

“God Has Made Us an Heir”
By Brother Parrish Lee
Sunday, February 2nd, 2013

Brother Rick Matzyk came up here and shared a testimony. Brother , I remember when we were in Australia (he and I were in the Navy together). We were in Australia, and I was standing out in the street, and Rick was standing on the steps of a little store/mall area; this man walked right up to him—walked right by me (I’ve always had a problem with that)—but he walked by me because he saw something in Rick’s life that he walked right by me to get to. He said, “Hey, are you a Christian?” and Rick said “Well, yes, I am.” He said, “I’ve been a missionary in China for many years; I’m seventy-five years old now, and I hope that I’ve got something right. I hope I’ve done something good.” Am I right, Rick? He looked down, and he went, and he poured his heart out to see if another Christian on the scene could tell him if he measured up. I don’t know what that man’s epitaph is going to say. I don’t what it’s going to be when he gets to heaven, but I know it’s going to be something. The point is, all of us are going to be something. It’s going to say something for every one of us. When the Heavens are rolled away like a scroll (I love that scripture—Isaiah 34:4), and the Bible talks about, we’re going to see the brightness of His glory (Hebrews 1:3). It says that every eye—every eye—shall behold Him (Revelation 1:7). There’s not going to be no darkness or nothing in between us and Him; it’s going to be like it is. I couldn’t hold that in. Y’all were singing that, and I just, I had that vision of being raptured home, and what God’s going to say. I know what I desire to hear, I know what I live for, I know what I want to hear: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter in unto the joy of thy Lord.”

Giving honor to God, Who is the Head of our lives. Giving honor to that great wonderful Savior, the ever-present and omnipotent.. The one who has never lost a battle and Who don’t play any games. Giving honor to that God, whose love, the Bible says, passeth all understanding. Who charges the angels with folly, and the stars themselves are not pure in His sight. Giving honor to that God. Giving honor to Him, Who is our Maker, Creator, our God. Giving honor to our founding pastor, whose faith and life and family were able to birth the ministry, from the calling that God laid on his heart. To our pastor that we have now, and all those who have been in between. Our pastor was here a few weeks ago, and he was so enlivened by the visit that he said several times, “Man, what a great time that was, just to see the saints.” You know, you ever visit some relatives you haven’t seen in a while, and, you know, you’re looking forward to maybe getting a little hug, or hearing a nice comment, or maybe having something sweet come back, and when they do, it’s like, “Man, this is better than warm butter on good bread. This is some good stuff. Yeah.” Giving honor to, as our pastor said, those who have gone before us. Last, but not least, giving honor to all of you, who present yourselves every day before God Almighty, that He might enrich and restore, bless, deliver, save, and heal those things in our lives. Having said that, we have several people, saints, we have several people who have asked for prayer, either through illness, or problems, they’ve just said, “Brothers and sisters, please pray for me. Lift me up before the throne. Call on God and call my name.” As an aside, you can notice, Brother Jason isn’t here, and his wife, who did the Bible Study, they are both not here; they are sick with child. They are both sick, but they saw fit to give a Bible Study. Ain’t that something? “Let us do as much as we can for God.” That is going to be written in the Book. There’s others sick, and we want to keep them all lifted up before the Lord our God.

The theme for the month is, “An Heir of the Promise.” Our Scripture theme for the month is:

Galatians 4:7 *Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

That ‘son,’ believe it or not, is gender inspecific. That includes men and women. Absolutely.

Romans 4:13 *For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.*

If we could just bow our heads for just a moment. Lord God, Almighty, we come to You right now, first of all, thanking You, because You've been the type of good to us that just overshadows everything in our life. To You we lift up and give honor and praise and glory. You are magnificent and wonderful in our sight, Lord. We thank You for all Your goodness; the goodness here today, but also the goodness that's been in our lives up until this very second. For those things that you will take us to, we thank You for those things. God, we ask, even now, that You would add a blessing to the reading of Your Word, as You have said, that it would not return unto You void, but would go to accomplish that to which You have sent it. Let it bless and feed and nurture us and bring us into that more perfect and eloquent walk with You. We give and claim, all in Jesus' name, and everyone said, "Amen."

