

*GOD'S
PORTION*

DISCOVER WHY YOU ARE
GOD'S PORTION IN LIFE!

GOD'S PORTION

If God did not express His love in a tangible way in causing His love to take on flesh and blood, we would have been in a pitiful state. God demonstrated His love towards us, by causing His Son to take on flesh and blood. We are here on earth as *a product of His love*. What a glorious origin to have! Let us turn to Heb.4:1. "Therefore, since the promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it." There has been many things attached to the rest of God, but if we want to discover *how to enter into the rest of God*, we must discover how He entered into His rest. It says in Heb.4:11 - "let us add diligence that we may enter into the rest of God". In other words, *God has a rest*.

We see in the Word that creation and recreation (redemption) corresponds with one another. *Creation is the type of recreation*. Creation is the shadow in the physical sphere, while recreation is the substance in the spiritual sphere. To understand on what basis God rests concerning recreation in Christ Jesus, we must see on what basis God rested concerning creation. We will only experience God's rest according to the measure of the revelation in our hearts of why God is at rest concerning us. We must see God's persuasion concerning our rest, before we will be persuaded that we can rest concerning our own lives!

Eph.2:10 says we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus. Heb.4:3 says that *God's works were*

finished from the foundation of the world! On what basis is it possible that God's works were finished from the foundation of the world, even before creation itself? Prov.8:22-25 gives us an answer in this matter. It speaks of wisdom personified in Christ Jesus - "The Lord possessed Me at the beginning of His way, *before His works of old* (creation). I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When there was no depths *I was brought forth*, when there was no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth." God was so satisfied and overwhelmed in His inner being with love that He could not but give utterance to it, and Christ was brought forth. Christ was such an exact replica of what God desired, that He found His full delight in Him. He decided to create nothing else that would not have the same features as Christ. God's desire and purpose was for fellowship and a love relationship, and Christ was the fulfillment of every aspect thereof. Because of His full satisfaction in Christ Jesus, all God's works would only be *an outflow of Christ* and not a creation of anything new. Creation was thus only an outflow of Christ and not a creation out of nothing. This is why the Greek in Col.1:16 is saying that "IN Him all things were created" and then "THROUGH Him and FOR Him." Everything that was made visible in creation was already created in Christ Jesus! Visible creation could not add to what was already created and finished in Christ Jesus. Visible creation was the proof of the success of the original blueprint.

This is why Prov.8:30-31 says "Then I (Jesus) was beside Him (God) as a master craftsman; and *I was daily His (God's) delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing*

in His inhabited world (earth), and my delight was with the sons of men." Acts 15:18 says - "*Known to God from eternity are all His works.*" God knows His works from eternity, because He has determined that any work of creation would be an expression of Christ Himself. Therefore, the whole of creation finds its essential features in Christ Jesus.

That is how it was possible that God's works were finished before the foundation of the world. Let us now discover in Gen.1 how God *entered into His rest* concerning this work. We constantly hear the opinion of man on how we should enter the rest of God, but God has the best opinion concerning His rest. In Gen.1, we read how God created the heavens and the earth. In the creation account, God replies six times (1:3, 10, 12, 17, 21, 25) as His work was unfolding. Every time it says "and God saw that *it was good*, ...and God saw that *it was good*, ...and God saw that *it was good*..." That word "good" speaks of *having found favor in the eye of the Beholder*. The word means that everything God beheld after He had created it, *touched the pleasure of His heart*. It found favor in the sight of the Beholder, namely God.

Then He says in Gen.1:27 - "So God created man in His own image. God created him, male and female, He created them and then God blessed them; and God said to them, be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue and have dominion over it." Verse 31 - "And God saw everything He had made and *indeed it was very good*." Verse 28 says "then God blessed them". The word "bless" is the Hebrew word BARAK, which means that *He appreciated or adored them*. To the religious

mind, this might seem like heresy, but it says that He kneeled down and adored them. He appreciated them. *God is love and this love could only rest in an encounter with a being of the same kind and likeness!* God can only find His rest in a being of the same image and likeness as Himself, a being with the same love as His, a being of *the same kind as His own*. Love can only find its rest in love. Only love can satisfy love.

