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Go and make disciples!

E-votional 32

Receiving Power

John 1:12 (ESV),

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

The idea related to us in this passage of Scripture is remarkable, to say the least. In fact, the idea is one that inspires faith to receive all that God has for us. It is here spoken that God has given the right to become children of God to those who believe in the name of Jesus and receive Him. The word here termed right is actually defined as delegated influence or better yet, power. So the right that the Lord is talking about here is a supernatural grace and power that one must receive just to be able to be a child of God.

The word for receive in this passage of Scripture is defined by Strongs in this way, *“to lay hold by aggressively (actively) accepting what is available (offered).”* When we look at it like this we can take the definition of this word receive and couple it with the right or power that the Lord delegates to us. Basically, the idea of receiving power to become a child of God requires an aggressive seizing or an importune taking. So we could rightly say, Lord, I hear what Your word is saying, so I am actively and aggressively taking hold of it by faith. After all, without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

Now, in sharing all of this, I would also like to point out that while yes this applies to the initial work of salvation where a repentant sinner turns to the Lord and is made new (2 Cor. 5:17). I believe it also has the implication of a life that grows more and more into His image. With that being said, I can confidently say that in order to grow from glory to glory one must continually and actively receive the power to grow and mature and also to exercise faith to do the Lord’s will.

I am reminded of an amazing passage of Scripture found in 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (ESV),

But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

This Scripture passage speaks of growing and being transformed by the Spirit of God from glory to glory. One thing that is amazing about this is noted when it said, *“For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”* I share this because it is linked to the right to become children of God that we talked about earlier. Along with this, I would like to tie in this Scripture from Romans 8:32 (ESV),

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Notice the part that says, *“how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”* Praise the Lord! There we have it. God has provided so much for His people to walk in.

Are you living up to God’s standard of holiness and purity and trusting in His provision alone to attain it?

This work of salvation has been pre-packaged for victory and success. God is not willing that any should fail to receive His grace and enablement by His Spirit to succeed. This passage shows also that there is much more about this Christian walk than just receiving forgiveness, there is also ability to be His children of light on this earth. I mean, wow!

I think, however, that some of us may have missed out on the abundance of grace and power that God has richly provided spiritually for His children. I say this because many people find themselves unworthy of receiving something like this. They figure that they are a lost cause and can’t do anything right. Well, I’ve got news for you. God did not save you because you had it all together, nor is salvation a thing we can earn. And so it is with receiving from the Lord grace and power on a daily basis to become His children.

Will you believe with us that the Lord has promised us so much more than we are living in and in turn endeavor to really seek and pray for Him to give us a heart that just takes Him at His word and receives of His fulness. I’ve got to say, I don’t want to live a nominal Christian life. I want to live one that is on fire for Jesus and infused with His power. I want to make more than a difference in this world and be more than a conqueror. I want to see the impossible happen. The early church had the testimony that they turned the world upside down with their teaching (Acts

17:6). They walked in the power and authority of Jesus Christ on this earth because they received it. And because they received it they were better equipped to give it out. Faith is so much more than just passively believing, it is aggressively receiving and carrying out the purpose and plan God has willed for you with all of the power of heaven to accomplish it.

Are you receiving everything that God has prepared for you?

In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
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