

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... the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling. (Eph_1:3, Eph_1:18)

We have seen that all the grace resources God has for us to live by here on earth are already ours **“in Christ.”** Now, our need is to have these comprehensive spiritual treasures revealed to us by the Lord Himself: *“the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling.”* In order to draw upon these heavenly provisions, we need the Lord to enlighten our understanding concerning what is ours in Christ Jesus. *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit” (1Co_2:9-10).* As the Holy Spirit uses the word of God to reveal these matters to us, our faith develops so we might access them by faith. *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom_10:17).*

The scriptures teach us to pray for such spiritual enlightenment. *“Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law” (Psa_119:18).* In the word of God, we are told of the wonderful things that God has for His people. If we prayerfully seek the Lord concerning His insight into these blessings, the Lord will enlighten us. His willingness to respond is evident in His word. *“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know” (Jer_33:3).*

The Lord delights to give heavenly spiritual insight to the humble of heart, not to those who trust in their own wisdom and prudence. *“In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, ‘I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes’” (Luke 10:21).*

This picture of a little one humbly trusting in the Heavenly Father to reveal His ways fits perfectly God’s pattern for living by grace: humility and faith. What God has given us in Christ are His grace resources. It takes grace at work for us to even see what is ours in Him. *God gives grace to the humble (Jam_4:6), and faith accesses grace (Rom_5:2).* (Taken from Daily Devotions by Bob Hoekstra E-Sword bible program)

I have heard some say they never sin, or it is hard for them to sin, I have heard some say that every spiritual blessing means prosperity, I have heard some spend endless minutes quoting who they were in Christ in an arrogant attitude and bragging that they are blessed because they tithe or they quote the word, and yet, very little grace or mercy is shown in their lives. Don’t get me wrong; we need to quote the word. I needed to quote who I was in Christ for about two years to get over a huge depression in my life.

I think some times we get deterred from our first love for Jesus and start to believe and do the things that **we** want instead of what **God** wants. At first we may know his calling in our lives and then after we have veered off a little while it becomes commonplace to do our **own** thing. A friend of mine recently decided and made a decision to do what God wanted him to do, it cost him dearly and he was ostracised by his church to the point where he had to leave and cut all contact, he was accused of being in a cult, being backslidden and so on, but what actually happened was that God blessed him abundantly and his ministry today is thriving in a large way.

I know of other minister that see his ministry and say hey that is bringing in money for him and attempt to imitate it but struggle all the way through, and they are basically unsuccessful, why? Because God did not call them to that. God told Moses to set his people free, then Joshua to take his people into the Promised Land. God told Benny Hinn to do what he is doing the same with Joyce Meyer, Kenneth Copeland, Pat Robison and so on, but people get it wrong when they try and copy other ministries. We have to seek God for what he would have us to do in our lives.

I once heard a man say from the pulpit, everyone in that church could be a millionaire tomorrow! He was serious! What a lie from the pit of hell! He then stated give your best today and God will give you his best. That my friend is compulsion and deception, and goes against **2Co 9:7** each *one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver*. I have heard preachers say that if you do not tithe your money will be cursed, that comes from Malachi 3. Don't get me wrong I tithe, but what some people will say to get money makes my head spin. Like Jesus said, they forgot the most important things, Mercy, Grace, Love and so on, the majority of people I have heard preaching prosperity have no grace, love or mercy.

Jesus came to set the captives free, he wants us to do the same, not make people captives by rules and regulations and fear. He wants us to go out into the highways and the byways and reach people, this was his primary goal to reach people for the kingdom of God, not build our own kingdom. God prospers us financially for what reason, **Deut 8:18** tells us to establish his kingdom. All the kings of Israel started out well, but once they began to prosper they wanted everything in sight, including riches, women and power, eventually this brought them unstuck.

This is why we need to seek God in all matters as to what **He** has for us, and ensure it is not something **we** want for us. We need to make sure that we are not walking in deceit, lust or greed firstly, then that we are not covetous of other people being blessed, yes God does want to make some millionaires, but his word says to us that he who is faithful with little will be put in charge of much. I see very few who are faithful with little. God brings little things into our lives and people to look after to see if we are faithful with one or two and then he gives us three, four and much more? When was the last time I witnessed to an unsaved person, blessed someone financially, prayed for a sick person, helped the ungodly and the unlovable? This is what we are called for and all at different levels, some from the pulpit and some from the streets and others from their homes or work places. Not just the Pastor - **ALL** of us, you and me! We are all Ministers.

Bless ya - Roscoe