

New Morning Magical God has a secret!

Today, we get to begin exploring my favorite of all the Apostle Paul's letters. Ephesians is a treasure chest of revelation, many of which are only found in this letter. One in particular, may completely change your perception of the Father.

Let's begin in Chapter 1, verse 3, which begins another of Paul's famous run-on sentences:

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who blesses us with every spiritual blessing among the celestials, in Christ,

Notice quickly where your blessings may be found. This is not to say that you won't be blessed on Earth, but the focus here is in the celestials. This focus becomes truly enlightening later on.

4 according as He chooses us in Him before the disruption of the world, we to be holy and flawless in His sight,

The Father chose you before anything was made on the Earth we occupy. Also, the statement, "*we to be holy and flawless in His sight,*" is as much a present-time reality as it is a prophetic word. Obviously, you and I will be "*holy and flawless*" when we occupy our glorified, celestial bodies; however the statement also indicates that the Father sees us NOW as *holy and flawless*. We may not be *holy and flawless* literally in our current bodies, but the Father is unconcerned about that fact: He chooses to see us as *holy and flawless* already, if only because He sees us at our completion anyway.

5 in love designating us beforehand for the place of a son for Him through Christ Jesus; in accord with the delight of His will,

The Father's love and His delight have joined to provide you and me "*the place of a son [or daughter]*." He does it because it delights Him. No other reason is necessary.

6 for the laud of the glory of His grace, which graces us in the Beloved:

7 in Whom we are having the deliverance through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses in accord with the riches of His grace,

8 which He lavishes on us; in all wisdom and prudence

The Father is lavishing the *“riches of His grace”* on you. He isn't being stingy; quite the opposite, but He's also exercising *“all wisdom and prudence.”* In other words, the Father is considered in His lavishing, as opposed to being careless.

9 making known to us the secret of His will [***Here's another “secret”***] (in accord with His delight, which He purposed in Him [***that is, in Himself***])

Verse 9 is like saying, “This secret that I'm about to share with you is something that the Father purposed within Himself just because it tickled Him – He delights to do this”:

10 to have an administration of the complement of the eras, to head up [**the**] all in the Christ -- both that in the heavens and that on the earth –

You and I may well have a job to do in the celestials, according to how I read Verse 10. Administration is a kind of governmental term and involves helping to complete the eras, or seasons, which culminate in everything being headed up in Christ.

11 in Him in Whom our lot was cast also, being designated beforehand according to the purpose of the One Who is operating [**the**] all in accord with the counsel of His will,
12 that we should be for the laud of His glory, who are pre-expectant in the Christ.

We see in verse 11 the Father's choosing “beforehand,” which is a euphemism for “before everything” or certainly before everything in this creation. We also see here the sovereignty of God, *“Who is operating the all in accord with the counsel of His will.”* The Father IS OPERATING – present tense. He is operating THE ALL – this includes everything; there is nothing that the Father is NOT operating. We may not like everything He's operating, but He's got it all handled and it's all *“in accord with,”* or in agreement with His own counsel, which is something that He keeps entirely to Himself.

I love the phrase, *“who are pre-expectant in the Christ.”* Before anyone else is expecting, Paul says, you are. It's sort of like being first in line at Disney World and no one can get in before you.

13 In Whom you also -- on hearing the word of truth, the evangel of your salvation -- in Whom on believing also, you are sealed with the holy spirit of promise
14 (which is an earnest of the enjoyment of our allotment, to the deliverance of that which has been procured) for the laud of His glory!

Verse 13 is a recognition by the Apostle that those whom he has established – in this case the Ephesian ecclesia – have been “*sealed with the holy spirit of promise*” as soon as they believed. The importance that Paul placed on being filled with the “*holy spirit of promise*” was such that believing was followed up immediately with receiving the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues.

Paul follows up his recognition with an explanation of what the Holy Spirit is and its significance, “*for the laud of His glory!*” In other words, the infilling of the Holy Spirit gives you and me an experience of the Father that brings Him praise for His glory, which we recognize because the Holy Spirit enables us to know the Father more profoundly than our limited human faculties ever could.

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may be giving you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the realization of Him,
18 the eyes of your heart having been enlightened [*Isn't that a great phrase?*], for you to perceive what is the expectation of His calling [*Paul is talking about your celestial destiny in incorruptible bodies here*], and what the riches of the glory of the enjoyment of His allotment among the saints, [*“the saints” in Paul’s terms are all believers in Christ*]
19 and what the transcendent greatness of His power for us who are believing, in accord with the operation of the might of His strength,
20 which is operative in the Christ [*Now here comes Paul’s description of “the transcendent greatness of His power for us who are believing”*], rousing Him from among the dead and seating Him at His right hand among the celestials,
21 up over every sovereignty and authority and power and lordship, and every name that is named, not only in this eon, but also in that which is impending:
22 and subjects all under His feet, and gives Him, as Head over all, to the ecclesia which is His body, the complement of the One completing the all in all.

The Father has given Christ to us as His body. We complete Him – that is, Christ – and He completes “*the all in all,*” or everything in everyone.

This whole first chapter of Ephesians is a major, detailed declaration of points that are of paramount importance, but are also easy to run over unless you take some time to consider all that Paul is saying; so let’s review quickly:

- We learn that our primary blessing is not earthly, but rather, “*among the celestials.*”
- The Father chose you before this world was created and He sees you “*holy and flawless in His sight*” as if you’re already there!
- The Father, in His love, designated you as His son or daughter, again before this world was created.

- The Father is lavishing the riches of His grace over you, in His wisdom and all due consideration – not recklessly – in which you are delivered, or saved, out of death and into life, through Christ’s blood, which also wins blanket forgiveness of offenses, or sins.
- You have been brought into the knowledge of *“the secret of [the Father’s] will,”* because it delights Him to share it with you that which has been hidden throughout the eons: To help finish the eras, or seasons, as the Father heads up everything in the Christ.
- The Father designated you, in His own counsel and at the same time that He formed His purpose, to have a reason for praising His glory as you look expectantly forward in Christ.

You are *“sealed with the holy spirit of promise,”* which is a down payment on your total salvation. In Paul’s ministry, the baptism of the Holy Spirit followed directly on the heels of believing, and I’ll say yet again, if this baptism isn’t functioning in you, then you are walking through this wicked eon blind and crippled to a significant degree. For Christ’s sake, be filled with the Holy Spirit, speak in languages you can’t understand but that the Father does. Where do you suppose *“a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the realization of Him”* is going to come from if not the Holy Spirit? How else will *“the eyes of your heart [be enlightened for you to perceive what is the expectation of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of the enjoyment of His allotment among the saints, and what [is] the transcendent greatness of His power for us who are believing, in accord with the operation of the might of His strength, which is operative in the Christ”*?

So until next time,

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;
 May Yahweh light up His face toward you
 and be gracious to you;
 May Yahweh lift His face to you
 and appoint peace for you.

AMEN