



WEEK TWO

Expect to Be Enriched



Day One || Enriched in Everything

“Everything you need God already is.” —Priscilla Shirer

SEEK GOD

As you enter a time of prayer, remember to thank God for giving you His Spirit to teach you truth today.

These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

1 Corinthians 2:10-12 ESV

OBTAIN TRUTH

Hopefully, you are beginning to fall deeper in love with The Hope, our Savior and Lord, as you have discovered His promises and goodness! I am brimming with

excitement for you to continue this Bible study journey with me. We will spend the remaining three weeks of this study exploring the wealth of our great hope in Christ. Are you ready to dig into the Word of God today and discover the great blessings you have as God’s child? Come on!

Go to 1 Corinthians 1, and as you read verses 3-9, write a list of what you have been given as a Christian.

I Have Been Given:

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Now read 1 Corinthians 1:10-12.

What did Paul hear some believers arguing about?

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What did this unloving debate have the potential to cause?

Paul continues to explain to the believers of Corinth that their arguing is worldly and foolish. He explains all the men they are biased toward are just instruments of God, doing their part, but God alone is the source of any true effectiveness (see 1 Corinthians 3:1-7).

And finally, at the end of 1 Corinthians chapter three, Paul concludes with a strong and profound statement: “So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ...” (1 Corinthians 3:21-22 NIV)

Wait. What? All things are yours? All things are *mine*?

What does Paul say is ours? (Circle all that are accurate.)

- A. other believers
- B. the future
- C. the world
- D. life
- E. death
- F. today

What do you think Paul means by “all things are yours”?

Let’s consider the context of Paul’s letter a bit further to help us understand.

Paul explains we shouldn’t take pride in one man against another. *For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have begun to reign—and that without us! How I wish that you really had begun to reign so that we also might reign with you!* 1 Corinthians 4:7-8 NIV

So, when Paul writes, “all things are yours,” he’s asking the Corinthians to consider their foolish thinking. He’s asking them to realize God has abundantly blessed all of them for the mutual benefit of one another and His glory. If they could only understand the hope of what they *have*, they wouldn’t be fussing over worldly issues like “who’s the best?”

Now, I’ll explain the answers to the multiple choice questions from above.

- A. Other believers are yours: not only do we belong to the Lord but also we belong to one another to love and serve each other (1 Peter 4:10).
- B. The future is yours: our future is set and secure by the Holy Spirit’s seal upon us to live with God forever in eternal glory (2 Corinthians 1:22).

C. The world is yours: the blessings of God extend to all things in this world. *You made them [man] rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.* Psalm 8:6-8 NIV

D. Life is yours: every moment is a gift from God in which His power has provided you with everything you need (2 Peter 1:3).

E. Death is yours: Jesus has given us victory over our deaths! *Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep [perish], but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 NIV

F. Today is yours: you have the resurrection life of Christ inside of you, so you can live each day as an overcomer. *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.* 2 Corinthians 4:16 NIV

Never forget your incredible riches in Christ. All things are truly yours!



ABIDE BY THE SPIRIT

Remember, “to hope” means to confidently expect. What do you already have in Christ but have forgotten about? You should live out of the abundance of all you’ve been given! What do you need to start having joyful and confident expectation about?

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REACH OUT

Consider who you can encourage today with the truth you’ve received from today’s study. You never know what impact sharing your wisdom will have on someone’s life.

A few standout verses in this passage to me were:

He [God] made known to us the mystery of His will. ... Ephesians 1:9 NIV

This refers to the salvation for everyone who believes in Christ Jesus, the revealed Messiah. Isn't it amazing that the most rewarding and wonderful mystery has now been revealed? Let's keep sharing this news with everyone we can!

Ephesians 1:3 tells us we've been enriched with every spiritual blessing in Christ! Wow. I want to know more about this! Don't you?

Now, let's read through Psalm 103:2-13, printed here for you. Give yourself time to reflect on the blessings you've received from God as His child.

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; ... Psalm 103:2-13 NIV (emphasis added)

ABIDE BY THE SPIRIT

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! ... 1 John 3:1 NIV

You are lavished with love! You have been chosen, redeemed, and forgiven!

Do these truths blow you away like they did when you first believed?

How long has it been since you have thought about the old, unchanged you?

Write out five to seven sins you've been forgiven of.

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What does forgiveness of your sins mean to you?

Read through the list you made in today's **Obtain Truth** for Ephesians 1:3-14.

Do you think you are living in the fullness of your abundant blessings as God's child? Why or why not?

REACH OUT

Families are special. It's easy to take our family members for granted. Who in your family can you spend some quality time with today? Is there something you can do to show a family member you love them that would make their day? Ask our Heavenly Father what He has in mind before you decide.



