

Title: Do You have Everything That God wants you to have?

Text: Ephesians 1:1-3

We are beginning a study of a book that I find quite contemporary. Both because of its historical background and setting, as well as its message. Ephesians chapter 1. We are going to look at the first three verses today. On the subject: DO YOU HAVE EVERYTHING THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO HAVE?

That is an interesting question as it relates to the teaching of the book of Ephesians. Do you really have everything that God wants you to have?

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At present, I believe evangelical christianity is obsessed with what I call the AMORE syndrom. We have the feeling that there is something more that we need than what we have. And so we are very experience orinated. And we long to have something that will somehow give us encouragement that we are more spiritual...more spirit-filled..or more blessed than we have been in the past. ^{and} The problems and struggles that you have in the christian life often lead you to want more than you have.

Well, what does the Bible say? Ephians chapter 1 verses 1-3 sets the tone for the entire book.

(Read 1:1-3)

Let's Pray

We could put into the text Taft or Bakersfield and really have a similar situation to what it says when it says "the church in Ephesus."

and The ruins of Ephesus are the most extensive that archology has ever uncovered. It is estimated that the population of the city at the time of Paul was over 3 hundred thousand people. It was a sea port town in those days. Taoday, it is a little inland. It was a major metapolian area. As a matter of fact it was considered the major city of Asia.

Ephesus, or Ephesians is mentioned 21 times in the N.T. It was a center of trade and business. And everything a sea port city brings to it, Ephesus had. One of the seven wonders of the ancient world was found in Ephesus.

A temple and a statue to the Goddess, Diana. The goddess of sex and fertility. Ephesus was a sex saturated society.

It was also known for its practice of the occult--witchcraft and the magical arts,.....

Ephesus was a morally corrupt city. It was known for its strange arts and practices and occult things. It was very much like contemporary society today. And it was into this city that the Apostle Paul came. Accidentally he came after his second missionary journey. As he ended his time in the city of Corinth, he took that wonderful christian couple named ~~Aquila~~ ^{Aquila} and Priscilla in whose home three churches started: One in Roma, one in Ephesus, and one in Corinth. ~~They~~ They, like Paul, were tent makers. So they got along well together. Paul took them with him from Corinth to Ephesus.

Paul went to the Synagogue. There was a little Jewish colony in Ephesus. And he went there as was his custom. And he began to reason with the Jews concerning the coming of the Messiah. And they even invited him to stay longer. But it wasn't his intention to stay at that time. So he left Aquila and Priscilla and he went on.

Shortly thereafter a man named Apollos, an Alexandrian Jew. That is from Alexandria, Egypt. Came to Ephesus.

This Alexandrian Jew knew only the ministry of John the Baptist. He had not yet heard of the death and resurrection of Jesus. But he was a true believer in the coming of the Messiah. He went to the Synagogue, naturally, like any good Jew would do on the Sabbath day. And he began to preach with great conviction.

Aquila and Priscilla heard him. They were amazed at his preaching. And they in their loving way invited him to their home and began to teach him the way of God more perfectly. And he returned mightier than ever to preach in the Synagogue. And as a result several believed. ~~In Jesus~~

Well, Paul after visiting his home church in Antioch and reporting on his second missionary journey, he decided to go inland rather than by sea. So he went back and visited the Galatian churches: Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe.

And he came by land to that sea port town located on the western shores of the modern state of Turkey. And as he came into Ephesus he found certain disciples there. The result of Apollos' ministry. And according to the Bible Paul instructed them concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the coming of Christ. They had only known the baptism of John the Baptist. And so they became believers. And the Bible tells us that there were 12 men. So now we have a small nucleus of people. 12 men, some traveling companions of Paul, Aquila and Priscilla. A small church is started in this pagan heathen city.

We are told that during this course of time in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul wrote to Corinth. And thus we have the letter I Corinthians.