So, God has made us an heir; an heir, an heir. An heir specifically means to inherit. So here we are in the Book of Romans, chapter 4, verse 13, "For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith." If we were to turn to the Book of Genesis, where it talks about this:

Genesis 15:6 *And he believed in the LORD; and He counted it to him for righteousness.*

(he' being Abraham.) Now, to give a little background on this, Abraham was married to Sarai, and God had been speaking to him. He was nearly a hundred years old at this time. God told him, "You're going to have a Son." Anybody in their nineties, nearly a hundred, I think they'd be like, "Whaaaat? What am I going to with it if I do? A hundred years old, and I'm about to have a child!" He didn't say, "Well, God, why did we wait until this point to have it?" He didn't say, "God, You sure about this?" and "How is going to end?" He didn't question Him at all. The Bible said he believed God; and it was counted to him for righteousness. Not only did He tell him he was going to have a son, but he also told him that his son was going to be the father of many nations. He said he was going to be a great people, like the sand of the sea, and as the stars in heaven. He told him, "Look up and count them if you can, because that's going to be your lineage, that's what's coming from you." Not only that, but He told him his children were going to go through some things. I find this kind of amazing. He told him that they were going to go through 400 years of bondage. He told him that before the son was ever born, that his children were going to go through four hundred years of bondage. Then He told him that He was going to deliver them, that His deliverance was going to be coming, that it was going to be on the way. In all this you don't see Abraham questioning God. You see him simply saying, "The Lord says it, I believe it, and that's it. Blessed be the name of the Lord." So, the Bible says, in Romans, that it was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. So, the blessing was not so much, "Hey, you're going to have a son," it's because God promised that he was going to have a son. Now, this is the righteousness, here: It was the faith that Abraham had in what God promised, and not him *seeing* that he was going to have a son, and that making the difference. It had to be the belief.

Part I: How Do I Get To Be an Heir?

Romans 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

If you want to be an heir? You want to be a son or a daughter? Let God lead you.

Romans 8:15 *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

Help me, Father. Father, Father, minister to me. Show me my benefit. Guide me, direct me. That spirit is not the spirit of fear, "Oh, I have to be so afraid of God," but it's the spirit of adoption,

bringing us close to Him. Bringing us to Him, as close as a son, as a daughter, as a child; as one that can love in your bosom itself. How do I get to be an heir?

Part II: The Journey of an Heir

Galatians 4:1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Generally, when people have children, generally, the thought is that the children are going to carry on the lineage. What you see so often, is that, if a man has a son, people expect him to carry on the tradition of the son, and, you know, likewise when they have a daughter, they expect her to carry on, but they expect them to carry on the tradition of the house, of the household, of the name. If the name is Johnson, or Jackson, or Jefferson; they got that name specifically from that father. It's pretty simple to see, you have John's son, Jack's son, and Jeff's son. Over time, it just becomes Jefferson, and Johnson, and Jackson, and so forth and so on. That's where those things come from. The point is, that the heir is supposed to be of the children, is supposed to carry on the lineage. That's why, when somebody in the family, if a child or youth was doing something that was irreverent of the way that the household goes, usually the parents, or the whole family will go to correct that person, that child, to guide them properly and say, "We don't do that here. You are of this house, you have his name, you are to continue in this way." If your father, he was a politician, so "You've got to act right, or you're going to go embarrassing the family name." If your father has money, "We are the house that has money." If your father works, then, "We are the house that works, so you can't be lazy." Whatever we are, you are to continue in that mode. "We believe in respecting adults, we believe in morality. We believe in these things, so you are to carry on that tradition, because you are an heir." Because you are an heir.

