



Love

BEFORE

Labor

WHY WE SERVE FROM GRACE, NOT FOR IT

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Call to the Word
Eph 1:3-6



How often do we walk
past spiritual riches
unnoticed, glory hidden
in plain sight?

Introduction

Spiritual Blessings

New identity. You are not defined by your past, your job, or current strain. You are a set-apart man in Christ.

We are given unmerited favor (Grace) with which we experience peace with God and the peace of God

Review
Eph 1:3-6

Spiritual Blessings

Chosen in Him: not an afterthought

Holy and Without Blame Before Him in Love

Adopted: You have Full legal standing. Permanent inheritance.
Irrevocable belonging.

Review
Eph 1:3-6

Spiritual Blessings

It gave God pleasure to save you

The Father's delight in His Son becomes the Father's disposition toward you.

Accepted in the Beloved: highly favored, graced over.

Review
Eph 1:3-6

**The Spiritual Blessings of
“redemption” (apolutrosis): payment by ransom**

1Co 6:20

Jn 8:34, 36

The cross is not divine sentiment. It is divine settlement.

Redemption & Forgiveness

Eph 1:7

“forgiveness” (aphesis): sending away
The debt was dismissed

“according to the riches of His grace”
Not “out” but “according”
In proportion to His riches

He forgave you “according to” His riches — and His riches are infinite.

Redemption & Forgiveness
Eph 1:7

Familiarity Dulls our Awe

Grace only feels infinite when guilt feels serious.

We Just Move Too Fast

Beauty is there. Glory is present. But we're rushing.

The issue isn't the value of redemption.

It's the velocity of our lives.

Redemption & Forgiveness

Eph 1:7

Your salvation wasn't an emotional reaction from heaven; it was a divine strategy.

“God’s grace is not only abundant; it is also thoughtful. He has not forgiven us recklessly, but in wisdom and understanding.” (Stott)

Redemption & Forgiveness
Eph 1:8

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What’s next?

If your salvation was planned in eternity, your tomorrow is not an afterthought.

Redemption & Forgiveness
Eph 1:8

The Spiritual Blessing of Revealed Mystery

mystery (mystērion): refers to something once hidden but now revealed.

The Big Reveal was that God's ultimate purpose is to unite all things — heaven and earth — under the lordship of Christ.

We didn't discover it.

He revealed it.

Revealed Mystery

Eph 1:9-10

The Spiritual Blessings of Obtaining an inheritance & Being an Inheritance

Now when someone leaves a will, it is necessary to prove that the person who made it is dead. The will goes into effect only after the person's death. While the person who made it is still alive, the will cannot be put into effect.

(Heb 9:16-17)

Inheritance & Sovereign Purpose
Eph 1:11-12

Partial List of Our Inheritance

- **A secure future** — An inheritance “incorruptible and undefiled” (1 Pet 1:4).
- **Access to God** — Bold approach to the Father (Eph 2:18).
- **Citizenship in God’s kingdom** — No longer strangers (Eph 2:19).

Inheritance & Sovereign Purpose
Eph 1:11-12

Partial List of Our Inheritance

- **Eternal life** — Shared life with Christ (John 17:3).
- **Co-heirship with Christ** — We share in what belongs to Him (Rom 8:17)
- **Unshakable hope** — The certainty of glory to come (Col 1:27)

Inheritance & Sovereign Purpose
Eph 1:11-12

His Inheritance

Not only do we receive one. We are one.

God looks at redeemed sinners — not because we were impressive, but because He redeemed us — and says, “That’s My treasured possession.”

Exodus 19:5-6; Isa 43:1; 1Pe 2:9; Titus 2:14

Inheritance & Sovereign Purpose
Eph 1:11-12

Inheritance means my future is secure. Sovereign purpose means my present is intentional. I may not see how it all fits together, but I know where it's going — and I know Who is guiding it.

I can live with confidence, endure with hope, and rest without fear. Because nothing in my life — not even the confusing parts — falls outside His wise design.

Inheritance & Sovereign Purpose
Eph 1:11-12

The Spiritual Blessing of Being Sealed with the Holy Spirit

The word **sealed (sphragizō)**: to stamp with authority or ownership.

Seals in the ancient world conveyed:
Ownership, Authenticity & Security

God has placed His Spirit on you as His protective claim.