Paul spoke in the Synagogue for about 3 months. But due to a great deal of opposition, the Bible says that he withdrew and took that handful of disciples with him and went over to the school of one named Tyrannus. And there he began freely, every single day of the week, to teach the Word of God. The Bible says for two solid years he was in that school. And all who lived in the Asia province on the western side of Turkey, all of them heard the Word of the Lord. A tremendous statement.

The school of Tyrannus, like many of the schools of that day, was a stopping place for many people who went from city to city to hear the new philosophies and new things that were being taught. The ancient forum in Ephesus is a gigantic place where large numbers of religious nuts, if you please, gathered to speak and teach every day. And these people would hear them and then go and hear Paul. Paul seemed like a breath of fresh air, I am sure. Well, God began to work through the life of Paul in that city in a tremendous way. And you can see why. With all of their occultic practices Paul comes right against the main stream of all of that. Paul begins to perform miracles of healing. Paul began to cast out evil spirits from people. That was their practice. That was the game of the day. And Paul, now, is hitting at the core of that. The Bible says that many Ephesians believed. And then literally, openly confessing their sins and turning to Jesus. ~~me~~

The Bible says that the ~~pagan/religious/leaders~~ people who had found the lord gathered together and collected all their old occultic and magical books and had a huge bonfire. They got rid of the past.

And if you are involved in any way with the occult, I would suggest that you do the same. You burn the bridges behind you and get it out of your life.

Well, Paul then wants to go to Jerusalem. He wants to visit the feast. He would, also, like to go back to Macedonia and visit the Christians there. And finally, he would like to go to Rome.

But before he gets a chance to leave Ephesus, a great riot takes place. A man called Demetrius, a silversmith, who made a lot of money making silver idols of the goddess Diana. He is upset because his business is being ruined by Paul. The people are no longer following the goddess Diana. And because of the preaching of Paul, people are coming to the Lord. They are getting their lives cleaned up. They developed standards of Christ and morality. People were confessing their sins. And guess what? Business was being hurt. And so Demetrius began to stir up the city. And the Bible says that the unbelievers were filled with rage. And they took two of Paul's traveling companions and threw them into the great Amph-theater. This ~~the~~ theater, we are told, held 25 thousand people. And there the people began shouting praise to the goddess Diana. They shouted for two solid hours: GREAT IS DIANA OF THE EPHESIANS...

Finally, the town clerk quieted them down and said, "Listen, we are under the authority of Rome. This is an unlawful assembly. If you have any charges against the Christians bring them before the court. And he dismissed the assembly because all the people knew what that meant. And they cleared out.

Paul, realizing the seriousness of the situation, called the believers together to encourage them and he said, "I have to leave you." And he departed for Macedonia. But he left Timothy with them.

He later wrote to Timothy. It is our I Timothy. And in I Timothy Paul encourages his brother to continue to preach the gospel.

It is interesting as time goes by, we don't know much about what went on in Ephesus. Approximately 6 to 10 years passed, and then Paul wrote Ephesians.

Paul was in jail in Rome when he wrote this letter. This was during his first imprisonment. And the Bible says that he was imprisoned for two years. He wasn't really in a locked jail. He was under house arrest. He had a guard. But he could move around his house and gardens freely. And it was while he was under house arrest that he wrote the books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemons. And he sent them by the ~~his~~ hand of Tychicus back to the city of Ephesus.

It is interesting that Paul when he was in Ephesus he wrote in the letter to the Corinthians, "there is a wide open door of service here. But there are many enemies."

Whenever the gospel is working there is opposition. You have got to count on it. Paul even said that his trials in Ephesus included fighting with the wild beast in the arena. I Cor 15:32. Paul knew what it meant to suffer for the cause of Christ. But he was bold in his preaching. And into that sex oriented accultured society came the Gospel with power and conviction. And people were being saved.

That church at Ephesus enjoyed the ministry of Paul, Timothy and even the Apostle John.

30 years after the writing of Ephesians, the Apostle John wrote a letter. It is found in Revelation chapter 2. And he said, "you have a lot of strengths, but there is one thing that has happened to you. And you need to repent of this sin. And that is that you have left your first love."

