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Introduction

Excerpts From GotQuestions .org

Paul says, “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” **Romans 8:17**

According to this verse, we share in the sufferings of Christ now and will share in the glory of Christ later as His “co-heirs” or “joint-heirs.”

The term, *heirs of God*, emphasizes our relationship to God the Father. As His children, we have “an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade . . . kept in heaven” (**1 Peter 1:4**). The Greek term translated “heirs” in **Romans 8:17** refers to “those who receive their allotted possession by right of sonship.” In other words, because God has made us His children (see **John 1:12**), we have full rights to receive His inheritance. We are His beneficiaries (see **Matthew 25:34; Galatians 3:29; Colossians 1:12; 3:24**).

Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, is the natural “heir” of the Father. “God said to him, ‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father’” (**Hebrews 5:5; cf. Psalm 2:7**). Christ’s inheritance is the whole universe, all that is in existence.

Hebrews 1:2 says that the Son has been “appointed heir of all things.” Being a joint-heir with Christ means that we, as God’s adopted children, will share in the inheritance of Jesus. What belongs to Jesus will also belong to

us. Christ gives us His glory (**John 17:22**), His riches (**2 Corinthians 8:9**), and all things (**Hebrews 1:2**). We are as welcome in God's family as Jesus is; we are "accepted in the Beloved" (**Ephesians 1:6**). All that belongs to Jesus Christ will belong to us, the joint-heirs, as well.

"You are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir" (**Galatians 4:7**). Think of all that means. Everything that God owns belongs to us as well because we belong to Him. Our eternal inheritance as joint-heirs with Christ is the result of the amazing grace of God.

Ephesians 2:13 says, "In Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

God made us a part of His family through faith in Jesus Christ. He has showered us with blessings and promised us an eternal inheritance, based on the worthiness of Christ Himself.

Joint Heirs Open To All Who Believe

This was not limited to just the Jews. "That the gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise by Christ in the gospel". **Ephesians 3:6**

There is, however, one qualifier to be a child of God and a Joint Heir with Jesus to the Kingdom of God. Mainstream Christianity is moving more and more liberal. May deny that Jesus is the only way to God. They openly declare that we are all children of God, some even say, children of the gods.

It was Jesus that said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." **John 3:16**; Jesus also saith unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." **John 14:6**; Jesus answered and said unto him, (Nicodemus) "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." **John 3:3**

So, Sonship is dependent on being “Born Again” They that believe in Jesus as the only begotten Son of God are the same that receive eternal life and become the children of God and Joint Heirs with Christ.

How To Know You Are A Child of God

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.”

Romans 8:15

The Spirit confirms your status with God. If you were really Born Again, God’s Holy Spirit will communicate with you in little and big ways to let you know you are a child of God. I remember what happened to me over 50 years ago.

I opened the King James Bible and began to read the Psalms, the 4-Gospels and the Epistles. After a while, truth began to spring up as though it were jumping off the page into me heart.

These ‘truth-bursts’ were promises, directions, doctrines and guidance. Sometimes it was a blessing and other times it was a rebuke against my actions. Many times it was a revelation that would shape my thinking and change my beliefs on certain topics or social issues. It’s been over 50 years now that the Holy Spirit has been talking to me through the Bible. He never stops. He is always there with comfort, guidance, love and respect.

Our Inheritance

“The Divine Nature”

Excerpts of Dawn Bible Study Association

Our inheritance is having the divine nature of God dwelling in us. This is the Glory of God that is now bestowed on Jesus and through the Born Again experience is shared with us. Think about it...members of the fallen and dying race would be given an opportunity of being associated with Jesus, the Christ as rulers in his kingdom, and sharing his glory, as well as the glory of the Creator. This was kept secret until it was brought to light by Jesus and the apostles.

Paul refers to it as the “mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is *Christ in you*, the hope of glory.”—**Col. 1:26,27**

To Christians in Rome Paul wrote, “By whom Christ we have access by faith into his grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” (**Rom. 5:2**)

The meaning of the expression, ‘*glory of God*’, is quite beyond the ability of our finite minds to comprehend. However, various promises of the Bible give us an inkling of what it implies. As we have seen, when Jesus was raised from the dead, he was highly exalted to the divine nature, and to the right hand of God.

