

Every *Spiritual* Blessing

Ephesians 1:1-14



An Invitation to the Holy Spirit

O God, the Holy Spirit,
come to us, and among us;
come as the wind, and cleanse us;
come as the fire, and burn;
come as the dew, and refresh;
convict, convert, and consecrate
many hearts and lives
to our great good
and to thy greater glory;
In Jesus Christ's name. Amen.



Ephesians 1:3

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,



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“Every Spiritual Blessing”

1. Am I blessed?
2. The nature of God's blessing
3. The goal of God's blessing
4. How shall we live?



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“Every Spiritual Blessing” - **CONTEXT**



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- Paul writes from prison in Rome (AD 60)



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- Paul writes from prison in Rome (AD 60)
- Paul's personal experiences as God's servant



2 Cor 11:23-28

in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 3 times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked ... ; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, ... in cold and nakedness - besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

“Every Spiritual Blessing” - CONTEXT

- Paul writes from prison in Rome (AD 60)
- Paul’s personal experiences as God’s servant
- Ephesians 6 - “Put on the armour of God”



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- Paul’s personal experiences as God’s servant
- Ephesians 6 - “Put on the armour of God”
- Steep in idolatry & magic



Acts 19:24-26

For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made **silver shrines of Diana**, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: “Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands.

“Every Spiritual Blessing” - **CONTEXT**

- Paul writes from prison in Rome (AD 60)
- Paul’s personal experiences as God’s servant
- Ephesians 6 - “Put on the armour of God”
- **Steep in idolatry & magic, Ephesus was a tough place to be a Christian!**



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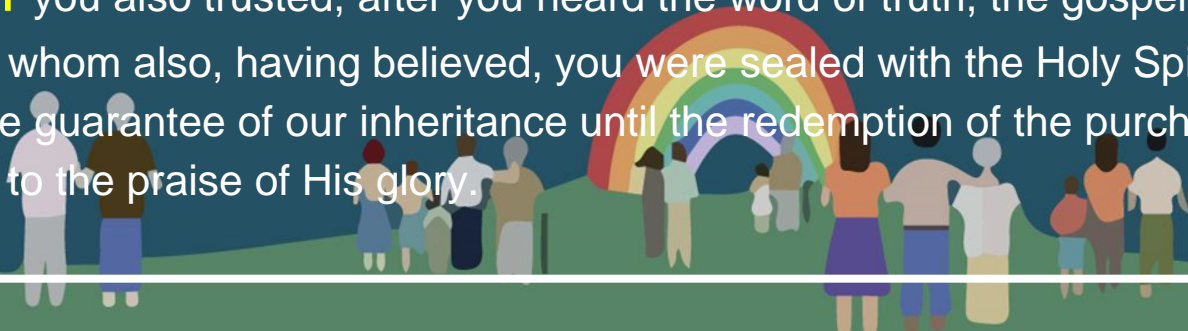


3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **in Christ**, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

7 **In Him** we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

11 **In Him** also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

13 **In Him** you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.



Ephesians 1:3-14

V3-6 > “Every spiritual blessing ... in Christ”

V7-10 > “In Him we have redemption”

V11-12 > “In Him ..we have .. an inheritance”

V13-14 > “In Him .. sealed with Holy Spirit”



Life Group Teaching Class (LGTC)

12 Sessions on Ephesians

Starts Tuesday, 14th February

8.00 - 9:30 pm

MPH

Ephesians 1:3-14

V3-6 > “Every spiritual blessing ... in Christ”

V7-10 > “In Him we have redemption”

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2 Corinthians 4:18

“So 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.**”



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4 just as He **chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world, ... , 5 having predestined us to **adoption as sons** by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
6 ... by which He made us **accepted in the Beloved**.



“adoption as sons (and daughters)”

‘ Under Roman law, an adopted child acquired all of the legal rights of a natural born child and lost all rights held in his former family. The child also received the adopting parents’ family name and shared in the status of the new family. ’



Romans 14:17

“for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness** and **peace** and **joy** in the Holy Spirit.”



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3 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, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, **THAT we should be holy and without blame (= righteous)** before Him in love,



2 Corinthians 4:16

Therefore we do not lose heart.

Even though our **outward man is perishing**, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.



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“Every Spiritual Blessing”

1. Am I blessed? **Yes, in every way!**
2. The nature of God's blessing
 - **Eternal, Unseen - but Real !! Kept safe in Heaven**
 - **Tied to our Inheritance as God's children**
 - **Primary indicators:** Righteousness, Peace, Joy
3. The goal of God's blessing
Holy and blameless, like Christ.



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Alim, a Christian in Aleppo, SYRIA

The Syria civil war

- Began in March 2011
- Population - 18 million (7 million children)
- Displaced/refugees - 11 million
- Died - > 400,000 men, women, children
- Christians - 10% (1.8 million)

Alim, a Christian in Aleppo, SYRIA

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"But I feel a calling of God. He wants me to be here till the end, as long as there is work to do in Aleppo. It wasn't an easy decision. My wife has the same calling. I tried to persuade her to move to a safer area. She didn't want to; she wants to be with me."

Alim, a Christian in Aleppo, SYRIA

“We have passed through very difficult situations. We don't know why, but we feel such a peace and hope! I think God is giving us double grace.”

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Be Thankful, Be Generous, Be a Blessing