Before I go on to the next point, I have a quick sidebar, here: fathers don't get off the hook; just because they sire a child, fathers don't get off the hook. It comes with great responsibility. I've got scripture for that. Fathers are required to provide and protect their household. That is their edict. They are given charge, and they are given a portion of God. This whole thing that I heard in the news about children wanting to get a divorce from their parents; that is not the way that God set it up. This whole thing about, when wives say, "Hey, look, let's have a discussion, because I don't think I want to take your whole name; that is not the way that God set it up. This whole thing about—one of the brothers was telling me that he went to a wedding and they had already worked it out where the wife said, "I'm not taking your name, I'm keeping my former name." I'm so glad that I wasn't there, because I just would have had to ask them, "Then why are you getting married? Why do it? Why, why, why?" I've got Scripture for that, too. This whole thing about husbands being absentee fathers, being a dead-beat dad. People that don't provide—that is *not* the way that God set it up. In the very beginning, it said that God made the Heavens and the Earth (Genesis 1:1), and he formed man from the dust of the Earth (Genesis 2:7). So it was just God and Adam at first. So God taught Adam love, about relationships, about how to act, how to be, and they had this wonderful union thing going on, and then, when God pulled Eve out of Adam, straight out of love. So what was supposed to happen from there? Adam was supposed to teach Eve and share with her what He got from God. It was supposed to come from God and go straight across. Then, as they would rear and raise children, it was supposed to be in that which they learned from God. The society would be built on the very structure, on the very foundation of the love of God. That is the way that God had set it up. Anytime we deviate from the love of God, anytime society does anything

contrary to, back from that love of God, it will cause problems. You see that they had issues. They keep trying to work it out, and the issues remain. All that needs to happen is turning back to God. End of sidebar.

God has made us to be an heir. We have departed from being a servant—we are no more a servant; we have moved into relationship.

Galatians 4:22-29 *For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bond maid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants: the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.*

So we see here that they had the one was by the bondwoman which was after the flesh, and the one who was from the wife, the free woman, who was the one after the promise. Now the Bible says that these were the two covenants, and the first covenant we all are partakers of. The first covenant we all are; we are all of the flesh; if you are not of the flesh then you're not here today. If you're not of the flesh, then I'm not sure what you are. The other one, the Bible says, was of the promise. The promise simply means that you believe God, you obey God, and you follow God. The Bible goes on to say that these two would war against each other. The one chased the other, and we know the story. There was Ishmael and Isaac, and they had to be separated, and then there was Jacob and Esau, and heir children are still at war today. You just have to look to the Middle East, and they can tell you which side they are on, and why they hate each other. We were over there, and it's amazing, they're always ready to go at it, they're always ready. We were touring the land and they were talking about it, and I find it amazing that you live like that. Every day they live like that; on guard against their enemy, that enemy that, at one time, was your brother. The Bible says that, as those two war against each other, so are those two that war in us; that Spirit that God puts in us, and that flesh that sometimes seeks its own will— sometimes just as contrary as the days are long. The flesh just seems to just be able to war, and sometimes so strong. And they war against each other, even as it is today. The question would naturally be, after that, which one wins? Only we know. We are the ones who make that decision..

Galatians 4:30-31 *Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.*

Apostle Paul makes it, specifically plain, that we are the children of promise. If you put your faith in God, you are a child of promise. If you accept His Word, you follow, you obey, you are a child of promise. You are a child of the promise. The truth of the matter is we are all—everyone of the face of the planet—is an heir to something. Everybody is an heir to something.

Part III: The Lord Is First To Make Us All Heirs Like Him

To put it quite simply, another problem that exists is that people don't know they are heirs. They don't know that they are truly to inherit. They don't know that there is an inheritance laid up specifically for them. God made it for them. People don't know that they are heirs.