Day Three || Enriched with a New Citizenship

SEEK GOD

But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you ... “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. Isaiah 43:1 NIV

Start today’s study by going to the throne of your Father with an expectant heart. Expect to be comforted, refreshed, and loved as you pour out your soul to Him.

OBTAIN TRUTH

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

As Christians, you and I have been made *completely* new. We’ve been given a new family, a new identity, a new purpose, and a new citizenship (see Philippians 3:20). Although everything may appear the same on the outside, there is a new person on the inside. We have become an entirely different creation, and the Holy Spirit now lives within us.

Imagine for a moment that you’re an alien citizen from another planet. (Yes, this is quite a stretch, and no, I’m not a sci-fi junkie, but I’m just trying to make a point.) Now, imagine your parents take you to Earth for a first-ever vacation. When your spaceship arrives, you immediately go into culture shock. Everything is totally

different from your home planet—the atmosphere, the vegetation, the life forms, colors, sounds, smells, and of course, the lifestyle. There seems to be little familiarity to your home. It’s a good thing your family is with you because earth makes you feel lost and homesick.

Just like this make-believe alien, you and I are strangers in this world. And, if you’re at all like me, you feel stranger the longer you live here. Our hearts, thoughts, and minds are transforming and longing for our true home.

The good news is our citizenship in Christ has given us a real-time hope. Although we aren’t home yet, we aren’t alone or without loving benefits from our Father.

Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.” Luke 17:20-21 NIV

What does Luke 17 say about where God’s Kingdom is?

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The phrase “in your midst” is the Greek word *entos* which means “within or inside.” So, when we follow Jesus, the Kingdom of God is inside each of us!

In the book of John, Christ Jesus, when answering Pontius Pilate’s questions, said, ... “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” (John 18:36 ESV)

We may have to wait a while before entering our true and eternal home, but I want you to know and embrace what you have *now* as a member of the Kingdom of God.

Let’s dig into Romans 14:17 and see what treasures of truth we can find.

As you read it, create a brief list below of the revealed riches in Christ.

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, ...
Romans 14:17 NIV

Blessings of My True Citizenship:

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In Romans 14, Paul, its author, was instructing the Christians of Rome about the importance of doing everything in love. Paul told them to stop judging fellow believers whose faith was not as strong and to be sure they don’t force their life of freedom upon weaker brothers who may then stumble into sin. Go read it yourself for better understanding!

Now, it’s in this context that Paul’s zeal for what really matters spills out of him. Basically, he’s saying, “Guys, this world’s culture and our biases have little to do with God’s culture and Kingdom ways! God’s Kingdom is about a love that produces righteousness, peace, and joy!”

And don’t you know Paul could have listed an abundance of other virtues that come from God’s Kingdom, but I love that he chose these three: righteousness, peace, and joy!

Let’s examine some Scriptures containing these three virtues. Read them through the lens of our ability to experience the beauty and power of the Kingdom of God every day.

I Have Righteousness!

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV

... and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

Philippians 3:9 NIV

You have received Christ’s righteousness in place of your filthy sinfulness; His righteousness is now your righteousness. Being a sinner saved by the amazing grace of God was only the beginning of your Kingdom story. The Holy Spirit took residency in your reborn spirit and began a work of transforming you into the image of Jesus. And you are promised that Christ, the Author of your faith, will finish what He started in your faith journey (see Philippians 1:6).

I Have Peace!

"I have told you these things [Jesus is referencing His coming death and resurrection], so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
John 16:33 NIV

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27 NIV

Where does peace come from?

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Did you notice peace is a gift? Peace is found in receiving and acknowledging the presence of God, the Prince of Peace, in your circumstances.

I have Joy!

In Philippians, Paul passionately instructs us, "Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4 NIV) These words, written from a first century Roman prison cell, hit straight into our baffled 21st century hearts. How could Paul have the capacity to rejoice under such horrible circumstances?

To answer this, I looked up the original Greek word for rejoice. It's *chairó*, which means to rejoice or be glad. But that's not all. The root word is *charis*, meaning grace. To "rejoice" is actually to delight in God's grace—literally, to experience God's grace or be glad for His grace. We can all certainly understand and do this!

Now, we will consider one more Scripture:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 NIV

According to Roman 15:13, *how* does our joy and peace come from God?

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And what overflows when we are filled with peace and joy?

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In God's Kingdom, we have righteousness, peace, and joy!

ABIDE BY THE SPIRIT

Our inner attitudes don't have to reflect our outward circumstances! We are children of the King and citizens of the unshakable Kingdom of God where hope, righteousness, peace, and joy abound.

Read and repeat—until it sinks in—the following statements aloud and with confidence:

I am a royal family citizen of the Kingdom of God. I have righteousness. I have peace. I have joy. Therefore, I have hope.

