

Just As you Received Him...So walk in Him!

Col 2:6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

By B. D. Tate

Jesus said to all of us:

Lu 11:10 "For everyone who asks **receives**, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

A Great Misunderstanding

We grew up in the church during a day of great misunderstanding. We were led to believe that we needed to keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking. We were led to believe that the things we needed were outside of us and needed to be added. We were led to believe that our blessings would come to us, that if we asked anything in Jesus' name He would do it. We were led to believe that receiving meant we didn't have it yet.

We all know that **a promise** is something not yet given, or done yet. **A promise** is not needed if you already have it. If I'm married I don't go to my wife and promise to marry her—I already have. When we see the promises of scripture we often think that these things are yet to be given.

Jesus taught before His glorification. He had to teach the law in its purest form in order to bring to light how bad the situation was for all of us. There is no one who is righteous; especially by any effort of self righteousness. Jesus taught the power of the law because He was teaching unsaved, unregenerate people—no one was born of the Spirit. When He taught about the promises they were all set for the day of salvation. Jesus was speaking about a future period soon to come at His own expense that would take the promise and make it ours. While He walked the earth all of the promises of God would be outside of us; however, after He is glorified, descends into the abyss and rises to the Father’s right hand, the Spirit of promise will come to us and abide in us. **Therefore, the promise goes from being outside of us to inside of us.**

The Real Blessing of Abraham

We hear a lot about the Blessing of Abraham being ours in teachings from the body of Christ. Abraham is considered the father of many nations bringing in faith by promise to all who will receive it. When this blessing is taught often what is cited as examples of this blessing is the life and prosperity of Abraham himself. For Abraham was rich with many servants and much livestock and was given the land of promise. When this understanding is presented that God wants to bless us like he did Abraham, we get the mindset that these things are coming to us like they did Abraham. It is as if God’s blessing of Abraham’s is our blessing too—we just need to believe God for it to come.

Let’s take a closer look at what the blessing of Abraham is.

Gal. 13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

14 **that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

16 Now to Abraham **and his Seed** were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "**And to your Seed,**" **who is Christ.**

The blessing of Abraham is Christ! When we are taught that it has to do with Abraham's riches we get off on the wrong track. The true track is the Spirit in Christ. Our religious minds however, when we think it is just Jesus begin to get disappointed because we'd like to be rich like Abraham was made rich.

This is because we have not understood how great our salvation is. We have been led to relegate it to heaven and heavenly things. **When we've done this we have limited our ability to grasp and apply the tremendous blessing Jesus is to us.**

Which is the greater blessing? Is it greater to have Abraham's riches or to have Jesus? Well, some might say that is an obvious choice, Jesus is the greater blessing because that is for eternity. Yet, how many of us are thinking, "But I wouldn't mind having both." We think that Jesus is for eternity but we need Abraham's blessing now. We need help in this life. We need riches to overcome the curse of poverty, sickness and disease, and be a blessing to others.

The Best Way to Walk

The scripture admonishes us to walk in the same way that we received Jesus Christ. The Word is telling us that the **best way to live is to walk in (the same way that we received) Jesus.** What we often hear though is that being blessed by Christ means that the material blessings of Abraham are what God meant. If we pursue these blessings (the material blessings), **we are going to miss a lot.**

We Needed Jesus

God knows what we need even before we ask that includes material things (Matt. 6:8). We also know that we can't take anything of this world with us when we die. If we spend our days striving and working towards the material blessings we are not walking in Jesus. How did Jesus walk? What were His priorities? What kind of life did He live?

He was rich although as He said He had no bed to lie down upon (Luke 9:58). He was powerful but He did not become a politician or commander or king in this life. He was influential beyond anyone who has ever lived and yet he did not write one book. He served and ministered the power of God to multitudes healing, cleansing, delivering, and casting out demons by a word or by laying on His hands. He was obedient, humble, and did not seek His own reputation (Phil. 3:5-8); yet, His life means more than all the lives that have ever lived. He did nothing of His own, what He spoke or where He went; He allowed the Spirit and the Father to work through Him (John 14:10). His priority was to always do what pleases the Father and in three and a half years of ministry He profoundly changed the world. He was a lamb led to the slaughter but became the lion of Judah. He was ridiculed,

