

## 50 POSITIONAL TRUTHS

### #48: “POSSESSING EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING”

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The verse that contains this positional truth is often misunderstood; it reads:

**Ephesians 1:3** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

There are three points I would like to make about this verse. First, the term “blessed” is εὐλογητός, eulogetos; it is where we get our word “eulogy.” It refers to speaking good of someone. Note the two instances of “blessed” in the passage. When God blesses us, He communicates good to us. We bless Him with words [divine viewpoint, Bible doctrine, praise]; He blesses us with deeds. All we can do is to speak well of Him because in ourselves we have nothing good to give (outside of divine good produced by Him), and in Himself He lacks no goodness. We can only bless Him with His divine viewpoint whereas He blesses us with His divine goodness. We attribute goodness to Him; He communicates His goodness to us. In short, God blesses us with grace gifts; we bless Him by words. We respond to His gift of the cup of salvation and call upon His name with deep thankful hearts and say, “Blessed be, God who has blessed us.”

Second, the term “spiritual” (πνευματικός, pneumatikos) is often misunderstood. Whenever it is found in the New Testament, is always used in relation to the work of the Holy Spirit. Ergo, it does not refer to immaterial blessings as opposed to material ones. It points to the divine medium of the blessings. Spiritual refers to the source, not the extent, of blessing. That is to say, he calls them “spiritual,” not because they are unlike material blessings, but because they are imparted by the Holy Spirit. Again, they are spiritual because the Holy Spirit is the medium of communication. It is the Holy Spirit who not only provides the blessings of regeneration and spiritual gifts, He also provides the supernatural dynamics to live the spiritual life. Not only does the Holy Spirit place us all in union with Christ, He also indwells us and empowers us to realize all of the spiritual blessings we enjoy. God’s divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to our temporal biological lives and the spiritual lives (2 Pet. 1:3). It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to enter into the joy and peace of God (John 15:11; 14:27). Every Christian has already been blessed with the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit. We are complete in Him (Col. 2:10). Every Christian has the possession and provision of the Spirit (Philip. 1:19).

Third, the blessings are “in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus.” You cannot separate Christ from His gifts accompanying salvation. There is no way to receive salvation blessings or supergrace blessings apart from Jesus Christ. We must enter *in* Him by a salvation of faith alone in Christ alone. As believers we must abide in Him for any spiritual growth and production (John 15:4-5), and we must grow in knowledge of Him to advance to the supergrace life (Eph. 3:19,20; 2 Pet. 3:18)—the life above all one could ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20).

One more thing, the heavenlies is not only used in Ephesians 1:3 as the location of escrow blessings which the believer already possesses, it is also the location of the angelic conflict in Ephesians 6:12: “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenlies” (same word as in 1:3). The believer has already received a plethora of blessings from the heavenlies, and so it is not a matter of asking God to give more. We already have been blessed with blessings like love, joy, happiness, peace, strength, a personal destiny, the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit—at least fifty positional truths! Many Christians continually ask God for what He has already given—what He has already provided. They pray for more love, peace, happiness, joy, and strength, yet He has already given them these things at the point of salvation. For example, many ask for God’s strength, although they have already been given the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit for all of the strength they will need (Philip. 1:19; 4:13). They ask for more insight, yet they have been given the Holy Spirit to reveal the wonders of the grace plan (1 Cor. 2:9-10). I am certainly not advocating that we should not pray for spiritual and temporal provisions. What I am countering is the carnal believer who is not growing spiritually and then gets into a jam and cries out to God for the strength and wisdom that he would have if he were putting God and the spiritual life first—which probably would have kept the person from getting into the jam to start with. What I am countering is the idea that the believer can ignore the riches of these blessings and live as if they did not exist, and then get into problems and ask God to give him the blessings that he would have already enjoyed if he had made the spiritual life the top priority. We are enjoined to live in the grace assets that we already possess. We are to grow spiritually which will move us into *realization* of the great spiritual wealth we already possess. We are to in effect put on what He has already provided, and walk in the power He has so blessed us with:

**Ephesians 6:10** Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

**Galatians 5:16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

Blessed by the Spirit,

Pastor Don