

“What Does Being an Heir Mean For Me?”

By Brother Andy Giebler
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Good morning. I'll tell you, I was thinking about what to share about, and I'm looking over the song list—I know that a lot of times the songs we sing sometimes are newer songs, sometimes they're songs that we've sung for years—but, as I look through the song list—the songs we did today—I try to look at them on the light of what we're talking about for the month. We're talking about being an heir, having an inheritance, having a Heavenly Father, and that's the kind of theme that I try to put into these songs, and look at it from that view. “Sweeter Gets The Journey Every Day,” it's sweeter because I know what my inheritance is. “You Are My All in All,” we have a god worthy of praise this morning. We have a God worthy of giving glory to. “Jesus Is the Lord of the Way I Feel,” I know that there's going to be times when we not going to feel good, but, when we have something we want to do, we can get up and do it, if it's in the flesh, and even more so, Jesus being the Lord of the way that we do our things. “My Chains are Gone,” “Here I Am to Worship,” “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High,” “Praise Song,” those are all—I like to look at those songs in the light of what we're talking about at the moment. We're talking about being an heir, I was thinking, “What does that mean for me?” I took the tie to go back through some Scriptures, and go back and look at what does it mean to part of the Kingdom of God? A lot of what we've talked about and listened to in these last three messages: What does it take to be an heir, what does it mean to be an heir, and what is our inheritance? Parrish shared about the bickering and fighting sometimes at a funeral... I look at that from a different point of view sometimes, and I'm more on the humble side, and I think, you know, when my dad dies, I'm not so much worried about—sure, I know there's things that are there; I have two sisters, I know that we're going to split up that inheritance, okay. Sometimes people don't want to talk about it, but this is one that, it's okay to talk about it. There's no bickering about it; there's no fighting. I mean, your inheritance is between you and your Heavenly Father. I don't have to fight with any of you for my inheritance; I don't have to get a lawyer and figure out who gets what. I don't. My Father and—it's according to what I've one, not according to what anybody else has done. The other side of it is, do I expect to get an inheritance? What am I doing here in this day and age?

We talked about, so what is our inheritance? Our salvation? What do I get? Eternal life? We talked about salvation. Sometimes we throw that out as a term, in churches, “Are you saved?” So, what exactly does that mean? Right here, right now, am I saved? Just because I got baptized, does that mean I'm saved? Being in the family of God is where I see my salvation, because I know that day-to-day I'm walking with God. I know that day-to-day I have a choice to make. My salvation is sue because of the path I'm on, not because I did one act. That's a key thing to remember as we're going through our Scriptures.

Jesse shared something that really struck a note: A woman, when she gets an engagement ring, she's showing it off. She starts every greeting with, “Hi,” showing off that ring. It's an exciting day; she's excited about something, and if we listen to the rhetoric of maybe TV commercials, and hear, “Oh, he went to Jared.” They'd have you think it's about the ring, but it's not about a piece of jewelry, nice as it might be, and as much as the woman likes to put in on her finger. She's not showing off the ring, just for the sake of saying “I got a piece of jewelry.” What's the next thing after she shows off that shiny ring? She's talking about her fiancé. The man's no different; he talking about it, he just doesn't have a piece of jewelry to show off. He's excited about that relationship. He's showing it off; he's telling about it. Just the same, he talked about the pearl of great price. Someone went and that one pearl, that one thing he wanted, and went and sold everything he had to get it. We're talking about the relationship between a man and a woman, and that's awesome, that's something to get excited about, but we've got something even better than that. We have that relationship with our Father; we have that relationship to show off; we have that relationship to tell people about. If a woman is showing off the ring, and telling

about her fiancé, she's saying, "He's mine, and nobody else's." I have a God that, He can be your Father, too. It's not exclusive. It's something we can take pride in.

God gave us power.

John 1:1-5, 12-13 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (12) But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

He gave us power; He gave us a choice. I have a choice. I can't choose who my natural dad is. That's something well beyond my control. But, being born again into this kingdom—it's even called an adoption—being born into that is my choice. It's my choice to take it or leave it. He gave us free will, just like Adam and Eve in the garden: They had a choice whether to sin or not. All through the Old Testament, men and women had choices. We have our choice. We have many that have paved the way to show us that choice. For another Scripture about being born into that:

Romans 6:1-6 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

In piecing all this together and thinking about it, Jesse shared about someone had to die, and He had to rise again. By the same token, we had to die. That's the beauty of it; we die to our old man, we die to our sin, I died to my sin, so that they're not there any more. But, then again, there is a resurrection. In baptism, we are raised to a newness in life. Being in this family, having this inheritance, it's a matter of sticking with it. It's a matter of living according to this new family that we've found ourselves a part of—that we've become a part of, that God has given us—when with our mom and dad and brothers and sisters at home, there's rules to follow. I'm not one to preach about rules and such, because I don't like the, but they're there for a reason. In your family, there are consequences if you didn't follow the rules. If you didn't do what you needed to do, you might miss out on something. The same in Christ—a lot of people want to say that, "I've been born again." Okay. "Now I have something that's there forever, that can never go away." I wish that were true, but the Bible goes on to talk about a lot of things, such as living in the spirit. What do I have to do?

