

## **THE SPIRIT'S ASSURANCE**

**Sermon Notes: Ephesians 1:11-14**

**Week 16 -- 2010**

### **GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

1) Inheritance – here is a word that elicits all types of emotions and responses. What images or emotions does this word bring to your mind? Why can the responsibility of leaving an inheritance or of receiving an inheritance create such concern?

2) We all have different personality types and temperaments that impact how we interact and relate to others (outgoing, quiet, thinking out loud, internally processing, optimistic, high energy, mellow, free flowing, systematic, intuitive, skeptic, reflective, analytical, to name a few).

What terms would you use to describe your personality?

How might the way you are wired help you relate to God?

Can you think of any ways it makes it more difficult?

3) Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, confused you or challenged you?

### **DIGGING DEEPER**

1) Here are some passages that speak of the inheritance that is in Christ. Look up each one and jot down the main point or insight it contains.

#### **1 Peter 1:3-5**

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

#### **Hebrews 1:14**

*Angels are "ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation."*

**Matthew 25:34**

*"Then Jesus will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"*

**Galatians 5:19-21**

*"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."*

2) Paul makes much about the truth that God has a plan, a purpose, a will that will be perfectly accomplished. Read that following verses: what do they say about God's will and how do they help you deal with the daily issues of life?

**Isaiah 25:1**

*O LORD, I will honor and praise your name, for you are my God. You do such wonderful things! You planned them long ago, and now you have accomplished them.*

**Jeremiah 29:11**

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

**Philippians 1:6**

*"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."*

**Proverbs 19:21**

*Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.*

**Psalms 33:11**

*The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.*

**Romans 8:28**

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

### **Romans 8:31-39**

*... For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,<sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

When it comes to the plan and purpose of God for your life what are you right now most struggling to understand? Which of the above verses gives you hope?

3) As Christians we often find ourselves thinking that our behavior and responses to God influence our inheritance. How might the actions listed in the verses below help keep us connected to God no matter what season we're in?

### **2 Corinthians 1:21-22**

*And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee."*

### **John 14:16**

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,*

### **2 Corinthians 5:1-7**

*For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened--not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight."*

Our sealing (Ephesians 1:13-14) indicates that our redemption is final, that we belong to God, that he will protect us, and to remind that we are really his. What does this mean to you in light of your past week?

## **TAKING IT HOME**

Looking back at this week's teaching and study, is there anything about your inheritance in Christ that you want to focus on this week?

Is there anything you need prayer for to help keep Christ at the center of your life?

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

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## **Tips on Topical Prayer**

Through experience we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines. Group prayer goes best when...

### **1. WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME**

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

### **2. EACH PERSON PRAYS MORE THAN ONCE**

Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about.

### **3. WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE**

Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group.