The Apostle John wrote, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” (**I John 3:2**) John realized the limitations of the human mind in understanding matters pertaining to the spirit world. “It doth not yet appear what we shall be,” he concedes, “but we know that, ... we shall be like him Christ

Yes, like Christ, to whom was given “all power in heaven and in earth”; like Christ who was made a “quickening spirit” that he might give life to the dead world of mankind; and like Christ who is now the “express image” of his Father’s person, having partaken of his glory. (**Matt. 28:18; I Cor. 15:45; Heb. 1:3**)

These are some of the aspects of the ‘*glory of God*’ to which the children of God are heirs. They have to do with the personal glory of God, the glory of the ‘divine nature’. And Peter writes that unto us have been given “exceeding great and precious promises” that by these we might become “partakers of the divine nature.”—**II Pet. 1:4**

Gospel Age Glory

But there is also the official glory to which the Gospel Age sons of God are heirs. As Jesus was exalted to share his Father’s throne, so we are promised, if

faithful, that we shall sit with Jesus in his throne. **(Rev. 3:21)** Jesus is now the great King—the “King of kings,” and his joint-heirs are to be made kings, to “reign with Jesus on the earth.” **(Rev. 5:10)**

Our Inheritance

“The Power of God”

Another inheritance that is ours as a joint heir with Christ is “The Power of God.” “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.” **John 1:12**

Jesus said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” **John 14:12-13**

Paul picks up on this power as he writes to the Philippian church. He says, ““I can do “All Things” through Christ which strengthens me.”” **Philippians 4:13** He said he could and so can we, do “All Things” because as God gave Paul strength which is divine power, so shall He give us strength (Divine Power) to do, “All Things”.

Thus the joint heir inheritance of Divine Power, like the Divine Nature, is available to us in this lifetime. We do not have to wait until we die and go to heaven. It is ours to appropriate now and use now to accomplish “All Things.”

More of Our Inheritance

As A Joint Heir With Jesus Christ

Taken From GotQuestions.com

The Bible is full of references to the inheritance believers have in Christ. **Ephesians 1:11** says, "In Christ we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will" (ESV). Other passages that mention a believer's inheritance include **Colossians 3:24** and **Hebrews 9:15**.

Our inheritance is, in a word, Heaven. It is the sum total of all God has promised us in salvation. Words related to *inheritance* in Scripture are *portion* and *heritage*. **First Peter 1:4** describes this inheritance further, saying that we have been born again "into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you." According to the apostle Peter, our inheritance is distinguished by four important qualities:

Our Inheritance In Christ Is Imperishable. What we have in Christ is not subject to corruption or decay. In contrast, everything on earth is in the process of decaying, rusting, or falling apart. The law of entropy affects our houses, our cars, and even our own bodies. Our treasure in heaven, though, is unaffected by entropy (**Matthew 6:19–20**). Those who have been born again are born "not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God" (**1 Peter 1:23**).

Our Inheritance In Christ Is Unspoiled. What we have in Christ is free from anything that would deform, debase, or degrade. Nothing on earth is perfect. Even the most beautiful things of this world are flawed; if we look closely enough, we can always find an imperfection. But Christ is truly perfect. He is "holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens" (**Hebrews 7:26**), and our inheritance in Him is also holy, blameless, exalted, and pure. No earthly corruption or weakness can touch what God has bestowed. **Revelation 21:27** says that "nothing impure will ever enter [the New Jerusalem], nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful."

Our Inheritance In Christ Is Unfading. What we have in Christ is an enduring possession. As creatures of this world, it is hard for us to imagine colors of that never fade, excitement that never flags, or value that never depreciates; but our inheritance is not of this world. Its glorious intensity will never diminish. God says, "I am making everything new!" (**Revelation 21:5**).

Our Inheritance In Christ Is Reserved. What we have in Christ is being "kept" in heaven for us. Your crown of glory has your name on it. Although we enjoy many blessings as children of God here on earth, our true inheritance—our true home—is reserved for us in heaven. Like Abraham, we are "looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (**Hebrews 11:10**). The Holy Spirit guarantees that we will receive eternal life in the world to come (**2 Corinthians 1:22**). In fact, "when you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance" (**Ephesians 1:13–14**).