Love desires someone else to love and it needs a response of the exact kind and quality of love. God, in His creation of man and woman, desired a response from a being on which He could lavish His love. Eph.1:7 says that through redemption God lavished His love upon us." God could *only enter His rest when He had found a being that He could appreciate*. God could only enter His rest when He had created a being that He could wholeheartedly appreciate and adore. God's rest found its fulfillment *when He was persuaded that man was the full and perfect expression of what He has desired in His heart to fellowship with*. So when did God enter His rest? When He was satisfied with and appreciated the work of His hands! When He created man, He said "*man is very good*." All of creation was good. It found pleasure in His heart and favor in His sight, but when He created man, He said "*behold it is very good*". In other words, man exhausted the creative ability of God. Within the limits or being of man, God found everything that satisfied the desire of His heart. God discovered in man everything He needed to satisfy His own desire for companionship. God rested because He found in man the mirror-reflection of Himself. He found in man the same kind of person and love as in Himself. Man was indeed the joy

of His desire. That is why it says "and God said it was very good".

God could rest, because of the excellent quality of creation. "*Rest*" means I have come to a place where the reality dawned upon me that *I need to add nothing to my life*. Nothing can be added to the PERSON of who I am in Christ Jesus, even if my experience does not match up with it. My experience cannot add or take away from who I am as a person, because my experience is only an outflow of my knowledge of who I am in Christ Jesus! The reality that you need to add nothing to your life is indeed a strong reality in which to walk. That means you are walking in the consciousness that you experience *ultimate satisfaction*. Rest is to walk in the consciousness of *being in a state of absolute peace, assuredness, confidence, tranquillity and love*. He entered His rest, because of you being in that state.

So *how* would we enter the rest of God? Would you agree that it is to appreciate as God appreciates? I start to *appreciate the new creation within me* as God alone appreciated me, because through appreciating as He does, I would definitely enter into the rest He did! Appreciation takes place when I salute the work of another person on my behalf. Appreciation is to acknowledge God for the good and perfect work that He did within you in Christ Jesus. All I can do in reaction to God's perfect workmanship in Christ Jesus is to respond in appreciation.

What focused God's interest in creation so intensely upon man? What was God's *purpose with man*? Was He looking for some profit in the works of man? If God

really sought man's work, He should have created him on the first day and then together with Him, man and God could have planned and worked together in creation. If His interest was in the works of man, He would have created man on the first day and let him work hard! The opposite is actually true in that God took much time to create everything in great detail for man. You could have made everything, but God made it for you so that nothing could disrupt your rest. Love took much time when He created creation. He took much time in depositing wealth into the earth. God could have given us just black and white and we would have done well, but He went to His ultimate in designing the earth wherein man would get to know Him. God created perfect circumstances and atmosphere for a perfect romance. He went to the ultimate of His creative thought when He created the world. He spent much time although it says one day, one day, one day. The Word says that one day is like a thousand years to God. When He completed everything, God created man, because the one thing that He desired, was that *everything must be completed* for the advent of man. Everything had to be completed so that man's only responsibility was *to get to know Him and appreciate everything that He has done for him*. God went to much trouble and spent a lot of time so that your appreciation can be a rest and not a frustration of works to you.

Gen.2:1-2, "Thus the heavens and the earth and all the hosts of them were finished and on the seventh day *God ended His work*, which He had done. Then God *blessed* the seventh day." God blessed all of creation, but the *only day* He blessed was the seventh day. Why? He sanctified it, because of His rest from all His works. The

word sanctified means He "set it apart". I believe that He sanctified it for Himself and man. It was a day of celebration wherein God would discover His rest, and man would discover God's rest. God rested from all His works! The word "rest" means He came into a state of tranquility. It was a celebration in the ceasing from exertion. It was *the celebration of the birth of humankind*. Adam and Eve's first day on the face of this earth was the Sabbath, *a day of resting and mutual enjoyment*. God sanctified and set apart the Sabbath day for man and God. It was a holy day, a day of romance, full of enjoyment and love-inspired fellowship.

The verse that forms the basis of the book of Ephesians is Eph.1:4. This verse contains the most beautiful ingredients that are enriching our faith. It says that God *associated us in Christ before the foundation of the world*. In other words, our identification did not come after the fall. God initially identified man in Christ before creation, and this was the reason for everything that followed. It says in Col.1:13 that the kingdom of God is the kingdom of the Son of His love. John 1:28 says "that this Son was in the bosom of the Father. The word "*bosom*" speaks of *the essential and eternal place of blessedness* with the Father. It speaks of the intimate presence of the Father. The Son of God accommodated this place even before creation. The intimacy that God enjoyed with His Son so inspired Him, that He saw in His Son the potential of many brethren. He saw His Son becoming the master copy of the entire human race. He desired to see many sons. It says in Heb.2:10 that it was fitting for Him to bring many sons to glory. God created man through the inspiration that He received from intimacy with His Son.

