jews would be raised from the dead. We can't even say that the Jews believed this or that because they were so divided among each other.

It was almost like you'd find the different Muslim sects fighting among each other as you would find in Christianity today. You can't go and say that Christians of that time believed this or that about the Holy Spirit because there are so many factions when it comes to what these people believe but I can give you a general idea of what happened in the life of Paul. Paul believed in the resurrection. They didn't know what the resurrection would look like. You must remember that when Jesus was raised from the dead, they couldn't even recognize it as part of what they believed. So they didn't know what the resurrection would look like. They knew that there will be a resurrection one day and it will be the end of the world and the end of all things like we Christians believe will take place.

To say that a man will be raised from the dead, you mean he rose from the dead, that's it. That was unheard of and then to say that He was raised from the dead to never die, that is completely a lie. It can't be! So here the Apostle Paul was persecuting the Church because they preached that there is a man that was raised from the dead and was dead for three days, that carried the sin of the whole world and to whom people who committed sin, by killing Him, He died. Then He was raised from the dead and then there was a message that He was seen by hundreds of people and then just went up and sat in the Godhead, that's like crazy, from where He will come back to take over and rule over the earth with the authority that was given to Him which was the authority over death. Paul believed that was a lie and then he went about killing the church, persecuting the Church and on his way to Damascus he met with a guy who he said was never raised, and He was there! That is amazing! All of a sudden you find the foundation of Apostle Paul's ministry is the amazing resurrection and the conclusion of this resurrection towards man which is immortality. That is what fascinated Paul. This guy was raised from the dead.

I think if you think of Peter and some of the other apostles, you can find that they were upset because Jesus was killed and because He died and they really didn't understand and then He was raised but they would preach that. I think Apostle Paul, it was so amazing because he was against that. He was completely against that! He would say, "There's no such thing as a resurrection. You guys are lying!" And then he said, "Who are You, Lord?" "I'm the one you persecuted." "Sorry!" That's what you would say. In that case you would say, "Sorry!" He was kind of, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" He said, "Lord." He started to see the truth and imagine what was going on in the mind of the Apostle when he saw Jesus! He saw Jesus and he became physically blind. A great light was there.

There was something physical taking place there and all of a sudden you find Paul starting to preach the resurrection. Paul started getting caught up in a hope that he said, "What we behold in Him, we will behold in ourselves since He is the high priest of all. All of a sudden the whole Jewish System and what God was trying to say in all the types and shadows, just started to make sense to this Apostle and he started to preach the life of Christ. He started to preach something that he says, "I want to attain the resurrection of the dead. You find he wasn't occupied with heaven. Paul said, "I was pulled up into the third heaven but what I want to see in you is that you stand blameless in the day of the Lord. That's what I want to see!" And from there he writes his stuff.

So here he comes and from that perspective, listen to this, he comes and he says, "I am an apostle of Jesus Christ." In other words, "I am an apostle of the One Who was raised from the dead. I am an apostle of the Man seated in God!" ***Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Man who conquered death, from the Man who dwells in the unapproachable life, from the Man who became immortal who is now with God! Glory to God! He is our High Priest which speaks of the acceptance of man!"*** All these things are just in the heart of the Apostle.

Then he comes and says,

“Blessed be the God...” or “Let us speak well.” That’s what the word, blessed, means. In the Hebrew, the word, blessed, is baruk, meaning to kneel down, to speak of greatness or to speak with adoration or to ascribe greatness.

So here he says, **:3 Blessed** (Let us kneel down and ascribe greatness to) **the God and our Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us** (knelt down and spoken well of us, adored us) **with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ.”**

In other words he says, “Inside Christ are certain blessings which are in the heavens in Christ.” What does Paul mean by that? This is it. He says: “Whatever Christ inherited is in the resurrection and where He is seated and whatever is true inside Jesus is what we have received.” What is he saying? We need to understand this. Jesus Christ is called the Word of God. What is the message that is portrayed if you see a physical human being seated at the right hand of the Father? We need to understand that Jesus is not a Spirit. We also think it would be safe if we don’t think of ourselves as spirits who live in a body and also possesses a soul. We can have some function in trying to explain certain things but don’t think of yourself as a spirit. The Bible says that a spirit doesn’t have flesh and bone. When Jesus came and He appeared to His disciples, He didn’t say, “I am a spirit and you are going to become spirits.” He said, “I am not a spirit. I am a human!” And He took a human being and put him at the right hand of God the Father as the word of God. So what is God saying? God is saying:

1John 1

:1 That which was from the beginning, (What was from the beginning? The word of God.) **which we have heard,** (so from the beginning we have heard about this word.. What was this word from the beginning? Titus 1:3 that I preached on last Sunday. Before time, God ordained that we will be immortal.) **that which was from the beginning, this word of you have become immortal.) which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;**

He says that there was a word that says that man will live and never die. There was a word that was stated that man shall enter immortality. That was the promise that was carried through the ages through the prophets. That was what the Apostle Paul and John could declare. He said, **“That which was from the beginning...”** What was from the beginning? I am repeating myself. “What was from the beginning? From the beginning there was a word. What was this thing that was from the beginning? There was a word of life from the beginning. There was a message and a declaration that man can conquer death and conquer the grave and be immortal and be in equality with God and possess something that only God possesses which is immortality, to never die. Isn’t that awesome? “But Bertie, I thought we had immortality just by being born. Isn’t that what the Bible says?” “No , I know that isn’t what the bible says.” What the Bible says is that immortality is a gift. It was what God promised. Man in Adam entered into death but the plan that God had from before time was that man will not be a dying being but that man would be sealed in the perfection that God has.

You know what sin is? The word sin means not to be a partaker of or not to have a share in. **Sin, according to God is, it is a sin that you are not immortal. He has come to take away your sin. Glory to God!** That is good news!

He comes and He says, "I want to grant you eternal life. Then there was this promise of life, promise of life, and all of a sudden this promise of life came in this form that they never imagined. A man came, hung upon a cross, died and lo and behold, He was raised from the dead! And after He was raised from the dead, this wasn't just a spooky story, we touched Him! Our hands have handled Him. We have seen Him and what we touched, what we've handled, what we've seen is this Word of life that was from the beginning. Glory to God! And this is now, this Word at the right hand of the Father, that went and sat down at the right hand of the Father, from where we are with Him, is God's blessing toward us. In other words, what God declares in Christ is, "I've blessed you with life and immortality and I shall manifest it in you!" That is called the Truth or the spirit of the Truth. And if this truth is believed... if you don't come to a place where you say, "I am just a spirit and I've tried to get my soul renewed every day and then one day, I say, "Oh, well, who cares about this dirt bad anyway! It's not part of our preaching, it's actually not part of our gospel. In the back of our mind we believe there is a resurrection but we are not going to make a focus of it and we won't really talk about it."

Listen, the Apostle Paul comes and he writes in Ephesians and **he starts** off with this message of immortality. But Bertie, I don't see how it is the first immortality. Let me show you in **Ephesians 1**.

:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us (spoken well of us with the highest, most eloquent speech) **with all spiritual blessings** (that can be found) **in the heavens;** (it is spiritual meaning it is principle based. A spirit means a vital principle. So the vital principle truth about us that we have been given is a physical man whom death cannot touch, who lives unto God, meaning he is not living unto his flesh from where he draws death but he lives unto God and because of God's life, he has life. That is what it means. This thing that He has blessed us) **in heavenly places in Christ:** (The colon means that he explains this has happened one hundred percent)

:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, (So what has He done? He says, "I have chosen man to be in this man that is in heaven. In other words, he says that God has chosen before time to have only one word about your life and that is that you are in His equality, that you are blameless, that you are above reproach before Him in His sight. We are going to look at what it means to be blameless before God.)

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (This colon explains it)

5 Having predestined us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (Let me explain that. He says, "Listen, God has blessed us. He has spoken well of us with a word that is so great, that is principle based, that is a principle about us, it is a truth about us. This word is an undying man in the Trinity and do you know what He has blessed us with this man being seated in the Trinity and this wasn't a new plan. This wasn't God's Plan B. This was a plan that He had from the beginning because in the beginning He has chosen that we should be immortal on account of His Son in the Trinity. That we cannot lose our immortality and die but we can be eternally living in Christ. That is what He said from before time. He has determined before time that in Christ we should be blameless before God. What does that mean? (colon, explaining, He has chosen that we should be partakers of the adoption of children. What He does, and I've never preached this, but I want you to hear this.

It says, 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

How did He do that? Because He predestined us to the adoption of children. What is the adoption of children? The adoption of children is declared in Romans 8 where it talks about how we will be adopted. This is the adoption: We will be adopted by the redemption of our physical bodies into immortality. So to be blameless before God, you need to never die. God doesn't measure blameless or not blameless by, "Have you broken the law or not?" The Bible says, "My people are not walking in perfection as I've intended because they are still dying." That's why the Bible says that we shall be made complete in Christ. That's why the Bible says that the word that we have about Him is that we shall be blameless in the day of the Lord meaning that when Christ returns, He shall make us immortal and that is the truth. Now, we don't see this truth manifest in our bodies yet but what we do see is the spirit of this truth, the principle of this truth, the belief of this reality because there is the first born from the dead meaning there will be other born from the dead as well. The first one from the dead, which is Jesus, and He is the high priest of us. He is the principle thing about us. We see that word and when that spirit of Truth, that word of Truth, the Bible says the word is a spirit, indwells our hearts, do you know what that spirit does? That spirit brings forth things in our life in the here and now called the fruit of the Spirit called the gifts of the Spirit and all those kind of things. That is what it is all about. Glory to God!

