JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST
Bible Text: Romans 8:16-18

Prayer

Our heavenly father, the Lord Jesus Christ, we bless your name for such a wonderful moment. We pray that as we start, you teach us yourself in Jesus Christ's name. Thank you, father. In Jesus Christ's name we prayed, amen.

Study

At a point in time, some of us could have come across these verses or it might have been told that we are heirs and joint heirs with Christ. And, that means we have the same authority and right that Jesus Christ had when He was on Earth. How did you feel the day you heard it? That you have the power Christ had and still has. Many of us jumped up in jubilation. Of course, it is worthy of jubilation because it's one of the things the free gift of salvation offered us. However, we will learn more about it and after the end of the study, you will jubilate more, fully knowing everything that surrounds being a joint heirs with Christ.

Rom 8:16:

"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"

Just as we know that the moment a person accepts Christ, his Spirit is joined to that of God and he becomes one Spirit with God. This is why the Spirit of God which is now in us bears and testifies with our spirit that we are His children. This is why you can only deceive men and not the kingdom of darkness because they know the spirit of God when they see Him. So, if you are pretending to have His Spirit, it will be vivid to them. The reason we mostly find it difficult to exert our authority upon the Earth is only because we do not know the essence and importance of the Spirit of God within us. Let me ask you a question, what have you been using the Spirit of God within you to do? People are changing the world positively with this Spirit in them while some are taking the world for Christ.

What are you doing with the Spirit in you?

Is it eating, playing games and watching movies?

Think about this while we continue...

It is only the Spirit of God that can bear witness and convict our spirit that we are children of God. No matter the work you do and no matter the number of people who tell you that you are a child of God, if the Spirit of God does not bear witness to your spirit, you can never have the peace that you are a child of God.

And, the moment you genuinely accept Christ, the Spirit of God bears witness with your spirit and becomes one with your spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:17:

"But if you join yourself to the Lord, you are one with Him in spirit."

Having understood that you are one with God in Spirit, then what happens next?

Rom 8:17:

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

It says that if we are children of God, then we are heirs of God. Since Jesus Christ is the son of God and we have access to God through Jesus Christ, then we are joint-heirs with Christ.

What does an heir mean? Let's look deeply into that.

Who is an heir?

An heir is one who receives or is entitled to receive something other than property from a parent or predecessor. And, the verse makes us understand that we are HEIRS with God. This means that we are entitled to receiving something other than property, since we are heirs of God. And, if you look through your Bible, you will discover that a person has access to all the things God has the moment the person accepts Christ. Which means this verse does not lie.

Now, please, pay attention to this.

The continuation of the verse tells us that we are JOINT-HEIRS with Christ. What does that mean?

The Greek word for Joint-heirs is **Sugkleronomos** which means a fellow heir. Do you know that after Jesus came to the world to die for the sins of men, He was much more esteemed highly and given a name that is ABOVE every other name. Jesus was not Jesus before He died for the sins of men. He was regarded as the word of God, but the moment He died and resurrected, He was given a very powerful name which no power can stand.

Phil 2:8-11:

"And being found in fashion as a man, he HUMBLED HIMSELF, and became OBEDIENT unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath HIGHLY EXALTED him, and GIVEN him a NAME which is ABOVE every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

So, Jesus is now an heir of God because He humbled Himself and obeyed the Father even unto death. So, one of the major reasons God granted Jesus so much attention and power is because He obeyed Him and gave Himself for man. So, Jesus has access to everything God has which makes Him an heir because a slave can never have the same right as the father. No wonder Jesus made some statements in the bible. Let me show us:

Mat 28:18:

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

John 10:30:

"I and my Father are one."

Because Jesus became the heir of God, He automatically has the power and authority God has. This is why He also said both he and His father are one.

I believe we are getting this powerful revelation?

Now, the bible tells us that we are joint-heirs with Christ because since Jesus is an heir of God, we became an heir by accepting what He did on the cross and we are now joined with Christ to become an heir together to God. This is why we are joint-heirs with Christ.

It simply means that we join Christ to become an heir to God; to have access to everything God has. What a wonder!

But, one common thing amongst christians is that the moment they read that verse, they do not bother reading further. They only stop at "joint-heirs with Christ" which shouldn't be. Now, let's continue the verse.

It says:

Rom 8:17:

...if so be that we SUFFER with him, that we may be also GLORIFIED together."

The reason many do not bother about the rest of the verse is because we have more jamboree and celebrity christians who do not want to suffer with Christ at all. All they want is the enjoyment that comes with serving God and do not want to partake in anything that can cause pain to their flesh. This is very wrong. The verse says that "IF WE SUFFER WITH HIM", which means that suffering with Christ is expedient. Christ suffered when He was accused and beaten on Earth. If you want to join Him in partaking of the glory of the father, you must be ready to suffer with Him.

It is very simple, if you are not ready to suffer with Him, you are not ready and worthy to be glorified with Him. This is why the instructions of God sometimes will look impossible, because there is always a glory attached to the aftermath of the suffering. Suffering for Christ could be in any form, the Lord can lead you to preach to a person and the person will end up insulting you and abusing you. There is a reason God led you to such a person but if you flare up and refuse to be calm and patient, you will vow never to approach any hot tempered person to preach to such again.

You can be told to engage in fastings when you are hungry. As a minister, you can be told to leave the city to go into a forsaken village and set up your church there.

It will look foolish because the church you set up in the city already has 2000 members. Now, God telling you to hand over the church to someone else and to go and start another one in a village with not up to 500 people in it will look strange.

You might be tried and tested by God with delay in child bearing for many years yet you keep serving faithfully and praying for people and they are giving birth. You may be told to empty your bank account and give to a church or to a ministry or told to sell your house or cars and give to the poor.

Suffering for and with Christ can come in anyway. It will entail denying yourself of pleasure or something you desire. It will definitely take a part of you and might look shocking to you until you understand that you really have to suffer with Him so as to be glorified with Him.

I believe God is speaking to someone here tonight.

Never be too rigid or sad to suffer for Christ, even if you are told to leave your well paid job, do not be sad though it might not be easy. But, what you should always think of is that if you suffer with Him, you will be glorified together with Him.

Let me show you something more interesting. Let's check the next verse for it.

Romans 8:18:

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Kindly read the above verse 3 times and take note of the bolded parts more.

What a joy! The verse is making us know that no matter the suffering we undergo now for Christ, it can never be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. This is a great hope that God has given us that no matter the sufferings, think of any suffering you might be suffering for Christ, it still can never be worth comparing with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Which means mathematically, here is the equation;

Sufferings of this present times < The glory which shall be revealed in us.

It simply means the sufferings of this present time is far lesser than the glory which shall be revealed. In fact, the bible says the both can never be compared with one another. Which means we cannot even compare them that way.

Glory to God forevermore!

This is why we should not be running away from suffering for Christ because it will grant us much more exceeding reward. The measure of your suffering for Christ is the measure of the reward you will get. Why would you think Apostle Paul was stoned to death for preaching the gospel and when he finally woke up, he stood up and continued preaching the gospel? Who does such a thing? It is because he was aware of the glory ahead.

Never try to get the glory without the suffering, it will never be possible. Every great man you see out there passed through the process. Anybody who just becomes wealthy suddenly either engaged in a money ritual or had at a point in time passed through some processes without you knowing.

Since the sufferings of this present time cannot be compared with the glory ahead, what should we focus on? The glory ahead. If only we can keep it in mind and we think more about the glory ahead, the easier it becomes for us to be patient while passing through sufferings for His sake.

I believe you learnt one thing or the other.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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