God's *eternal purpose* was always for man *to enjoy what His Son enjoyed*, to enjoy that place in the bosom - that eternal and essential place of blessedness in God. Rom.8:28-29 says, "we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are *called according to His purpose*." We have discovered God's purpose for us, and that is to accommodate the same place as His Son accommodates. We are called according to His purpose. "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed into the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." God desires you *to accommodate no other place than that which His Son accommodates*.

With man's fall, there came a hindrance in the purpose of God, but we have discovered that God's purpose is like a bulldozer. To man, it might have seemed like four thousand years of the fall, but to God it was like a second. *Nothing could hinder His eternal purpose for man*. Man would be the reproduction of that which HE experienced in His Son. Man would be the fruit of His Son. Nothing could stand in the way of God's purpose for you and me. Nothing. *God's intimacy with His Son was His inspiration for creation*. That is why God's dealings and plans for man are so strong. The inspiration God draws from intimacy with His Son proves to be so unquenchable that not even the sins of man on Christ could quench it!

Col.1:12 - "*Giving thanks*". Once he discovered God's fulfilled purpose, Paul could only give thanks. That is all he could do. The Greek word for thanks is the verb of the Greek noun for grace. *Giving thanks is a*

spontaneous outflow of seeing grace given to you in Christ Jesus. We give thanks or appreciation to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus. We are filled with gratitude. Remember that song, "Give thanks with a grateful heart" - it is all that we can do in response to perfect redemption, otherwise God would have created us on the first day. All that Adam could do was to appreciate and enjoy the complete creation. Adam could not add to anything that God created. Being created on the sixth day, he could not say, "Well Lord, let us add to the elephant or the lion, or let us change a few things here and there." He could not add to himself or anything else. *All he could do was to appreciate and enter the rest that God Himself had entered into.* See how precious and valuable the relationship is between God and His Son. When you understand the relationship and place of the Son, you will understand the place you accommodate in Christ.

Col.1:12-16 - "Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of *the Son of His love.*" We always notice the part where He translated us into the kingdom of His Son, but let us concentrate on the relationship between the Father and the Son. It says *the Son of His love.* "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin. He is the image of the invisible God, the First-born over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and on the earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities, all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is

before all things and in Him all things consist." The Son accommodates this precious place as the apple of God's eye. All things were made through Him, for Him, unto Him and in Him, all things consist. The word "consist" means that all things find their essential features in the Son of God. All things that were created were inspired by God's intimacy with His Son. All things find their essential features in His Son, and now through His blood, He has bought us and He has redeemed us once again to find our features and persuasion concerning ourselves in Him as the Son. The word 'features' means our faith, our substance, are found in Him, the Son.

Jesus Christ was presented *the blueprint of all of creation* and all of mankind. If the blueprint is a success, then the product must also be a success. That is why when the fall of man came, no one else could proof the design, or proof the success of the design but the mastercopy. If God created all of mankind through the inspiration of His Son, then His Son must proof the success of the design of man. That is why only the Son of God could take on flesh and blood. No one else could redeem man or proof that God's creation in man was a success, except the only begotten Son. John 1:14 - Christ has come to redeem us to the bosom of the Father. He has come to redeem us to that place of rest in which Adam should have walked. John 14:1 - "Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if *I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself*, that where I am, there you may be also", says the Mastercopy.

John 1:18 - "No one has seen God at any time, the only begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him." Now He says in John 14:3 - "I have come to receive you unto Myself that where I am, there you may be also." Those mansions are not mansions in the sky, but *a place of accommodation in God*. It is a place where I find my absolute satisfaction, and a place where God has found His absolute satisfaction. The *Sabbath* can be termed as *God's unhindered enjoyment of man and man's unhindered enjoyment of God*. In the same way as Adam could not add to the creation of God, you as a new creation cannot add to what God has created you to be.

He says in John 14:3 - "I will come to you and I will receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there you may be". See clearly that *it takes nothing from your side to be in that place of blessedness*. Eph.1:3-4 says that God blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus, even before the foundation of the world. God created you in Christ and He recreated you in Christ before you even knew it. The Word clearly says in Eph.1:10 that when the fullness of time came, God brought everything in heaven and earth back into Christ Jesus. "Of God you are in Christ Jesus *and that not of yourselves!*" - I Cor.1:30. You may pray for twenty hours, sing and fast and jump before God or even go and preach for ten years. He says that "I will come and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." What does it require from you to enter in experience into that place of blessedness you already accommodate in Christ Jesus? It requires your appreciation of it! *If God entered His rest through the appreciation of what He created,*

then I enter into my rest as a new creation through the appreciation of what He created me to be.