Colossians 1:18 *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

Preeminence—in other words, be first and foremost. He, the Bible says, is the firstborn from the dead. You could easily ask, “Well, who’s the second? Who’s the third? Who’s the fourth? Who’s the hundredth? Who’s the thousandth? Who’s the millionth? Who’s the billionth?” If we read in the Book of Revelation, it says that John saw, after that, he saw a number which was above every number of people that were arrayed in white (Revelation 7:9-14). He asked him, “Who be these?” Of course, we know that Jesus is the firstborn, but these are they who have come through great tribulation and have washed their robes, and they made them white—they made them white!—how? In the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before God, day and night; always. Can you imagine how great that’s going to be? Can you imagine the peace and the joy? Can you imagine the harmony? Can you imagine no more sickness, death—a perfect body? Can you imagine being so pristine, no sin could touch you. Can you imagine being the presence of God, one hundred percent, all the time? You wouldn’t have to ask for a thing forevermore. Can you imagine the power that God gives to those who wear those robes? Saints, that’s a day that I’m looking forward to. God is good to me, here; He is good to me here, but I am looking forward to a day—I am looking forward to a day, when I put on my exalted, long, white robe and I lay down my little weapons, because I ain’t gonna study war no more. I look forward to that day. I look forward to hearing His voice. The Bible says that now we look through a glass darkly, but then, face to face (Corinthians 13:12). I look forward to being in that presence; I look forward to that. Now there is something that we have to know, saints, there is something that we have to know. We’re not going to inherit everything. We’re not going to inherit everything, because our father isn’t the father of everything. He’s not the father of lies; that’s somebody else. He’s not the father of perdition or jealousy; He’s not the father of spite and hate. He’s not the father of things that take us away and drag us down; He’s not the father of sin. Our father isn’t the father of everything, so, we are not going to inherit everything, and that’s important to know. That’s important to know. I had the opportunity recently to talk to a few friends of mine, and what the conversation was about was they were telling me what they do for fun. They were telling me that they were going out to certain clubs that they liked, or whatever. So, I was like, “Oh, yeah? So what about that is so intriguing, so interesting, so great?” hey were telling me, and there happened to be a commercial on TV, and they were telling me, “Oh, I like to get this drink,” and, “I like to get that drink.” I said, “What’s the difference?” They kind of gave me a look, like, “You don’t know this stuff?” They were going through the whole lost of them. “If you don’t know, you’re missing out. How can you not know this?” But, see, they asked the wrong guy. I know I had a look of befuddlement on my face, and it shouldn’t have happened, but it did. They said, “You’re kind of missing out.” I said, “No, I’m not, that’s not part of my inheritance. I’m going to inherit streets of gold and walls of jasper. I’m going to inherit the presence of the Lord in peace, and I’m going to inherit, ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant.’ I’m going to inherit that long, white robe. I’m going to inherit the victory over the things that are down here.” That stuff? That junk? That ain’t part of my inheritance. You know, when they—because, before that, they were talking about other stuff—and, you know, I try and keep my mouth shut sometimes, but it’s like a fire, shut up in your bones (Jeremiah 20:9). Sometimes you can’t—you’re not trying to—but you can’t hold it, and I said, “Let me tell you something, I know what sin is. For crying out loud! I know what sin is. I’ve tasted sin; I’ve been in sin. Why do you think I became a Christian? I know what all that stuff is. I might not have been one of the best sinners out there—thank God!” Thank God! Thank God; I don’t think I could have been any worse. You know, I was bad enough. I’ve tasted all that junk! I’ve tasted not having God in my life! I’ve tasted being lost! I’ve tasted not knowing where to get the answers from. I’ve tasted confusion. I know what that is. You know what else? I know what longsuffering is, because that’s what God taught me—He showed it when He had it for me. I know what forbearance is, because that’s what God had. I know what mercy is; I’ve tasted that, and I love that taste. I know what grace—the grace of God—I know what that tastes like; I love that!

No, no, no, no, no, this is my inheritance: The mercy, the joy, the peace of God! That's what I'm looking for! Amen? Amen.