Well, that is Ephesus. It is a great city. There is a lot in the Bible about it. And everything that is said about Ephesus is very real. It is very practical and easy to identify with. But the message to the church is very heavy in Bible doctrine. It says things that a lot of Christians just can't get themselves to accept. And we start off with the basic principle of all.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT PRINCIPLE IS? THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF CHRISTIANITY...

Here it is: everything that you and I are ever going to have, that is spiritual, in this life, we have at the moment we receive Christ...

....You don't need anything else.....It is hard to believe...
Now, I know

It reminds me of the little story that I have shared with you before. Yet, it holds so much truth. There was a man who owned a little piece of property. He had owned this piece of land, about an acre, for 30,40 years. He didn't think it was worth much so he finally decided to sell it. He sold that acre of land for \$5,000. Well, an oil company drilled for oil on that land and strai~~ck~~ it ~~AMM~~ rich. 10 years after he made that sell the land sold for 1 million dollars.

Interesting ~~thing~~ ^{thing} about that is that he had the oil all the time. You see, folks, half our prob~~lem~~ in this AMORE syndom of christianity where we want something more than what we have is that we don't realize what we already have. It is like the guy who had the land. The oil was there, but he didn't know it. He didn't appropriate it. He didn't apply it to his life.

Do you have everything that God wants you to have? I would like to give you four lines of proof from the first three verses to prove that every christian has everything that God ever intended them to have.

(1) Number one, what you have and ~~what~~ our is the result of God's will.

Paul makes that clear in discribing himself to the Ephesian chruch in Vs 1. "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God."

Other folks didn't make him an apostle. He didn't become an apostle because he wanted to. ~~And thus he went~~ ^{He didn't go} off to school and became one...NO... God's will was involved in his whole ministry. Everything that you ~~had~~ ^{and our} have ~~is~~ ^{is} the result of God's will. And if you think this is a heavy truth today, wait until next Sunday. In fact, if you have trouble with God's will, then you need to do some real praying. Bedause next week, it will be heavy on God's will.

Turn over to James chapter 1 and let me show you a couple of things at this point. To deminstrate that because God's will is ~~doing it all~~ ^{involved}, that is why you and I have everything we need.

James 1;17 says....(Read Vs 17-18)

Do you understand? I was brought forth as a believer, I became a believer by the exercise of God's will. *And so did you!*

Now, from my persepective, I think very much of my choosing Christ. But Jesus said to his disciples, if you will remember, in John¹⁵ 16, you have not choosen me, I have choosen you."

~~Any other way about God's will.~~ *You see?* When I accepted Christ as my saviour, did I do that on my own accord. ~~I didn't~~ *No, I didn't* ~~that!~~ According to the Bible we are dead in tresspasses and sins. Last time I checked, a dead corpus dosen't respond very well.....I ~~was~~ *was* spiritual dead....How can I save myself? How can I by† any act of my will, or a decision of mine, how can I make myself a christian?....NOWAY.....It takes the power of God to raise the dead. By God's will I am what I am....THAT IS THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE.. It is God who works in you both to will and to do his ~~godd~~ *godd* pleasure.

But, I have the same problem that you do. I face a lot of problems in my life. A lot of struggles. A lot of difficulties. And I have got to ajust to them. An often I lose sight of the fact ~~of~~ *God's* will. ~~And~~ *was the principle that* everything that I am and have is a result of His will.

People say, "well, what about spiritual gifts? They come from the spirit. Once again I say, everything I have is a result of God's will. I Cor 12:11 says, "the Holy Spirit distributes those gifts to each one individually just as He wills."

Whatever gift I have I have the moment I come to Christ. Whether I have realized it or applied it is another matter. ~~But~~ *But* Every spiritual blessing that you and I will ever have, we have the moment we accept Christ. And I hope you really understand that. *It is very important and in this study of Ephesians we are going to learn how to apply that truth.*
(2) A second thing is that the way God describes the believers seems to indicate that we have everything we need.