Adam's appreciation of creation was such a normal response in the light of awakening in a perfect atmosphere and creation like paradise. When God created Adam, everything was already finished and completed, and when he awoke in creation, the only thing left was the enjoyment and appreciation of everything around him. That is why appreciation could not be works to Adam, but a normal response out of perceiving what God has done. Creation is the type of recreation! In recreation or redemption after the fall of man, God did the same as in creation. God finished the whole of redemption before man could awake in his salvation. In Eph.2:11-16 we see that God reconciled and recreated the whole world (Jew and Heathen) back *to one new man, from the two*, through the cross, in the body of Christ Jesus. Through the death of Christ, every man's spirit was cleansed from the old man and made alive with Christ to hear, understand, and respond to God. God brought mankind, in terms of their spirit, back to where Adam and Eve were before the fall so that they can now again hear the Gospel and make a decision for it. Man was not made new and alive at his decision for God, but he died and was made alive WITH CHRIST at HIS cross and resurrection - Eph.2:5-10. Every person that responds to God does not have his own cross and resurrection!

Heb.9:25-26 says that Christ died once and was resurrected once, and if you were not part of that, you have missed it completely. This is confirmed with the fact that at the Friday of the cross, the whole of mankind

was unexceptionable to enter into God's presence, and on the Monday after the resurrection the invitation came to all mankind to enter into the presence of God on the new and living way (Heb.10:19-22). God cleansed humankind at the cross through the offering of the body of Christ, otherwise a invitation to enter would not be possible. When God's redemptive work was finished after the resurrection, the Gospel came to all mankind to AWAKE them unto what was already completed. It corresponds to what He said on the cross "It is finished!"

That is why I Cor.15:34 says, "*AWAKE unto righteousness, and do not sin...*" You cannot become anything more than you already are or work for anything, because *you are complete in Christ*. You just need to be what you already are. There is no command to become dead to sin and alive to God. You just have to RECKON yourself as dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus - Rom.6:11-13. God has finished everything and you can only awake to the fact that you are already complete in Christ. You merely have to work it out in your life. Ps.17:15 - "*As for me I will see your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in your likeness.*" When you heard the Gospel, you awoke and saw that there is nothing left to do to become the image and likeness of God, because you are already like Him through redemption. God has already restored you back to one new man at the cross, and all that remains now is to enjoy it! Simply appreciate what you became in Christ AT THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION and you will receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that will seal you - Eph.1:13.

I want to repeat this very important truth. *If God entered His rest through the appreciation of what He created, then I enter into my rest as a new creation through the appreciation of what He created me to be.* Our experience often contradicts the Word. Everything starts giving its opinion against you and claims that your experience does not come near to what the Word says. Your experience says the Word cannot be true, and it challenges the integrity of God's Word. In a situation like that, you specifically have *to appreciate your new nature.* Become quiet and start meditating upon the innocence that has given birth to your spirit. Do not say, "Well maybe I have got gall in my heart, maybe I am not so innocent." Start appreciating the innocence in your spirit. Start appreciating the purity that is in your spirit because of redemption. Start appreciating the new nature that God placed within you and immediately that rest becomes a constant consciousness. Immediately that rest becomes a reality that dawn as the sun dawns. Appreciate until the morning star rises in your heart - II Pet.1:19. Only then will you start to appreciate the bosom of your Father as the place of blessedness that you accommodate in Christ Jesus. In doing this, it does not say that your circumstances will change immediately, but your inward being will start to overrule the outward tribulation - II Cor.4:16-18. Day by day, the inward man must be renewed, not by looking at the temporary, outward things, but by looking at Christ as my mirror-reflection of the eternal in me.

There is a blessing in *walking in the consciousness of that place of blessedness* in the bosom of the Father. How? Through *the appreciation of the truth that you are there* because He has brought you there. God brought

us back into Christ Jesus at the cross. In other words, each one of us right now is accommodating that place where the Son of God is. When contradiction comes and your experience does not match up with the Word, just sit there and say, "Father, I appreciate the fact that Your Son has redeemed me to a place where I cannot add to anything. I am at this very moment accommodating a place in Your bosom in Christ Jesus. I could not add to anything in my life even if I wanted to, because it was prepared two thousand years ago". It was of His working that you are what you are, otherwise you would have helped Jesus to do it. I Cor.15:10 - But by the grace of God, I am what I am." He prepared that place beforehand, before you or I was even born. What does God desire from you? He desires your appreciation, because through your appreciation you enter into the reality of it. Appreciation and faith is actually exactly the same thing.