Jesus prayed for His followers, "Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name" (**John 17:11**). We are secure, being guarded by the Almighty Himself, and surely our inheritance is equally secure. No one can steal it from us. **John 10:28–29**: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand." See also **Matthew 6:20**.

As God's children, "adopted" into His family, we have been assured an inheritance from our Heavenly Father. "Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory" (**Romans 8:17**). This heavenly heritage is God's purpose and will for us (**Ephesians 1:11**). We receive the promise of our inheritance by hearing the word of truth and believing in Christ (**Ephesians 1:13**).

One day, we will take possession of our portion, our heritage, and our full inheritance. John Calvin writes of our inheritance, "We do not have the full enjoyment of it at present. We walk in hope, and we do not see the thing as if it were present, but we see it by faith."

"Although, then, the world gives itself liberty to trample us under foot, as they say; although our Lord keeps us tried with many temptations; although he humbles us in such a way that it may seem we are as sheep appointed to the slaughter, so that we are continually at death's door, yet we are not destitute of a good remedy."

"And seeing that the Holy Spirit reigns in our hearts, we have something for which to give praise even in the midst of all our temptations. Therefore, we should rejoice, mourn, grieve, give thanks, be content, wait" (from Calvin's Ephesian sermons, delivered in Geneva, 1558—59).

When we understand and value the glory that awaits us, we are better able to endure whatever comes our way in this life. We can give God praise even during trials because we have His guarantee that we will receive all He has promised: "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" (**2 Corinthians 4:17**).

Revelation 21:4 gives us a brief but beautiful description of our inheritance:

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." God and man will dwell together. Everything will be made new. The bejeweled city, New Jerusalem, will be our residence. The river of life will issue from God's throne. The healing tree of life with twelve kinds of fruit will grow there, too. There will be no night there, because the eternal light of the Lamb will fill the new heaven and new earth and shine upon all the heirs of God.

David writes, "Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; / you make my lot secure. / The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; / surely I have a delightful inheritance" (**Psalm 16:5–6**). And that is why "we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (**2 Corinthians 4:18**).

Joint Heirs With Christ

Our Spiritual Inheritance

Ken Birks, Pastor/Teacher

We have access now to our spiritual inheritance. Here's a partial list of available blessings. They are ours for the asking.

- All things that pertain unto life and godliness – **2 Peter 1:3**.
- Partakers of the divine nature of Christ – **2 Peter 1:4**.
- Power and anointing in the Holy Spirit – **Acts 1:8, 1 John 2:27**.
- Forgiveness of sins and freedom from guilt – **1 John 1:9 & Romans 8:1**.
- Divine health and healing – **Matthew 8:17**.
- Free from poverty; assurance that our needs will be met- **Matthew 6:36**
- The prosperity in all things including our soul – **3 John 1:2**.
- Love, joy, peace and righteousness in the Holy Spirit – **Romans 14:17**.
- Victory and freedom from the bondage of sin – **Romans 8:11**.
- More than conquerors in all things – **Romans 8:37**.
- An abundance of grace for every good work – **2 Corinthians 9: 8**.
- An understanding of the mystery of God's will – **Ephesians 1:9**.
- Divine guidance - **Romans 8:14**.
- Happiness – **Matthew 5, Beatitudes**.
- Security – **Psalm 91**.
- Co-laborers with God – **1 Corinthians 3:9**.
- Seated in heavenly places with Christ – **Ephesians 2:6**.

As you can see from the above list, there are many things that have been given to you to enjoy in this life that will help you to be productive and successful in fulfilling God's purpose and destiny for your lives. But you have to meditate on these things so that you get God's Word firmly established in your heart believing that they actually do belong to you. We have to be like Abraham and not waver at the promises God has for us. **Romans 4:20-21** "He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform."

Heirs of What?

Excerpts From The Bible Hub

The children of God are heirs of God's Promises. If you turn to the 1st chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, the 14th verse, you will find that we are there called "*heirs of salvation.*" Looking on a little further in the same Epistle, in the 6th chapter, and the 17th verse, you will find that we are called "the heirs of promise."