~~Look~~ ~~again~~, The way God describes the believer ~~seems to~~ indicate that we already have everything. ~~Paul~~ *Paul* says in Vs 1 "to the saints who are at Ephesus, and who are faithful in Christ Jeus."

Now, I know that we have trouble with this word "saints." We have been influenced by our Catholic brethren to believe that this refers to a person with special qualities in his life. You are so "saintly", we often say.

But in the Bible all christians are called "saints." I am a saint. And you are a saint. Even if you don't look to saintly.

But the word "saint" ~~is~~ ^{tells} a discription of the believer ~~telling~~ us that we have everything that we need. The Greek wrod means "to be set apart. To be separate." "to be Haly."

Do you believe that you are Holy? Perfect?..... There is a sign that goes on the back of Christian cars(christian cars,ha, there is no such thing as a christian car).....on the back of cars driven by Christians, hopefully... a sign that says, "christians are ^{NOT} perfect, just forgiven."

Now, I like that...but really it isn't true. Christian are perfect because they are forgiven.....~~We are perfect~~.....

You see, the world and all my friends and everyone else is constantly telling me what I am not...We all have image problems. And we are all programmed by the Bitternesses of criticism and eveything else. ~~that~~ We need to get rid of that junk. And get God's view of us....I am a saint...I have been set apart...*To serve the Lord*

Turn over to 1 Corinthians chapter 6 and let me show you that. I Cor chapter 6 verse 9 to show you how wonderful this truth is. Because a lot of us have some serious sin problems in our lives and sometimes we wonder how saintly we are. I Corinthians 6 verses 9 to 11.....(READ)

This means that I have been set apart from "first sin penalityes." The pentaly of sin is death..eternal separation from God. I will never experience that because I have trusted Jesus. Therefore, I am a "saint" set apart from the pentalty of sin. *and so are you, if you are saved*

Also, the Bible teaches that I have been sanctified from the power of sin. I do not as a christian have to let sin control me. I don't have to be a slave to sin. *IF YOU are a slave to sin, it is your choice not Gods.*

Now, if you are an unbeliever. You only have one way to go. Sin will control you. ^{But} If you are a believer, you have the ~~potential~~ potential of not being controlled by sin. Because you have been set free from the power of sin. Because of what Jesus did on the cross.

Now, friends, what I am going to say now I know that some of you might misunderstand. I hope not. But it could happen, ~~so~~ listen carefully. I believe what I say can be supported very clearly from the word of God. And that is this:....There is a teaching among christians that even though you have been sanctified the moment you accept Christ, from the penalty of sin, that during your christian life you are being sanctified, progressively, by your obedience to God. So, what happens is that you then think that you can become more righteous or more spiritual or more whatever, by what you do as a christian. I do not believe that progressive sanctification is taught in the Bible...

Now, that might be a surprise to some of you. People say, "Wait a minute. Isn't sanctification past..present..and future?"....

The present aspect of sanctification, ~~I do not find~~ where people teach that we are constantly being sanctified, I do not find in the Bible. Now, I was taught that. But I do not find it in the Bible.

There are two verses that people use to prove it. To prove that you are presently being sanctified. And I would like to take you to those two verses and show you that it is not talking about present sanctification at all. It is talking about the moment you accepted Christ.

(1) Number one, turn to John 17 .. John 17 verse 17...Stay with me because there is a real blessing for you as it relates to your christian life. John 17:17 says "Sanctify them in the truth; Their word is truth."

~~Many people read that~~ Jesus is praying to the Father. Many people read that as though Jesus is saying "there is a continuous process of sanctification through the Word of God."

It is not present tense there. It is aorist tense. Meaning at a point in time in the past. Jesus is praying for those who will believe on him. And he prays "Father sanctify them." Literally, make them saints....through the word of God.

We are born again of the Word. That issue is one of salvation. Not as continue growth as a christian.

(2) The second passage that is often used to teach this progressive Sanctification is found in the book of Ephesians chapter 5. Turn there please....

Ephesians chapter 5 verse 25 . The applications of what I am now going to say are tremendous in the way that you relate to other christians, and in the victories that you will or will not experience in your life.