Heb.4:1-3 "Therefore, since the promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it, for indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them, but the Word they heard *did not profit them, not being mixed with faith* in those who heard it." They did not appreciate the calling of God to them through the gospel. "For we who believe do enter that rest, so I swore in My wrath that they shall not enter My rest, *although the works were finished from the foundation of the earth.*" God's eternal purpose was established from the beginning of the earth, that you would accommodate the Son's place in His bosom. You would be accommodated in His bosom in Christ Jesus and that was finished from the foundation of the earth.

You cannot add to it, just be persuaded concerning the truth of it and enjoy it.

In Heb.4:4-7 God urges us not to harden our hearts but to appreciate the completed work of Christ. "Again He designates a certain day saying to David - Today after such a long time as it has been said 'Today if you hear My voice', do not harden your hearts." The calling of God, His love call, is heard in His voice. *His voice and His calling is the gospel.* You do not need to call man through any other means except the gospel, because his heart responds to the love call of God. He says, "do not harden your hearts". Hardening of heart and rebellion would be the exact opposite of appreciation. "If Joshua had given them rest, He would not afterwards have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God." That rest is your absolute enjoyment of God and His absolute enjoyment of you. That is God's rest that you enter into. It is not your rest, but the rest of God that becomes your rest as you see the reason for His rest concerning you!

It is very important to see that God finished everything Himself, because if you do not see it, you will try to produce it through your own works. God is at rest concerning what you became in your spirit in Christ Jesus through the resurrection. This truth is settled in your heart. Start appreciating God's initiative, because so often we think it must come from our side, that we must come into His presence with boldness, that we must break through the veil into the heavenly places, that we must take the initiative to approach God as a lion. God's initiative opened for us the new and living way. He is the One who drew you. He is the One who called you.

Rom.5:8 says, "Herein is the love of God demonstrated, that Christ died for us while we were God's enemies." He embraced us in His love while we were sinners, ungodly and His enemies. Eph.2:3 says that we were children of wrath and not children of the wrath of God as we always interpreted it. We were not children destined to receive God's wrath, but we were children of a nature of wrath. That nature was in vengeance against God and blasphemed the living God. While we were in that state of vengeance against God, He embraced us in His love. Do you agree that *the initiative came from Him! Start appreciating God's initiative*, because when you start walking in that consciousness it is no longer something that you must produce, but simply appreciating what has already come from Him.

Eseg.16:6-14 clearly shows us the initiative of God. See with your spiritual eyes how all this happened to YOU in Christ Jesus in the New Testament. "And when I *passed* by you and saw you *struggling in your own blood*, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' I made you *thrive* like a plant in the field; and you *grew, matured, and became very beautiful*. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were *naked and bare*. When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed, it was *the time of love*; and so I *spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness*. Yes, I *swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant* with you, and *you became Mine*," says the Lord God. "Then I *washed you in water*; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I *anointed you with oil*. I *clothed you* in embroidered cloth and *gave you sandals* of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and *covered you* with silk. I *adorned you* with ornaments, put bracelets on your

wrists, and a chain on your neck. And I put a jewel on your nose, earrings in your ears, and a *beautiful crown on your head*. Thus, you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate *pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil*. You were *exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty*. Your *fame* went out among the nations because of *your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor* which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord God. It is easy to love from an initiative like this. God accomplished it for you so that you can enjoy and live it fully.

Hos.11:1 says, "When Israel was a child I loved him, out of Egypt I called him to be My son." Verse 3-4: "I taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by their arms, but they did not know it was I who healed them. I *drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love*, and I was to them as those who take the yoke off their neck and I stooped and fed them." Verse 8 - "How can I give you up, oh Ephraim?" What was the motivation of God calling man out of a perverse and crooked generation? Man went and blew everything. God should just have left him. Hos.11:9 - "I will not execute My fierceness of anger, I will not destroy Ephraim, for I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst. And I will not come to you with terror. I John 4:9 - "In this the love of God was manifested towards us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and He sent His Son to be a propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." Paul writes in another place and says - "I

do not need to teach you concerning brotherly love, because God Himself teaches you."

Let us clearly see God's initiative in His act of propitiation. The word *propitiation* is a term that the Greeks used when they brought their sacrifices to their Greek gods. They had many drink offerings to their gods. Vines writes about this and says that it was "in order to change the mood of their gods to be favorable towards them." There was a constant act of propitiation in their hope, and a bare glimpse of anticipation in which they wished that their gods would become favorable towards them. It sounds as if their gods were very moody! *I praise God that He is not a moody God.* One day I must sneak in and the next day He hauls me into His presence and the day after that He throws me out again. There is just no shadow of turning in the heart of God. I do not need to shrink back. He specifically states that He has no pleasure in those who draw back, because His heart has never changed towards man. God desires for us to take initiative, because He first took the initiative. He wants you to respond wholeheartedly to what He did wholeheartedly in Christ Jesus with you. I am possessive over God only because He was first possessive over me.

