

ASK AND RECEIVE

1 John 5:14-17,21

John sandwiches this neat little comment about prayer in between:

WHAT we know: We are in Him, of Him, and we know all things,

WHAT we have: Eternal life and eternal love...a quality and quantity of pure life.

So this creates the "environment" of our asking: *We have been given ALL things...*

If you currently own or possess something do you have to ask for it?

The point is: *if I have it, I don't need to ask for it.*

So let's look at what we currently have as believers.

And let's break this down into body, soul and spirit. (Spirit first, then soul and body next week...)

We are spirits, we have a soul, and we reside in a body. All of them work together and affect one another, or are affected by each other.

So when my body is sick, it could make me depressed. If I lose my job, it could make me sad...or happy?

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder unrest, rebellion and every evil thing and morally degrading practice. (James 3.16)

If we allow our bodies and souls to control us, then that can affect our spirit.

So what do I currently have? What are my spiritual blessings? Kingdom privileges?

Reading from 2 Pet 1

GRACE and PEACE

Multiplied: PLETHORA. We have (if we want it)...An excessive amount of overabundance, more than enough, too many, too much!

When I need grace and peace, I can take it, do not have to ask for it...*already have it!*

Do you know how much a peaceful heart can affect our souls and bodies?

KNOWLEDGE

Paul in 1 Cor 13:12,

"Now I know GNOSIS in part, but then I shall know EPIGNOSIS even as also I am known."

He contrasts our present, imperfect knowledge with the full knowledge we will have in heaven.

BUT Peter here does not use GNOSIS, he uses EPIGNOSIS...***you have divine knowledge!***

LIFE and GODLINESS

The spiritual life of the soul: everything that comes from our union with Christ. Jesus in me; through me; by me; around me..

Godliness: it means reverence, true piety towards God.

And we have been given EXCEEDING GREAT and PRECIOUS PROMISES

When? Then? NO, now!

Trace them through the New Testament: First seen in Acts:

The promise that the HS would dwell IN US...Jesus basically said that God is going to dwell in you!

And Peter declares that this promise is to you, your children and to all who are far off...

SEVEN more times the Word declares that the promise was given to Abraham...

All through Romans, the promise of Abraham was fulfilled in Jesus and now IN US

Culminating in 2 Cor 1.20:

For all the promises of God IN HIM are Yes, and IN HIM Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Because we are PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE

When? Then? NO, now!

This is not a merely sentimental, or even a merely mystical and transcendental change; on the contrary, *it is a change actual, discernible, and progressive*; a change by which its Divine Author is glorified. The end of God's gift is the complete accomplishment of His purpose (Alford)

It is complete *now* and will be complete *then*.

Read...

2 Cor 3 Eph 3 Eph 4 Col 2 1 Pet 1 Heb 3 John 17

Beloved, NOW are we the sons and daughters of God...

Now that is our foundation for asking! That's the basis of our seeking! The environment in which we live is victory!

Overcoming authority is the air we breathe.

It is the covenant we live.

And yes, these are spiritual truths that CAN and do invade and control the natural realm.

Let me close with the parable of Jesus that is probably one of the most misunderstood parables...

(How much more! parables...)

There was an unjust judge; powerless, little widow...

STOP: Are you a powerless widow spiritually? And is our Heavenly Father an unjust...?

I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.

There is no need for us to beg, coerce, bribe or trick our heavenly Father.

He is not an unrighteous judge

He is a heaven loving heavenly Father who has already knows what we need of before we ask.

He has ALREADY given to us the keys to the kingdom

He has ALREADY opened a door that no man can shut...

Know what we have and Who HE is even before we begin to ask!