Ephesians 5:25 says....(Read Vs 25-26)

Here is the argument: Christ died for the church...at salvation...Then he continues to sanctify through the Word. That is present ministry in the life of the believer.

But once again, it is not present tense...sanctified..it is aorist tense, past, moment of time...The cleansing is a cleansing from our sins. We are born again of the Word. We are sanctified the moment we trust Christ.

WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN? It means that the victory that I enjoy as a christian is based upon the same thing that caused me to receive Christ as saviour and Lord in the first place.

Colossians says, "as you have therefore received christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him."

How did you receive Him?...By what?....Faith!!!...How do you walk in Him? FAITH.....By Faith....Isn't it amazing how the enemy gets us off the faith issue, faith in what God has already done, and to get us onto the work issue.. ...that by the things that I do or don't do, I will then be more spiritual for more righteous... *you see,*

Friends, please listen to me! The moment you accept Christ as saviour, you are as righteous as you will ever be. DO YOU KNOW WHY?

Because it is a declared righteousness based on what Jesus has done *on cross*

I have been declared absolutely perfect regardless of what any of you think. Now, I know I demonstrate the opposite many times.....But, I am perfect in the Lord Jesus. I have been sanctified from sin. I have been set apart from its penalty and power in my life. And because of what Jesus did at the cross one day in heaven I will be totally free even from the presence of sin. AND SO HAVE YOU, IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOUR.

Everything I have and am in christ I have because I am in Him ...Not because of anything that I do or don't do as a believer.

Now, it is certainly true that my joy, my peace as a christian is effective by whether or not I obey God's word. No question about that.

I know a lot of christians who are miserable, because they ~~hope to~~ ^{are not} ~~in God's will~~ ^{obey}

But don't get the two confused. Let's say, right now, you ~~are~~ struggling with some sinful habits in your life. You want to get victory. Often we slip into ^{what is really} the teaching of society and that is an ^{improvement} ~~improvement~~ by self improvement. Turning over a new leaf. And we ^{Baptist} christians call this "rededication". We recommit our life. And what we mean is that "self" is going to do better this week. And hopefully overcome ^{done} sinful practices. Folks, that is not taught in the Bible. Romans teaches that because of the death of Jesus you have been set free. Not only from the penalty, but from the power of sin to control you. It is faith in who God is and what He has done. It is going back to the cross. It is not ~~trying to~~ ~~some~~ how live in this life in a way that will make me more spiritual.

and believe this truth

^{Dear brothers} ~~brothers~~, we really need to realize that a brand new christian is just as spiritual and righteous as a christian who has studied the Word of God for 50 years. That is what makes love and unity among christians possible. Because we all stand on the same ground. We don't become more spiritually. We are not even made ^{righteous} ["] in this life. We are only declared to be righteous. We will not be made righteous until Christ comes again. I am a sinner saved by grace. And my acts and thoughts and deeds only convince me and others that I am a sinner. And without Jesus I am lost forever. There is no hope for me.

I am ^{sancified} ~~sancified~~ ^{people}. It is done. It is settled. I don't need anything else. Regardless of what you think. Everything I need is in Jesus Christ. I am in him.... And there is no greater security than that...Praise the Lord. AMEN.....Some of you must be dead this morning....

(3) The third line of proof is that our relationship to God will guarantee the supply of ^{all} of our needs. So we do have everything we want.

Look at Vs 2 of Ephesians 1..I love this..."Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

You know, you read that often in the letters of Paul. And some people just pass this off as a simple greeting. For after all the word grace in ^{Greek} ~~Greece~~ is the normal greeting among Greek people.

And the word "Peace" ..the Hebrew word "sheolm" is the normal greeting among Jews. So, a lot of folks feel that Paul is just starting his letter with a normal greeting to both Jews and Greeks, since they are both in the same church.