The Greeks continually had to do these acts of propitiation. They had to bring their sacrifices to please their gods. The God that we have come to know did the act of propitiation on our behalf. He brought His own sacrifice, offering His only begotten Son. God's mood did not need to change to be favorable towards you. *His mood has always been one of lovingkindness and tender mercies towards you.* Your mood had to be changed.

God was in love with man even before the sacrifice of His Son. We were children of wrath and vengeance against God. Therefore, God comes with His Son, the Lamb of God. The Word says in John 1:29 - "Behold the lamb of God". Can you imagine what was going on in the minds of the Jewish people concerning the Lamb of God? They were accustomed to bring their own little lambs for the last 1400 years, and here John shouts out "Behold the lamb of God!" The lamb was God's act of propitiation, God's act of favor. When the Greeks brought their sacrifices to their gods, their gods already had their favor. They were trying to win the favor of their gods. In the New Covenant, *God is seeking to win the favor of man*, which is why He sent His Lamb. *He desires to change the mood of the hearts of man.*

This precious reality will enrich your faith, if you determine to walk in the consciousness of God's initiative over your life. In the light of God's initiative, your walk and relationship with God is not a burden, but a *response* to what He first did. Herein is the love of God demonstrated, that He first loved you. God did not need to be reconciled to you, but you were in need to be reconciled to God. II Cor.5:18 - "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. That is why God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself." Why? Because He desired godly offspring, He brought man back into a relationship of favor with Him - Mal.2:15. "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf,

be reconciled to God." The word *pleading* means, "to seek the favor of". God was seeking the favor of man, desiring a change of mood in the heart of man towards Him. Now on that basis I implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. I want this reality to dawn upon you through the Spirit.

In Eph.3:8-12 we read about *the unsearchable riches of Christ* preached to the Gentiles. This revelation motivates Him to let all people see *the fellowship of the mystery*, hidden in God from the beginning of the ages, in Him who created all things through Jesus Christ. This *manifold wisdom of God* is now revealed to the church, according to the eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. What is the mystery? The mystery was that all the years God desired mirror-reflection fellowship that would be the same as His fellowship with His Son. This eternal purpose (Eph.1:3-4) was accomplished through creation in Christ Jesus. The fall of man disturbed and cancelled the function of this purpose in man, but was preserved in Christ Jesus as the blueprint. With redemption God, through the Blueprint, restored man's spirit to the righteousness and holiness of God and called it the new creation.

Col.1:25-29 says the stewardship of God is the mystery that was hidden from ages and generations, but now has been revealed in Christ Jesus. The riches of the glory of this mystery IN the Gentiles is revealed as Christ (His image and likeness) in them, the hope of glory! God has restored His righteousness and holiness in man through the cross and resurrection. God has renewed man's spirit by destroying the power of sin and darkness that kept man in bondage, separated from the presence of

God. - Heb.1:3. That is why Eph.4:22 says, "Put on (command in the past tense - let it manifest, be what you are) the new man that was created according to God's righteousness and holiness." The new man is not Christ, but it is according to Christ! See also Col.3:9-11. The result of this successful redemption is stated in Eph.3:12 - *"in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him."* Another translation of the Greek reads, *"Our union with Him is a result of His faith, not our presumption. He initiated our union, and we are not imposing upon the presence or the promises of God. We have thus obtained an unrestricted, unreserved approach."*

This simple *story* may further illustrate the point. I desired to know Susan better, because I have seen her and identified in my spirit that she has a treasure into which I need to tap. Therefore, I approach her and tell her "Susan, will you please come and have some coffee with cream cake and biscuits with me?" You see, she has my favor, but I desire her to get to know me as well. I desire for her to have me as a pleasure, a pleasurable friend. Therefore, I invite her, but she is stubborn. She simply does not want to come, regardless of how I invite, implore or plead with her. After the third month, she eventually responds. She comes down to my room, but she is hesitant and restricted in her approach. She says, "May I have one of these biscuits?" I am overwhelmed that she eventually responded. I am leaping up and down, bringing out the cookies as fast as I can, and I cannot carry enough cups of coffee over to her. I just want to sit down and get to know her. In other words, *she is not imposing*. In spite of all this, she sits and says, "I hope that I am not imposing on your presence."