rejected, and reproached but now has become the name above all names. He was whipped, beaten, and crucified, put to death; but now every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. He came to offer Himself a ransom for many and to make intercession for sinners; and now by His life all that come to Him find salvation, peace, deliverance, freedom, joy, and love. Do we honestly need the blessings of Abraham or can we embrace that we have received the blessing of heaven—Jesus Christ the righteous? We were lost in trespasses and sins but Jesus redeemed us from them taking us out of the kingdom of darkness and translating us into the kingdom of God (Col. 1:13). We were blind but now we see; we were lost but now we are found. We were without hope and strength but now we have the blessed Hope and strength of heaven within us. Is there really anything in life worth pursuing over or in place of living to the one born into our spirit? As we have received the Lord so walk in Him! This is life, this is meaning, this is purpose, this is fruitfulness and profitability for our God.

What Alienated in Trespasses & Sins Means

What happened when we received Jesus? We were lost, separated from God's love. **We were alienated in trespasses and sins.** What trespasses and sins did to us was make us "dead" to **faith and believing God.** It stops us from trusting in God—who He is and what He's done in Christ on our behalf. **It has hardened our heart towards Him.** We have been living as if our sins prevent God from blessing us. We have been living as if God were angry or disappointed with us. We have been living as if our sins stop God's answers to our prayers. We have been living as children of God under the law—under the old covenant. We are not under law

but under grace and have been positioned in Christ with nothing between us and God! God no longer deals with us according to the law and our efforts; He deals with us in Christ forever (1 John 4:17). What hinders us from walking in that blessing is our own guilt and sin consciousness from trespasses and sins.

Our Salvation

We heard the good news that Jesus paid for our sins in the cross. We heard that anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. We heard, we listened, we believed, we called out, we responded, and we became born again. Did we receive this experience by something we saw? Did we receive it by doing good things? Did we get it by keeping the law? No, we received our blessing of Abraham by faith in God's grace. As we heard and believed; as we listened and called out; as we repented in changing our mind to believe the right things we responded. This is how we walk in Jesus not by trying to do right, by waiting until we see it as in signs, or by trying to keep the law; it was all by hearing the Word of God; faith arose within us and we responded. We stop living life as if we are still without Him. We stop living life as if we are still mere human beings caught in trespasses and sins. We stop living life dependent upon this world's beggarly elements and rise up to what we have now.

What We Have Now!

We received forgiveness of all our sins and ***we were cleansed*** from all unrighteousness. We received the Spirit and we cried out Abba Father. We received God's love and basked in it. When we were filled we didn't care about anything else. We

found peace and meaning. We found joy and love. **We were content to stay in that warm embrace.** We were taking from God and taking some more as precious children of heaven. This is faith in grace and God's game plan...however, we've been led in some wrong ways.

We Were Led to Believe...

The glow faded because we got busy with the Christian life. We were taught that the Spirit comes and goes but to stay faithful. We were told we'd go through dry periods and have wilderness experiences like the children of Israel did. We were told that God loves us but often holds back to teach us character and discipline.

We were led to believe that God is pleased when we pursue the things of God and become more and more holy. We were told that truly holy people have deeper relationships with God; God answers them more because they are closer to God. We were told that when we sin we are ***losing our fellowship with God*** and need to repent and return to God. We were told that only those who work hard at their faith will experience miracles. The true saints of God have denied themselves of material blessings; have not loved the world or their families more than God. They seek God first and therefore they are spiritually deep.

I've Got A Better Way to Live

I grew up being taught these things and have believed them for most of my life—but no more. I'm sure that some of these comments have taken some by surprise and maybe you're not sure if I'm right to not believe it anymore. Maybe I need to

explain further in order to help you understand why I can let them go...or maybe I can just try to show you what it's really suppose to be like.

What It's Supposed to Be Like

As we have received Him so walk in Him! When we received Christ we received everything. When we asked we received; when we sought we found! When we knocked on heaven's door the door was opened to us. We need to realize just how big being born again is. We are made righteous and holy in the same image of Jesus (II Cor. 3:18). We don't need to pursue anything, ask for anything, knock for anything more...what could be greater than Jesus? If we ask, pursue, or knock it is not for things outside of us but to discover, realize, and acknowledge what has been born into us! We have the great I AM abiding in our heart!