Inheritance & Sovereign Purpose
Eph 1:13-14

The Holy Spirit is our “Guarantee” (Earnest / Down Payment)

The Holy Spirit is God’s down payment on you.

Not partial salvation.

Not temporary assurance.

But a binding pledge that the full inheritance will come.

Inheritance & Sovereign Purpose
Eph 1:13-14

If the Holy Spirit is our downpayment then you have:

Power to Overcome Sin & Character Transformation

Power to Do Ministry through the Gifts of the Spirit

You're not just surviving Christianity. You're rehearsing eternity.

Inheritance & Sovereign Purpose
Eph 1:13-14

If the Holy Spirit is our downpayment then you have:

Guidance and Direction (Rom 8:14)

Transformation of Character (Gal 5:22-23)

Intimacy with God (Eph 2:18)

Spiritual Insight & Understanding of Truth (1Co 2:12)

**Inheritance & Sovereign Purpose
Eph 1:13-14**

The Nuance

Real power now
Not full power yet.

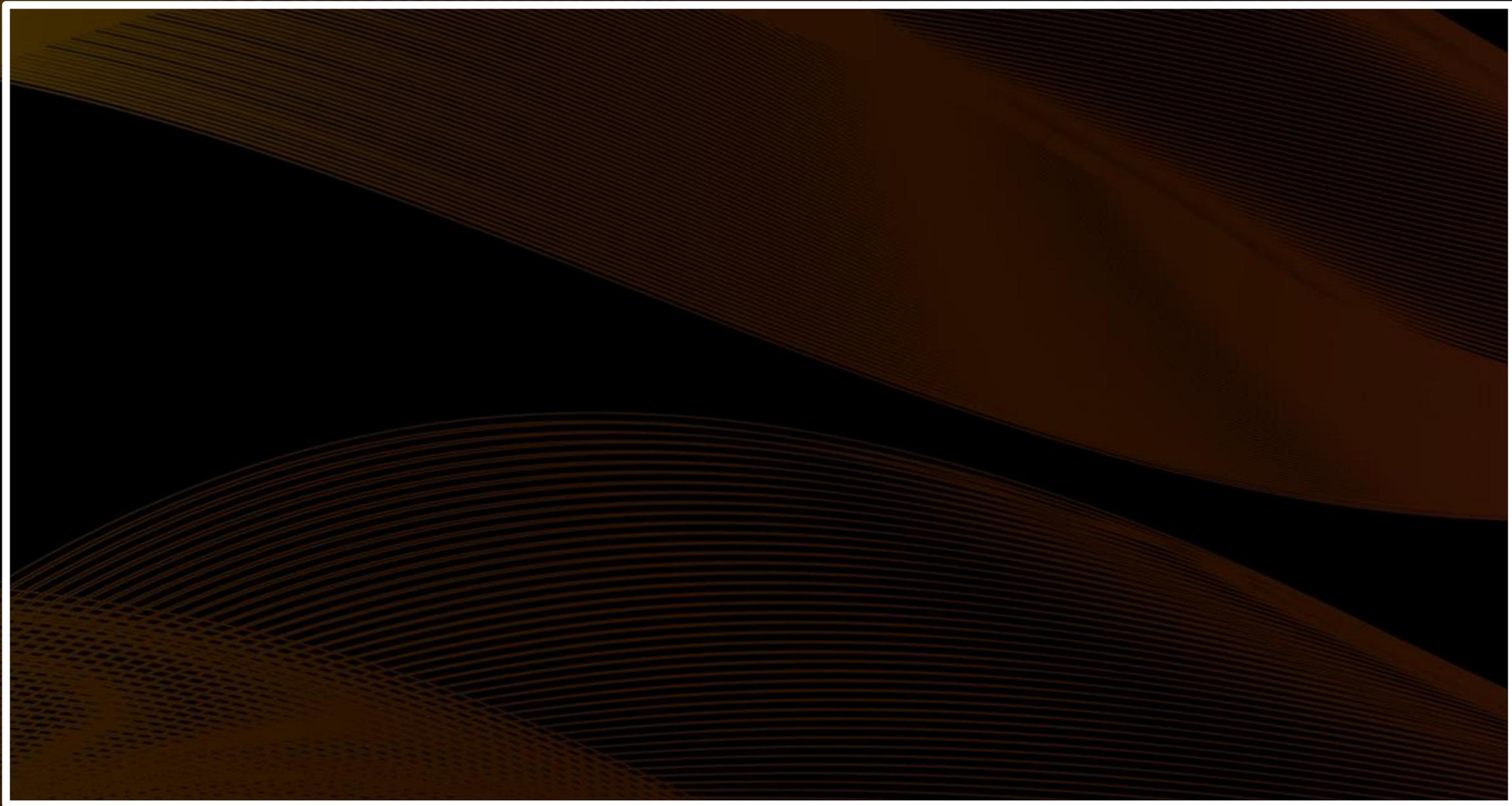
Real victory now.
Not complete glorification yet.