Your union with God is a result of His faith, not your presumption! He first took the initiative. You were not the one with all the initiative. You were not the one breaking down the veil into the heavenly places, with much confidence with which you have stirred yourself up. He drew you with cords of love and prepared that place before you were even born. You could not add to it even if you wanted to. Do you understand the rest of God?

In God's desire to repossess you, He knew what *the price* would be. God knew the price of redemption was the life of His Son, Jesus Christ. He gave that which was most precious to Him to repossess you. Now He has nothing but you. In giving everything to repossess man, He has nothing left except man. Even His Son is part of the human race now and sits in heaven forever with a physical body! He says in I Tim.2:5 that there is one Mediator between God and man, *the man* Christ Jesus. Jesus is the firstborn among many brethren. Can you understand why *God is possessive over you*? Do you know what it does to your spirit when you dwell in the consciousness that *God is possessive over you*. Meditate on that. Let us read Zeph.3:17 from the Amplified. "The Lord your God is in the midst of you, a Mighty one, a Saviour who saves, *He will rejoice over you with joy, He will rest in silent satisfaction and in His love He will be silent and make no mention of past sins or even recall them; He will exalt over you with singing.*" Appreciate the response of God, His possessiveness over you. Religion is busy with idolatry. The heathen worship gods with eyes that cannot see, mouths that cannot speak, hands that cannot handle and ears that cannot hear. They worship idols from which they *get no*

response. I cannot see any reason why they should continue their relationship of that idol. What is it that inspires your relationship with God? Surely it is *the feedback you receive from Him on a daily basis.* How do you receive feedback? Through appreciating and meditating upon the Scriptures and a life of worshipping God. That is how you receive feedback. We are not busy worshiping a God that does not respond. We are not praying towards God without any feedback. God is a God who has given testimony of Himself in your spirit and He is sustaining that witness! We have a God who is full of emotion over you. He exalts with joy over you. When you discover God's possessiveness over you, you cannot but respond. He rests in silent satisfaction over you.

Let us read Ps.132:3 - "Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house or go up to the comfort of my bed, I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids *until I find a place for the Lord, a dwellingplace for the Mighty God of Jacob.*" Verse 7-9 - "Let us go into His tabernacle, let us worship at His footstool, arise, O Lord, to Your restingplace, You and the ark of Your strength. Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness and let Your saints shout for joy". Verse 13-14, "*For the Lord has chosen Zion; and He has desired it for His habitation. This is My resting place forever, I will dwell here for I have desired it.*" The word 'desire' means *unsatisfied longing until that desire is satisfied.* God has chosen Zion, because He so appreciated that which He saw in the human race, that He could enter into His rest. Love found enough within the creation of man in which it could be satisfied. In beholding what God did, an *enriching of my faith* takes place. However, with dead religion the

worshiper receives no feedback from the object of his worship. There is no feedback at all, no inspiration to continue in that relationship. However, God has called us to a place that His own Son enjoys and we have feedback from Him. You must reach a place of persuasion, where you refuse to live in a relationship with God without living in the consciousness of His feedback in your spirit. God gave full testimony of Himself in the spirit of man, and now He wants you to live daily in the full consciousness of it.

This sounds like heresy to the religious mind, but David said in Ps.73:25-26, "Who have I in heaven but You O God, and having You, there is nothing I desire on this earth." In beholding God and keeping my eyes upon Christ, I get the feedback of I John 4:17 - "As He (Christ) is, so are we in this world." Therefore, you can say with boldness of yourself what God says of you, because He has reconciled us to a relationship of equality and *mutual encouragement*. A relationship of equality means that what the one experiences, the other can also experience, otherwise it is not a relationship of equality. Do you see in what we are involved? We are involved with a God who exalts over you, a God who is filled with emotion for you, "How can I give you up, O Ephraim; My compassion grows warm within Me over you. I have created you to be My resting place," says your God.

Deut.32:9 - "*For the Lord's portion is His people, and Jacob is the place of His inheritance.*" To claim something as your portion means you desire nothing else. It is your hope for tomorrow or the future and your absolute delight. God says - "Israel, you are My portion, you are My hope for the future, you are My delight, you

are My inheritance and Jacob is the place of My inheritance." God inherited through the death of His Son. God inherited you through the death of His Son. Eph.1:11 in the Greek reads as follow - "In whom (Christ) we were made His (God's) inheritance, having been chosen/predestined from the beginning for this purpose in accordance to the purpose or intention of Him (God) whose might carries out in everything the purpose of His own will." The work of the cross was the initiative of God to secure man as His portion. To secure this purpose and to make sure that it will be an absolute success, He carried it out personally as the One who works everything in the universe according to His will. It is nice to be the focus of such unquenchable initiative, whereby God is overwhelmed with man as the reward of the success of the cross and resurrection.