In his Epistle to Titus, the 3rd chapter, and the 7th verse, Paul calls us "*heirs according to the hope of eternal life*"; while James says, in the 2nd chapter of his Epistle, at the 5th verse, that we are "*heirs of the kingdom which God hath promised to them that love him*"; and Peter says, in his First Epistle, the 3rd chapter, and 7th verse, that we are "*heirs together of the grace of life.*"

We are heirs of God's Possessions. When God gives Himself to us, He gives us with Himself all that He has. And this means treasures vast and immeasurable. The stars in their glittering splendor are the dust of His feet. The kingdoms of the world are to Him the small dust of the balance. Writing to the Corinthians, Paul says: "All things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours."

We are heirs of God's Attributes. Is He omnipotent? His omnipotence is ours, to be our defense. Is He omniscient? His infinite wisdom is ours, to guide us. Is He eternal? His eternity is ours, that we may ever be preserved. Is He full of love and grace? Then all His love, as though there were not another to be loved, is mine, and all His grace, as though there were never another sinner to partake of it, is mine. "The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup." "God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever."

The Heir of The Kingdom

Jesus + His Brethren = Joint Heirs

The proper possessor of the Inheritance indeed is “the Son of God,” the only begotten of the Father. But His brethren are to share in it. All that glory, therefore, which the Lord had in enjoyment with the Father as His well-beloved Son before the Incarnation, together with whatever added glory the Incarnation and Atonement brought Him—all is to be shared with His brethren. He is the First-born, but He is the First-born among many brethren. **Romans 8:29** Hear what the scripture says on the subject.

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he (The Son) might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

He cannot possibly be heir alone; for union with Christ is the very reason why we are heirs of God, and union with Christ must for us also culminate in glory. The inheritance is sure because Christ possesses it now.

Our right to sonship and being a child of God stands or falls with Christ’s right to the same inheritance. We are Joint-Heirs; if He be truly an heir, so are we; and if He be not, neither are we. Our two interests are intertwined and made one, we have neither of us any heirship apart from the other; we are joint-heirs, Christ jointly with us, ourselves jointly with Christ.

So, then, it follows that if there be any flaw in the will, so that it be not valid, if it be not rightly signed, sealed, and delivered, then it is no more valid for Christ than it is for us. If we get nothing, Christ gets nothing; if there should be no heaven for us, there is no heaven for Christ. If there should be no throne for us, there would be no throne for Him; if the promise should utterly fail of fulfillment to the least of the joint-heritors, it must also fail of accomplishment to our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. [Note: C. H. Spurgeon.]

And this lets us see how great the inheritance is. If we are to be joint-heirs with Christ, it cannot be a little thing that we are to share with Him. Can you imagine what the Father would give to His Son as the reward of the travail of His soul? Give yourself time to think what the everlasting God would give to His equal Son, “who took upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made

in the likeness of men, and who humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” **Philippians 2:7** Can you think of a reward that would be large enough for Him? Let the Father’s love and the Father’s justice judge.

Conclusion

Jesus said, "*All things have been delivered to me by my Father*; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." **Matthew 11:27**

We are they to whom the Son chooses to reveal Himself. We are those that have been destined to conformity as the Joint Heir of Christ. The whole purpose of such an event is so Jesus would be the “First Born” among many brethren.

Our future is assured, actually pre-determined. We have a Heavenly calling that includes a destiny that is almost beyond belief. We are to be like Christ. We are to be the inheritors of the Kingdom of God.

We suffer now in this life, here on this earth, as we face many hardships and trials. However, our suffering is but a light affliction when compared to what has been stored up for us in Glory. We will reign with Him over all that there is, was and will ever be. How great is that?

Knowing now what will soon come, what manor of man or woman ought we to be? Would it be safe to say, “We ought to allow Jesus to reign in our hearts as Lord so He can lead us down the path of righteousness into the full inheritance that is ours”?

Remember, not every Christian will realize the status of “Sonship” The children of God are those who have been “Born Again” by the spirit of God. We cannot attain a joint-Heir status by joining a church or following a Dos and Don’t list. We must repent, receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. This is how we get born again and become a child of God. This is the path to being a Joint-Heir with Christ.