



The Wheat Field

Volume 1. Part 1. February, 2005

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As most of you know we've launched a new ministry starting January 2005. ARISE! Ministries was birthed to better provide a format for helping Native American Pastors and Christian leaders to better serve their communities and nations. I was looking for a way to bless those that support and pray for us and it occurred to me that a short article with some of the thoughts, insights and tidbits that the Lord has blessed me with might be somehow useful to you. This article is the first of what I hope will be six articles each year. I've decided to call them "The Wheat Field", as it is my prayer that these little kernels help you multiply your faith a hundred fold.

Who Are We Anyway?

Part 1. Heirs and Co-Heirs with Christ

Several years ago I taught middle-school kids at a church my family attended. Previously there had been no Sunday School for these kids so we had to start the ministry from scratch. Early on it was decided that one concept we would focus on was making sure that the kids we taught absolutely knew who they were in Christ before each teaching year was over. It was interesting that many of these 11 to 13 year olds didn't have a clue of who they really were until we pointed out what the Word of God said about them! Their faith grew just by knowing and understanding how God really saw them.

In recent weeks I've been called on to pray with several "mature" Christians that also needed to hear again who they really are in the Lord. These were all folks that have walks with the Lord and are mature in their faith. But, because of circumstances they had lost sight of their place in the Kingdom of God. There is no question that the trials and tribulations of this world can make us lose sight of who we really are in the Lord and I believe that this truth needs to be re-stated, re-examined and re-applied by us all on a regular basis.

The scripture is so clear about who we are! If you are saved, that is if you:

"...confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Rom 10:9-10

Then you are an "heir" of God and a co-heir of Christ!

"...because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs -heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory." Rom 8:14-17

What a concept! What an honor and what a privilege!

"But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir." Gal 1:4-7

The words that I've underlined in the scriptures above deserve a closer look in the Greek to determine what they are truly saying about the way God sees us.

"SONSHIP" in Romans 8:14 is the Greek word HUIOTHESIA which means THE ADOPTION OF A SON. The idea here is that when we believe and are saved we become the adopted sons and daughters of God. In the culture of the time those that were adopted were considered very, very special because they had been CHOSEN to be part of a family – they were by all accounts the CHOSEN ONES!

"HEIR" as used in Romans 8 is the Greek word KLERONOMOS it means a SHARER BY LOT, INHERITOR, A POSSESSOR! The idea here is that we share with Christ, inherit with Christ and possess with Christ!

"SON" used in Galatians is HUIOS and denotes a son or figuratively kinship. This gives the sense of true KINSHIP WITH THE FATHER!

"TO RECEIVE" in Galatians is the word APOLAMBANO - TO RECEIVE SPECIALLY OR IN FULL!

What does this all mean? My interpretation is that as a saved Christian you have been...
...ADOPTED AS GOD'S CHOSEN SON OR DAUGHTER TO RECEIVE A FULL INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

What does being God's chosen son or daughter really mean in our lives?

WE SHARE IN THE GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST - "He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2Thess. 2:14

WE ARE MEMBERS OF GOD'S HOUSEHOLD – "No longer foreigners and aliens but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household." Eph. 2:19

WE HAVE ALREADY MADE RESERVATIONS TO BE WITH CHRIST IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS - "God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus." Eph. 2:6

Beloved – I pray that you start off each day remembering who you are in Christ Jesus that this knowledge might carry you through the hardships of this world. You are the adopted sons and daughters of the Most High God – King of Kings and Lord of Lords! You are His chosen ones, you are royalty of the first order and as His beloved you will share in His coming glory! Go forth with confidence, feel the crown on your head today – everyday!

YOU ARE ROYALTY!