

“On Earth As It Is in Heaven”

We come to what may be the “hinge” upon which this entire prayer “swings” – “on earth as it is in heaven”. We’ve established earlier that heaven can be described as the place of one will – God’s! And, we’ve concluded that Jesus demonstrated fully and perfectly that it is possible for a man to live “on earth as it is in heaven”... in a human body, in a less than perfect world, in whatever circumstances He was in. Our request to God is essentially, “make the reality of this prayer more real to me every day... here on earth... before I die!” (See Heb 3:7,15; 4:7)

To pray in this manner is to ask God to bring Who He is to where I am – “Bring Your Heavenly supply to my earthly need.” And the New Testament makes it clear that His supply is Himself (II Pet 1:3,4). And that by grace through faith all that God gives us in livable. Our born-againness opens the door to a “living hope” (I Pet 1:3) – hope that is full of life... His Life! From this truth we derive a confidence made possible by the reality of the ever-living Son of God living in (and through) us. To pray “on earth as it is in heaven” is to begin to tap into our “inheritance” (I Pet 1:4). One that is “imperishable” – cannot be exhausted or destroyed, “undefiled” – cannot be polluted, and “unfading” – it is no fluctuating source. We appropriate, step into this full and perfect inheritance one day, one choice at a time.

How do we know when we are doing so? When we are stepping into “on earth as it is in heaven”? When we are possessing our possessions? Jubilation! (I Pet 1:6-8) The consequence of appropriating our heavenly inheritance here on earth is a holy gladness rooted in the unseen and eternal (heavenly) realities of God. Such “jumping for joy” (lit.) is not the result of dreaming of, studying about, or wishing for “heavenly” experiences. It is the witness of God upon those who will dare to join their “choosers” (while here on earth) to God’s heavenly choices.

As we grow in praying “on earth as it is in heaven”, we might begin to get the idea that “earthly” trials are meant for “heavenly” withdrawals. It seems to be one of God’s designated channels of grace for us in stormy times on earth, anchoring us in the reality of His imperishable, undefileable, unfading supply. (Heb 6:19) Peter seemed to think so. “Even though now... distresses... trials... testings by fire” (I Pet 1:6,7) – God’s intended destiny, His purposed result is “praise and glory and honor to Christ... the salvation of your souls... (a promised) holiness” (I Pet 1:7,9,16). God’s ultimate intention – the personal receptivity and release of His very real Life – becomes our ultimate privilege – the personal appropriation of His heavenly gifts for all of our earthly moments!

Yes, it is true – receive Jesus Christ and He will take you to Heaven. And, it is just as true: while on earth, receive your inheritance – your full and perfect Supply – and He will bring heaven to you!



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Greetings



Hopefully, 2024 began with you being more solidly anchored in Christ and His eternal, heavenly realities than ever before. I get a sense we're going to need such realities more than ever before! (Especially in the emotionally and culturally and relationally unstable and immature world in which we live.)

I do not mean that in any pessimistic sense - there's nothing new under the sun when it comes to distresses, trials, and testings. I simply mean it in the Hebrews 12:26-28 sense - we are entering into an unmistakable "shaking" season. Many things which can be "shaken" (created, here today/gone tomorrow) will be exposed for what they are - inadequate, unreal, false deliverers. A number of them may even be "removed" (toppled, undone, discarded).

But, not for naught! God's intent for such events - born of the fire of His passion for undiluted purity in His family - is for us to enter more solidly than ever into the Unshakable realities of our immovable oneness with Him.

Yes, we may grieve over some of the (temporal) losses in these "shakings", but not as those without hope! As we go on receiving the dynamic possession of His possessions, we just may return to Him with a renewed sense of "reverence and awe". Any report, any newscast, any loss of the "lose-able" can be seen as the messenger of Christ saying, "Step into the changeless, unshakable Christ - He is your anchor in every storm."

Praise & Prayer †

- † Our Florida Retreat and upcoming conferences
- † Opportunities to bring praise, glory, and honor to Christ in all of life's "shakings"
-  Christ our anchor in every storm
-  Our imperishable inheritance in Christ

Calendar

FEBRUARY

13 Alachua Study

23-25 FLORIDA RETREAT

27 Ocala Study

MARCH

8-10 New Orleans, LA

22-24 Binghamton, NY (607-341-6062)

APRIL 26-28 Hardin, KY (270-437-4172)

Please pray for the
Florida Retreat

February 23-25, 2024

P.S. It may be too late, (perhaps not), to secure a room, but walk-ins are always welcome!