Galatians 6:7-8 *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

We have a job to do. We can choose what our life is. We can choose how we do things. A lot of—one of my pet peeves is people that say, "Oh, I woke up on the wrong side of the bed this morning," or, a couple of things go wrong, and they say, "Oh, it's just going to be a bad day." Why? You have set your day forth; you have made your decision that it's going to be a bad day by doing that. I have a boss,

and he's got a coffee cup that has Grumpy Smurf on it. Somewhere along the line, he has gotten the title of Grumpy. He's accepted it, so he proudly carries this thing around at work. Our life is what we make of it, in our workplaces, in our family, our life in God is what we make of it. We don't have to accept the lies that Satan tells us. We have this heritage, which is such a privilege, that, even when Satan says, "You'll never make anything of yourself; you'll never—you can't do anything more than sit in that chair. You can't even open your mouth and share a Scripture." That's just a lie, you know, to say that you've got this sin in your life or a problem in your life that you can't get rid of and you just have to be a slave to it for the rest of your life. That's a lie. Just as we have the power of choice—you know, I have the power of choice to wake up in the morning and spill my coffee or whatever, I have a choice to make my day better. I have the choice to say, "Okay, I'm going to have a good day." Spiritually, we have that choice to make as well. A lot of times people say they want these things in their life, and wonder how to get them.

I read this Scripture earlier in the week, and a brother corrected me on how I read it, and it makes a difference in how I look at it.

Galatians 5:19-22 *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. But the fruit of the Spirit...*

This is where the brother corrected me. I was saying, "...the fruits of the Spirit..." The fruit. When we plant a tree, we get a fruit. When we live for God, we bear fruit. The fruit is what you see that comes from that tree; it shows you what type of tree it is. That fruit of the Spirit—we read back in Galatians chapter 6, it says if we to the Spirit, we will reap accordingly.

Galatians 5:22-25 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

We have the ability to bear those things, but, let's look at in the natural: If I want an apple tree, I've got to plant an apple tree, don't I? If I want the fruit of that Spirit—to be those things, if that's the Spirit that I want to obey in my life, if I want to be a servant of God.—then I have to do the things that cause me to grow in God. That's part of having this inheritance; that's part of having this heritage; that's part of having a privilege in God. The question is, "How do I sow to the spirit? What things do I do that increase my spirit, or increase my godliness?" That's what we do here. We come to church; it's about the inheritance. I don't come to church just to have church. It's fun to play a song, and to sing, but I come to draw strength from the people that are here—from my brothers and my sisters. That's why we come together and have our men's fellowship. That's why the women got together on Saturday morning and had fellowship at breakfast. That's why we go to help each other out, and we have our Wednesday night Bible studies. Those are all sowing to the spirit; those are all causing that seed to grow. Getting together, I learn something from everybody. That goes for other things: our prayer time, and it's one of those things that—in the flesh—and it's a choice. Do I take the time to get on my knees and seek the face of my God? Am I sowing to the spirit in that way? You can look at it in a human relationship, whether it's brother or sister, your cousin, a good friend, your husband, your wife—if you want that relationship to grow, you've got to spend some time on it. A lot of people say, "Oh, look at you; you've got the perfect marriage." Realistically, there's no such thing as the perfect marriage. If you see those people that have that marriage—and there are people that have wonderful marriages, don't get me wrong and it is a wonderful thing—but there's people that you see, and you wonder, "How did they get there? How did

they do that?" Well, there's things that you don't see that they worked at. You know, you see someone that's spiritual, you see someone that's seemingly got it all together, you see someone that knows all the Scriptures,, the didn't just get there by chance. God didn't just say, "Poof," you know, "instant elder." No. It just doesn't happen like that. It's all about taking the time to become spiritual. It's a responsibility, as well. We have a responsibility for each other. We have a responsibility to lift one another up. As I said, that's why we come here; it's not just a matter of having church. Amen.