But it has to be more than that. Because it is grace and peace from God...our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is what He is supplying to believers. Now, stop and think about it for a moment. WHAT IS GRACE? Grace is everything that God gives to me that I don't ~~deserve~~ deserve.....Nor..could earn or pay for. By grace I am saved. By grace my needs are met...By grace God will sustain me in the midst of trail...By grace he will lead me home.

ant God keeps giving me grace and more grace. And he doesn't stop giving. For that is His nature. He is a gracing God.

And peace. If your name is Irene, you get it right from this word.. PEACE....The root word means "to ~~combine~~ ^{not}bine". And I love that. Because I like to think, even in a marriage when at times things are going right, ~~to~~ ^{not} ~~bind~~ it together. To bring peace and harmony. It is like putting the pieces back together. And that brings peace.

In the body of ^{church} Christ, God takes people from all over and puts them together with his peace. And there is harmony because of what God has done in putting the pieces together. It is beautiful...

We have peace with God. And Jesus said, My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your hearts be trougled. Neither let it be afraid. *why? because we have God's peace.*

Grace and peace...The Lord is my shephred I shall not want....It is coming from God. But notice, it is "OUR FATHER"...Don't you like that?....

ant He is mine. He is yours if you are a believer. He is not "THE FATHER..." He is the father whether or not I recognize him or not. But the reason I get grace and peace is because he is MY FATHER. That is why Romans 8 says that I can call him Abba or Papp Father....Abba is Aramaic for POPPY." A common term used in the home between Father and son.

My relationship with God is so close, according to the Bible, that I can call him "Abba Father." He is my Dad...my Father...And therefore, he will meet my needs. And I can thank him for it.

(4) But really the key to this argument is in Vs 3. And that is that God's blessings guarantees that all believers have everything that God wants us to have. Look at Vs 3. This is the key verse in the book of Ephesians. "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."

Now, do you have everything that God wants you to have? Well? The verse says you do..And it is based on three things.

(1) One, it is based on the character of God himself. Blessed by God...

Two words for "blessed" in Greek...used in the Bible..

One, found in the sermon on the mount in the beatitudes...Blessed are the poor in spirit, etc...That word refers to "inward character." It is not the word used here in Ephesians 1:3.

This word "blessed" in Ephesians refers to "outward reputation".. So when you say, "Blessed be God"...It means that you are praising his reputation for who He is and what He is doing.....I LIKE THAT....

"Bless the Lord, O my soul. And all that is within me bless his Holy name." "And forget not any of His benefits."

"Bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."...Listen, the reason why you and I have everything that we need is because of who God is. He is not short changing us. My relationship to God through J.C. is a fantastic one because of who He is. We are not much. But God is everything. He makes us something because of who He is. And that is great.....

(2) Secondly, it is based on our conversion. Vs 3 says "who has blessed us" Again, it is that Aorist tense in Greek which means at a point in time in the past. When you received Christ, it was at that moment that every spiritual blessing was given to you. So, what more do you need? What more are you seeking for?

It is a natural tendency of the heart of a christian to seek for something other than what he already has...

And my friend, that will often lead you away from stability in the Christian life. It will lead you away from confidence and dependence on the Lord. To seek that one thing that you believe will turn the tide for you. Listen, you already have, in christ, everything that He every wanted you to have

The question is: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT? BY FATIH HAVE YOU APPROPRIATED THAT?....He has blessed you.

(3) And this is also based upon the completeness of what God has done.

"Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" is mine.

What a tremendous statment...^{Friends} Do you believe that you have every blessing?

^{Now} notice friends, it is not what I say. It is in the Bible...The Bible says "EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING" you and I already have...

Doesn't that make you feel great?.....Aren't you glad you came today?.. Man, praise the Lord....We ought to be on shouting ground.....This is exciting. I don't ~~care~~ care how inadequate people think I am. Man, I have it all... IN JESUS CHRIST...

Now, a couple of things before you run away with that and get your life all missed up.....

(1) Remember, what the nature of these blessings are....They are called "spiritual"...."of the spirit"....

What do we often think of when we refer to blessings?....homes...cars... bank accounts....so forth....Those are the big blessings....^{and Never getting sick} So we think!