Philemon 1: 6 that the sharing of your faith may become effective **by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.**

A greater than any Genie has been born into our spirit and we are made one with Him (I Cor. 6:17); therefore, do not be distracted by worldly things which hinder us from using what we've got.

We were bound in trespasses and sins. Jesus paid for all of them so that as far as God is concerned it is as if we never committed them. God is not stuck in our trespasses and sins. **When we continue to sin we get stuck in them because they hinder us from seeing and believing in Jesus.**

We have all we need already given to us that pertain to life and godliness (I Pet. 1:1-3). We don't need Abraham's riches we have greater riches within us. We need to realize what we've got and begin to use it.

We Are the Good Ground!

When we became born again we became the good ground! We became the fruitful even to a hundred fold ***what limits it is not God it is our believing.*** **What we believe about our born again experience determines what gets manifest!**

Reconsider this message from the booklet “*Receiving Isn't a Mystery*” (With a few additions...)

When we don't receive it isn't an accident. **There is something blocking reception.** The radio or TV stations are still broadcasting but something has interfered with the reception.

This is describing the heart battle...

The good ground just didn't happen for some but not for all...Good ground was first hard ground, cold, insensitive to the things of God, couldn't remember scripture, didn't comprehend spiritual things, but the ground was broken up, tilled, focus **and effort was made to make God's Word important (we became born again)**...then when the stones of other commitments were the problem decisions were made to decrease their presence, to give up things, **to prioritize things according to God's values (grace upon grace)**...then with the weeds, thorns, and thistles, more decisions were made; not to get so entangled with the world; to decrease and simplify commitments to those cares, to

decrease interests in lusts (cutting off the R rated stuff or worse). It was getting rid of the temptations (stop providing for them); **putting the things of God first, getting involved with others who are committed to God.** They don't trust in money, they give, they sacrifice, they help others, they worship and honor God with their things, money, and power...in doing these things, **by living to God's grace and love** they are eliminating all of the distractions of this world from their heart, they are in the right position knowing they have **received!** **They walk in grace**, they invest in God's Word and Spirit, they experience power in faith from the fellowship of God's love, they see answers, deliverance, and healing in their life **more and more**...knowing that they are channels **or good ground because they made room in their heart for God above all else**...and God's love and grace empower them to live right.

Misunderstanding the Receiving Part

They have done their homework and are in a position of receptivity to God...**What gets misunderstood is the receiving part.** We revert back to thinking that what we are looking for in spiritual life is somehow outside of us to be received. Not so, a thousand times, not so. What is being received isn't any blessing, substance of spiritual life, no doors are opening, nothing is being found, etc...**what is being received is the right believing!** We are receiving in our heart, mind, and will, the right understanding, the right truth, the real deal, and believing the right believing!

Jas 1:21 Therefore ***lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness***, and receive with meekness the **implanted** word, which is able to save your souls.

Conclusion

Receiving isn't a mystery. God hasn't decided to give His grace more to one over another. He has poured out His Spirit on ALL flesh (Acts 2:17), given His grace to whosoever will, and empowered His sons and daughters according to the focus, attention, and willingness to make God's Word Lord of their lives. **God's word will promote us indiscriminately according to the power that works in us.** We decide how much **and that is determined by our own heart's receptivity.**

We don't make faith we **received** it. We don't increase in power we **received it.** **What we do is provide for our own receptivity to God's Word and Spirit.** There are things that hinder us from receiving in our heart and I've mentioned them. **Our job then is to be receivers (in our mind and heart) and figuring out how to become better at receiving makes a lot of sense.** Sometimes we need to spend time in prayer so that the Holy Spirit can reveal to us those things that we are doing that stop us from receiving (to believe) or accepting what God has already done in us in Christ. Amen.

As you have received Him, so walk in Him. When we received Him we got all that He is...now transform our heart by renewing our mind (Rom. 12:1-2) to think, imagine, and speak in agreement with what we have RECEIVED!

Other Booklets:

Think, Act, and Speak Faith (As a new language)

We Have Received; We Need to Acknowledge It

Receiving Isn't A Mystery

Yes and Amen

Receptivity is Huge!