So, I want to tell you: You have been blessed with a message of hope that you shall be made blameless before the Lord as pertaining to your life in Him making you immortal. The side effects of believing this truth is love, joy, peace, kindness and power over the sins of the flesh which destroys your life because all of a sudden you are not living by the spirit of this world anymore or the principle of this world. You are living by the principle of immortality belongs to me. Eternal life has been given to me. Let me explain this. Some may say that we already have immortal life. Let me explain how I see eternal life and immortality. Eternal life is life possessed by God in the Spirit. When we receive eternal life means we receive the message that we will live eternally, we receive that eternal life because when we are one with the Father in Christ, we receive eternal life. And because we have received the ability to live and never die our bodies shall live and never die means it shall be made immortal. The mortality will be clothed with immortality and you can have access to immortal human flesh if you have something called eternal life. You cannot have immortal human flesh unless you have eternal life. And eternal life is in His Son and in believing what Christ has given us. Glory to God!

You might say, like one of my friends that I shared with, said, "I hear it is good news but how does pain do for me today?" what it does for you today is very simple. When we look at this, when we look at this immortality thing, how does it pay us? I mean what does it bring to me today to think that one day I am going to be made immortal?" What it brings to you today is that you have the hope of immortality meaning if you don't see immortality today, you don't have hope deferred. In other words, since you are not hoping to see everything that immortality promises today, you cannot have hope deferred when you find something wrong in your life, or when you find you do not have all the money you're supposed to have or like I am sitting here preaching now I'm feeling symptoms of the flu and all those kind of things, I'm not thinking, "Oh, my goodness, you know, Lord, what's wrong? Why am I not getting healed? I'm claiming my scriptures."

I am open to be healed. Signs of this immortality can take place in my life. It can manifest in my life. It can bring peace and joy to me right now. I can see signs, wonders and miracles but do you know what? I'm not defined by it because the word I have is a more sure word than just a small miracle.

The word I have is not about have I just said everything right today? No, I will be blameless in the day of the Lord because what God has promised, me what God has shown is greater than the nitty gritty things of this life. He's come and showed us immortality and the great joy and the great expectation of this in the return of the Lord. The Bible says gives us patience today. And do you know what patience does? Patience is the power whereby the things of this world are defeated and will not be able to conquer you. That's when a business deal doesn't go through, it will not phase you. When you prayed for someone and they didn't get healed, you won't feel this is hope deferred now and your heart will become sick. No, because the only time that hope can be deferred for a Christian is if Christ returns and you don't become immortal. That's hope deferred.

But we are still living in the hope and the Bible says that we are saved by hope. We are saved from the things of this world by the hope we have. If you are on a sinking ship out in the ocean and you are on this little life raft after the ship had sunk, and you are alone drifting on the ocean, do you know what will save you from death? Having hope that someone will find you and save you from the ocean and you will be back with your wife and children, seeing a picture in your mind that they have hope and you have hope and you know it will take place and you can have some hint that maybe in 20 days the lifeboat, someone will come and save me and help me. That hope will save you have a sure death in that ocean. That hope will cause joy in you. That hope will help you to fabricate plans on how to fish and how to do things to stay alive in that moment.

So by hope we are saved from the things of this world. Against all hope we believe in this hope like Abraham did which was, we shall be made immortal. Glory to God! That was God's plan from the beginning.

I know this is a change in understanding the gospel and how you see the gospel but Church allow your heart to hear this and you will find, as time goes on, the heart starts to reason from this perspective. You start to find that the scripture makes so much more sense. Life floods you. Joy floods you and the things of this world don't touch you!

Thank you so much for slotting in. I trust that this message has blessed you. Please listen to this several times and try to understand what it says. Pray to the Lord and ask God to reveal to you, to give you a spirit of understanding, and you will see how this revolutionizes the way you think of others, the way you think of yourself and see the love of God.

God, the One, the only One, that possesses immortality, came and what did He do? He said, "Let Me share, the thing that just I have, with people: To have a quality of life so high, a life flooded with so much love, that it will cause the one to whom it is bestowed, to live and never die. Hallelujah!

God's hope was not to put you in heaven. His hope was to make you immortal. Glory to God! Amen