Real gifting now.
Not perfected function yet.

Inheritance & Sovereign Purpose
Eph 1:13-14

“The Holy Spirit is not just a feeling. He is God’s signature on your salvation and His down payment on your future.”

Inheritance & Sovereign Purpose
Eph 1:13-14



Spiritual Blessings are Superior

They can't be canceled by a hard week

Earthly blessings sit on earthly conditions—so they're fragile. You can lose possessions... but you can't lose **acceptance in the Beloved**. You can't lose the Spirit's seal. In Christ, the foundation holds.

Introduction

Eph 1:3-6

Spiritual Blessings are Superior

Material blessings improve life's settings. Spiritual blessings transform identity and that kind of change produces lasting fruit—love, stability, endurance, service.

Introduction

Eph 1:3-6

Spiritual Blessings are Superior

Material blessings can make you happy... but often with a little fear underneath: *“What if I lose this?”*

Spiritual blessings produce peace that’s anchored in relationship: *“I’m held by God. I’m accepted. I’m forgiven. I belong.”*

Introduction

Eph 1:3-6

Spiritual Blessings are Superior

Material blessings are most noticeable when life is easy.
Spiritual blessings are most powerful when life is hard.

Introduction
Eph 1:3-6

Spiritual Blessings are Superior

Spiritual blessings help you handle material blessings rightly.

When grace is central:

- money becomes a tool, not a god
- comfort becomes gratitude, not entitlement
- loss hurts, but it doesn't crush your identity
- giving becomes joyful, not fearful

Introduction

Eph 1:3-6

V. 3: “blessed be” means to speak well of...

“Blessing God is what we do with our mouths and hearts—
praising Him for who He is.”

Blessing Overview
Eph 1:3

V. 3: “who has blessed us”

God has **bestowed** benefits—He has acted for our good, granted gifts, favored us in Christ.

*Blessings from God isn't flattery—it's **provision**.*

Blessing Overview

Eph 1:3

V. 3: “Every Spiritual Blessing”

“God doesn’t just give us stuff—He gives us *salvation realities*: the kinds of blessings that circumstances can’t cancel.”

Blessing Overview
Eph 1:3

V. 3: “Every Spiritual Blessing”

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God has provided what you truly need for life with Him—identity, access, forgiveness, hope, power, etc.

Blessing Overview

Eph 1:3

Chosen in Christ

Being 'in Christ' means we share in His benefits, not because we earned them, but because we're united to Him."

Every blessing flows from one place: our union with Jesus.

Blessing #1

Eph 1:4

Holy ...

The Blessing is in what God graciously intends to do for you, make you holy - like Jesus

Eph 2:10

*You are not an accident. You are not a mass-produced item.
You are a carefully crafted work of God.*

Blessings #2-3

Eph 1:4

Without blame...

In Christ, even the evidence you feared most can't condemn you—because it's already been handled at the cross.

“He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins...”

(Eph 1:7 NLT)

Blessings #2-3

Eph 1:4

He chose us... before Him in love

Blessing: intimacy. God isn't just saving you from hell; He's bringing you near to Himself.

Ephesians 2:13 — “you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

Blessing #5

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Love is the atmosphere, not fear

“Atmosphere shapes behavior—and God chose love, not fear, as the atmosphere for our growth.”

Blessing #5

Eph 1:4

Adoption as Sons

When Paul says God “predestined us to adoption as sons,” he’s saying:

“God didn’t just forgive you at a distance. He **brought you into His household** with full standing. You don’t relate to God as a tolerated servant, but as a **welcomed son** (family language, security, access.)”

Blessing #6

Eph 1:5-6



LAND OF THE FREAKIN'
AWESOME

Accepted in the Beloved

“to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”

“Grace is praised most clearly when someone realizes they belong—and they didn’t earn it.”

Blessing #7

Eph 1:5-6



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