



Lecture 6

The Believer's Worth in Christ

Our inheritance in Christ is a reflection of how greatly our Heavenly Father values us

If and when you receive an inheritance from a relative, you will discover how much value that relative placed on you. Compared to other family members, you may receive a smaller portion, or a bigger portion. Whatever your portion of the inheritance, it reflects how little or greatly you were regarded.

Let's imagine, for example, that you have a father who, before he passed away, was rich and wealthy in every way. In his will, he leaves you only an old car of very little value. In contrast, your father leaves nearly the entire inheritance to your brother or sister. How would that make you feel? Irrespective of your father's reasons for doing this, the tiny portion he allotted to you shows how little regard, trust or love (etc) he had for you.

Not so in the Kingdom of God! We believers receive the same inheritance; this inheritance being for ALL God's children. In fact, we receive the same inheritance as Jesus Himself has. We are co-heirs - equal heirs - with Christ! Jesus in His Word has made this crystal clear.

Romans 8:17 (Wuest translation)

“and since children, also heirs; on the one hand, heirs of God, on the other, joint-heirs with Christ, provided that we are suffering with Him in order that we also may be glorified together.”

To experience our worth in Christ we need to fully embrace our identity in Christ.

Note that it says: **“provided that we are suffering with Him in order that we also may be glorified together**. This means for us as believers that our inheritance in Christ includes suffering with Him. How do we suffer with Him? Jesus suffered in order to fulfil the will of the Father. As we also seek to fulfil the will of the Father in our lives we will share in the sufferings of Christ.

Though as Western Believers we are unlikely to be crucified, the Bible calls us to carry our cross, deny self, sacrifice our lives for Jesus, do the will of the Father instead of our own will and honour God's Word by faith and action.

Matthew 16:24-25 (Wuest translation)

Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone is desiring to come after me, let him forget self and lose sight of his own interests, and let him pick up his cross and carry it, and let him be taking the same road with me that I travel, for whoever is desiring to save his soul-life shall ruin it, but whoever will pass a sentence of death upon his soul-life for my sake, shall find it.

This shows us that our inheritance in Christ requires us to put Jesus first. We are to follow Him. What does that mean? It means putting the Word of God above everything and depending on the Holy Spirit.

The Bible exhorts us to run the race. What race? Our endless service to Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1 (Wuest translation)

Therefore also, as for us, having so great a cloud of those who are bearing testimony [i.e., the heroes of faith of chapter 11] surrounding us, having put off and away from ourselves once for all every encumbrance and that sin which so deftly and cleverly places itself in an entangling way around us, with patience let us be running the race lying before us

2 Timothy 4:7 (Wuest translation)

You were running well. Who cut in on you and thus hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion is not from the One who calls you.

Galatians 5:7-8 (Wuest translation)

The desperate, straining, agonizing contest marked by its beauty of technique, I like a wrestler have fought to the finish, and at present am resting in its victory. My race, I like a runner have finished, and at present am resting at the goal. The Faith committed to my care, I like a soldier have kept safely through everlasting vigilance, and have delivered it again to my Captain.

This was the Apostle Paul describing his service to Jesus. Jesus also ran His race to redeem mankind from sin and death.

During his time on earth, Jesus was fulfilling God's Word and was constantly led by the Holy Spirit. He did only the will of the Father even to the point of enduring the Cross and carrying our sins. This is why He was given the Name above every name. His sacrifice gave Him authority to change the universe. Jesus had authority because He obeyed His Father; the same is required of us if we want to have all the benefits of our inheritance and also our authority in Christ.

True spirituality give us boldness to receive

Disobedience to God's Word will affect our faith and consequently make it difficult for us to fully receive our inheritance. We need to know, believe and receive our inheritance. What is our inheritance? God's promises for every believer. We need to claim our rights as sons and daughters of the living God. As an example, if you have been given an inheritance from a relative but you do not know or believe you have it, you will not claim it and consequently won't benefit from it.

What is true spirituality?

True spirituality is simply fully adopting our identity in Christ, depending on the Holy Spirit and obeying God's Word to our best ability. True spirituality is not permitting the flesh to rule us, but rather sacrificing our lives to Jesus and putting Him and others first as Jesus demonstrated.

So, how do we respond to our God-given worth in Christ?

God has given us His worth out of His unchanging and inexhaustible love and generosity. We are worthy and have the righteousness of Jesus given to us because of His grace and mercy. The only way to respond to our Heavenly Father is to trust, love and obey Him and imitate Jesus through sacrifice, dedication and abandonment to His will for us. Anything less than this, dishonours God and renders us selfish, proud, unthankful and ungrateful. With this attitude, many Christians jeopardise their Christian life and miss out on receiving all the gifts and wonderful promises given us by our Heavenly Father. What is worse, this attitude is a hindrance to see the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We are the recipients of ALL God has given us in His Word. The enemy wants us to believe that obeying God is hard, that serving God takes away "our rights" to live as we want. These are all lies. The only true life is in Christ and such a life goes beyond this life and persists for all eternity; it is our true identity and our real life.