Deut.32:10 - "Jacob is the place of My inheritance. You found him in a desert land, a wasteland, a howling wilderness; you encircled him and instructed him." While we were in the wasteland, God encircled us. While we were enemies and hostile in our minds towards God, He encircled us and marked us out for His own possession. He then kept us as *the apple of His eye*. That word apple speaks of *the focus of a being*. Ps.17:8 - "Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wing." Zech.2:8 - "He who touches you touches the apple of His eye." That is why David says, "What is man that You are mindful of him." Man has always been the focus of God. We must understand the purpose that God treasured within Himself. The thoughts of God, throughout ages, even though they were hidden from man, were wholly upon man. The thoughts of God were focused upon man, His desire was focussed upon man,

and everything in the heart of God was inclined and purposed upon man.

When the time comes for revelation knowledge to be birthed in you and you start discovering that the mind of God has always been upon you, you cannot but become possessed. *God is possessed with mankind.* We become possessed by the thoughts of God over us. The purpose that God treasured in His heart throughout the generations has now been unveiled to us. This is our stewardship, to unveil and demonstrate the purpose that God treasured in Himself, that man should accommodate the place that His Son is Himself accommodating at the moment. This is the mystery that has been hidden for ages and generations in the Old Testament, Christ in union with mankind. The image and likeness of Christ, as God's hope of glory, is again restored in man.

Arising from the fact that we are God's portion, we reach another conclusion, namely that *God is our portion.* This is absolutely Biblical and logical, for in a covenant the two parties belong to each other. Ps.16:5 - "You, O Lord, are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. Ps.119:57 - "You are my portion, o Lord." Jer.10:16, 51:19 - "The Portion of Jacob is not like them, for He is the Maker of all things, and Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; the Lord of hosts is His name." Lam.3:24 - "The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I hope in Him." What an inheritance to have God as your portion!

Eph.1:15-18 "Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease making mention of you in my prayers that the God

of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you might know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of *His inheritance* among the saints." Paul's prayer here for the Ephesians is that the eyes of their heart be flooded with light, that they might know what was in the mind of God that He hoped for when He called you.

When He called you, He did not say, "I will call you and see what I can do with you later". There was a *specific hope in the heart of God*, which inspired Him to call you. Now, when I discover what God hoped for me, I will fulfill His hope. He says, "I pray for you that you might know what it was that He called you unto, that you *might walk a walk fully worthy of His calling*". When I discover what He hoped when He called me, I fulfill the reason why He called me. He says here "that you might know the hope of His calling." How precious that God treasured a hope over you! Over each one of us, there is a hope and when I tap into that hope, I fulfill it.

The Word says in Ephesians, "what are the glory of the riches of His inheritance." The whole Ephesians 1 is not speaking of your inheritance, but of God's inheritance, which is you. You are God's inheritance. It says, "I pray that you might grasp *how precious you are to God as His possession and as His inheritance*. That is the beauty of the Gospel. What happens when I discover that? I fulfill it. I complete that which God hoped. I fulfill that desire within the heart of God. "That you might know what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance amongst the saints." In the Living Bible translation he says, "*I want*

you to realize that God has been made rich because we who are Christ's have been given to Him." It throws a completely different light upon your union with God. Your union with God takes on a completely new emphasis. The emphasis now is God's initiative, God's love. Herein is love demonstrated, that God first loved you.

Is.32:17-18 - "The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever." There is no question about it. The work of righteousness in your life will result in peace, and its effect, result or outworking will be quietness and assurance forever. Quietness and assurance forever. We have nothing to add to our redemption except to appreciate the peace, quietness and assurance of it forever. Verse 18 - "My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings and in quiet resting places." All you need to do is to enjoy this great and mighty redemption. I want to encourage you to start *enjoying the nature that is within you*. It is the nature of God. We looked into this Word, especially I Cor.13 as the love chapter, and for so long we have been window-shopping. We are not window-shopping, *but looking into a mirror* when we keep our eye upon Christ. In the mirror of Christ, you see what you became in Christ, and you are looking at the enjoyment that God desires for you to enter into.

God is challenging us today to enjoy our new nature, because we really can enjoy it. It is innocent, blameless and pure without guile. Wallow yourself in it, because you know that you are the image of the Son in whom you find your essential features. In Him, all things consist and find their essential features in the Son. Start

enjoying the nature that is in you and enjoy the place into which He has brought you. As he (Christ) is, so are you! - I John 4:17. Enjoy being in the image and likeness of God and appreciate it fully. It is actually for this purpose that Christ came, to fulfill your joy - John 15:11.

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