Someone might say, "If I am an heir of God, then I should've been rich by now." Or, "If I am an heir, and I inherit the things of God, then I shouldn't have any troubles and problems by now. If I am an heir of God, then where is all the rest of the stuff that I should get? I should have more wisdom! I should have more love! I should have more knowledge! I should have more faith, if I am an heir of God! I should have everything that the Lord Jesus did." Well, amen. "So why don't I have more in my life?" I've asked God that before, and He had to tell me. You know why you don't? There is a certain order to things—I've been privileged to see some of my brothers and sisters with such a strong anointing of love and compassion, being able to do things that I just stand there and look and say, "Wow! How, how did you get that?" You know what I'd love to be able to do? I'd love to be able to sing; I'd love that. You know what God told me? "You'd get a big head. You've got too much pride as it is! You've got too much pride! If I were to give you more, you'd have to get some humility in your life." More humility? More humility? I thought I had enough! Not if I want that, because, you see, we can have these things in the Lord, but it's a process. There is an order to how God brings things to us. Yes, there is a process. So, when I was little, I got a three speed bike. That was a big deal back then—it had three speeds!. I don't think you can find any bike with only three speeds now—I don't think they even make them any more. It was a big deal, then. I was little, and it had big tires on it. I thought, "Wow! It looks awesome, but I don't think I can ride it." It had training wheels on it, and I rode it a couple of times, but I had to have some help, because, you see, I needed to grow. Slowly but surely, I had some help and I was able to do a little but more and a little bit more. Gradually, I got to the point where I could get on the bike and get it to stand up without falling and busting my lip. Gradually, I learned how to turn a corner on the bike. I had to grow. I had to grow to be able to use the bike, and then the training wheels came off. I was able to ride the bike, but it was a process. I couldn't do it right away. Sometime later, the next big hurdle for me was to get a car, and learn how to drive. You can't just get a car and learn how to work the car, you've got to learn the rules of the road—you've got to do that, too. Having a car, but not knowing the rules of the road, that spells trouble. Here is a certain order for these things. Is Brother Bob in here? Yes. So, Bob, when I criticized you for driving the wrong way down a one-way road, that wasn't the first time that I've gone the wrong way down a one-way road. When I was learning how to navigate a car, and I was learning this car, I couldn't coordinate the street signs with the traffic lights, and the traffic, on the side, when I turned to go down a little road, and I was going the wrong way down a one-way road. I wasn't at the point—and, as fate would have it, there was a policeman coming down the other way. Very interesting story that I'll share some other time. It was a process; it has to be a process. You can't just have everything; you have to grow to be able to use what God has for you. You have to grow; you have to grow, and God wants us to grow. God wants us to grow to have all things. The fact of the matter is, I'm still growing. I had to learn how to handle a paycheck; you know, I did what I wanted to do the first couple of paychecks. Reality started to set in. It's not eternal; that paycheck has limits. I had to know what to do with a refund check, and I had to know what to do with a budget. Then I had to know how to handle anger. I had to know how to handle my own longsuffering. I had to grow to be able to do things for God. My obstacles and my limitations have to be overcome, so that God can give me more; so that God can give us more.

Part IV: The Heir Has To Be Taught And To Be An Example To Others

You see some of the kingdoms, like over there in England, you know, and some of the places where they have monarchies, it was always that the king was going to pass down the lineage. They told them, you can't just rule, and knock people over the head, and put rules on people that they're not going to be able to handle, because then we will have something that's called a revolution, and you won't be the king anymore. You have to be taught how to handle what you are given.

So, these are the instructions by the Lord to Peter, His disciple:

John 21:15-18 *So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.*

Another will gird thee (clothe thee) and take you places that you wouldn't want to go yourself. Peter, there's things here for you to do, and you wouldn't want to do, but I'm telling you, if you love Me, feed My sheep, feed my lambs, feed My young. Give what I give unto you to them; make sure they're nurtured, make sure they grow, make sure they're taken care of. This isn't just for Peter, it's for all the disciples, for the seventy, for the two-hundred and forty, the four-hundred, and all down through the ages. That is us, that is our requirement, to feed the sheep, to love them all.

So, lastly, saints, let's just say this a little plain: if you are having trouble on every hand, that makes you no less of an heir. If you are having problems with your house, if you've got flooding in your basement, if you've got problems with your home, your wife, your children, your daughter, your husband, that does not make you any less of an heir. If you lose your job, it does not make you any less of an heir. If your house burns down, and you find yourself homeless, that does not make you any less of an heir of God. What ever you go through, it does not make you any less of an heir, because the Bible says, if an heir, then when the time appointed of the Father shall come, we shall inherit all prepared for us. That's not just in heaven, that is here. What is your request of the Lord? We are an heir of God, and God will give us what we can handle if we ask. Amen. You are an heir. God bless.