OH..NO...He is not talking about that. The word "spiritual" is in contrast to the word "material". The spiritual blessings are caused by the Holy Spirit. Everything the work of the Holy Spirit does in the believer, he des at the moment of conversion...WOW....That is fantastic....

And yet, ~~if you have ever noticed~~ have you ever noticed how some christian can come along and tell you what the Holy Spirit is doing in their life and you need that blessing?

People are always asking me "Bill, have you ^{got} the second blessing?"... And I usually answer: "^{no?} there are at least 36 ^{more} I can think of that has already happened to me."

36..wow..that is hard to believe.....

And I say, "Yes, 36 things. And they happened to me the moment I believed and ask Jesus to come into my heart."

Oh, no, that couldn't be!..... Oh, yes, it is. And there may be more. That is just 36 that I know about from the Bible. And it happened to me the day that I accepted Christ. (But, when I ask Jesus into my heart the only thing that I knew about was that I ask Jesus into my life. At that time that is all I knew.

But, I want to tell you! The more I study the Bible the more exciting it gets. The more I learn ^{what} ~~that~~ actually occurred. It is tremendous.

Blessings are spiritual....not material...

(2) Notice, also the source of these blessings. It says "in the heavenly places ⁱⁿ in Christ."

Now, where is Jesus right now? He is in heaven where God dwells. O.K. Another question. Is he standing, or is he ^{seated} ~~seating~~?.....He is ^{seated} ~~seating~~.... O.K. Why is Jesus seating in heaven?.....Here is the reason...

In the O.T. the ~~High~~ Priests, who ministered for the Jews, never had any chairs in the Tabernacle or in the Temple. They never sat down.....WHY?.... Because their ministry was ~~cont~~ ^{cont}inuous. It never ended. ^{It} was never finished. It was never complete. They offered sacrifices every day, non stop...

But the N.T. teaches that when Jesus ~~was~~, who is our High Priest, offered his sacrifice of his own life, having cleansed and purged us of our sins, Hebrews 1:3 says that He ^{Jesus} sat down at the right hand of the ~~throne~~ throne of God....It is a picture of the finished ~~work~~ work of Jesus Christ. He is now ^{seated} ~~seating~~ at the right hand of God the Father.

Now, are you ready for this?...The Bible says that you and I as believers are seated with him in the heavenlies...ISN'T THAT GREAT?....Positionally, I am seated with the Lord.

The point is..my whole life ^{should be} ~~is~~ based upon the finished work of J.C. It is done....

Do you know what ^{it} feel like saying at this point?....RELAX....We are all just driving ourselves crazy. And God is ~~not~~ saying..relax...

The Lord Jesus sat down. We are seated with him in the heavenlies...
Praise God....Everything that you are, have, hope to be, is based on what
Jesus has already done.....

Colossians says "set your minds on things above where Christ sets at the
right hand of God. Don't set your mind on things down on this earth.
Yet, what do we do? Many we are so over whelmed with what is going on down
here. And God says set your mind on things above. I am seated with him
in the heavenlies. It is finished. It is done. I have every spiritual
blessing because of Jesus. I have all that I need. The Lord is my shepherd.
I am in Christ. 10 times in these first 14 verses he says "I am in Christ."

How could you get any more security than that?....Praise the Lord...

I believe that a lot of our problems in the Christian life ^{center} center in the
fact that instead of being faith oriented, we become works oriented.

Works are very spiritual sounding....more praying...more Bible study...
more witnessing....These are all very important things. We ought to be ^{doing}
doing them.

~~But friends, you don't become more spiritual or more righteous because
you do these things. ^{We need to rest on} faith is ~~resting~~ completely upon what Jesus did for
us. And the day that I accepted J.C. as my Lord and saviour was the day that
I received every spiritual blessing of God.~~

And no matter how long you have known the Lord, you have a declared
righteousness because of what Jesus ~~has done~~ ^{did} when he died on the cross
for your sins and mine.

Let's close in prayer

This doesn't mean that we shouldn't be concerned -

Heavenly mind - no earthly good?