This is what you've been given through Christ!

Let's be real though. You may not be living according to God's righteousness, and you may not be feeling the peace or joy of the Father at all. If any of this is true, know this: God hasn't removed any of His goodness from you. It's time to pray, surrender control, and trust Him completely. It's time to rejoice as you remember and delight in God's grace for you.

REACH OUT

Though you have not seen him [Christ Jesus], you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ...
1 Peter 1:8 NIV

There are hopeless and lost people all around you who need to know about the righteousness, peace, and joy you've received through believing in Jesus. Who can you share your faith with?

Write down two of their names here:

1. . _____.
2. . _____.

Commit to pray for them every day.



Day Four || Enriched with Spiritual Blessings

SEEK GOD

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. Psalm 62:5 ESV

Heavenly Father, I want to wait for You alone. Even if in silence, may I wait on You today. No one else can satisfy me. My hope is in You alone! Amen.

OBTAIN TRUTH

In day one of this week's study, we looked at what Paul meant by teaching us that all things are ours. Today, I want us to continue exploring what is ours through Christ.

Please read 2 Corinthians 6:4-10 NIV.

What did Paul say? Fill in the blank for our emphasis: ... having _____, and yet possessing _____.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3 NIV

God tremendously blessed you, cherished sister! In Christ, you don't lack a single spiritual blessing. The original Greek word for "every" in this passage means "all" or "the whole." The spiritual blessings of God are *all* yours.

The trouble is remembering they are yours and living in fullness of them.

I recently met with a dear friend whose husband committed adultery a few years ago. Devastating, right? She hung in there with him. They went to counseling, a marriage retreat, and she did all she could keep the marriage together. Sadly, it didn't work out the way we all hoped and prayed it would.

My friend not only lost her marriage but also because she was a pastor's wife, she lost her church home, her job, many friendships, and so much more. She told me she would never want her worst enemy to go through the pain she'd gone through. But as we sat together sipping our teas, I'll never forget her smile and the sincerity of what she said to me next.

She said, "You know, Amy, I really haven't lost anything [in Christ]."

Can we just pause and think about that?! Her words were stunningly true and so awe-inspiring to me and, I hope, to you as well.

Like my friend, your life may be full of loss and disappointments. But God wants you to know you haven't lost anything in Him! He wants you to know, remember, and live from the spiritual blessings He's given you in Christ!

After verse three, Paul, the author of Ephesians, went on to explain some of these spiritual blessings we've received:

- Adoption
- Righteousness
- Grace
- Forgiveness
- Fellowship with God and His people
- An inheritance
- The Holy Spirit

Did my friend lose any of these gifts when her world crumbled? No. Of course she didn't. And neither will we.

I have to share Matthew Henry's commentary on Ephesians 1:3 with you because it is good for the soul!

"Spiritual blessings are the best blessings with which God blesses us, and for which we are to bless Him. He blesses us by bestowing such things upon us as make us really blessed.

Those whom God blesses with *some*, He blesses with *all* spiritual blessings; to whom He gives Christ, He freely gives all these things. It is not so with temporal blessings; some are favored with health, and not with riches; some with riches, and not with health, etc. But, where God blesses with spiritual blessings, He blesses with all.

They are spiritual blessings in heavenly places; or it may be read, in heavenly things, such as come from heaven, and are designed to prepare men for it, and to secure their reception into it.

We should hence learn to mind spiritual and heavenly things as the principal things, spiritual and heavenly blessings as the best blessings, with which we cannot be miserable and without which we cannot but be so."

I'd like to try to paraphrase his last paragraph for a little more clarity:

Your spiritual blessings are the greatest, most important, and most beautiful things in this life, and true misery only comes from being void of these heavenly blessings.

Below are a few Scriptures that show some of the blessings we have in Christ. Use the margins to make a list of what each verse says we have in Christ.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.
... Galatians 5:1 NIV

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13 NIV

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus ...
Romans 8:1 NIV

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:7 NIV

... neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:39 NIV

... and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. Colossians 2:10 NIV

So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:5 NIV

The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
1 Timothy 1:14 NIV

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. ...
2 Corinthians 1:20 NIV

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19 NIV

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
Galatians 3:28 NIV

... "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5 NIV

ABIDE BY THE SPIRIT

Do you believe these spiritual blessings are all completely yours? And that list is just a small sample! It doesn't matter if you've been a Christian for 80 years or only for a day, these truths are never to be taken for granted.

Oswald Chambers, in *My Utmost for His Highest*, asked a challenging question I believe we should apply: "Can I face things as they actually are in the light of the reality of Jesus Christ, or do things as they really are destroy my trust in Him and put me in a panic?" #wheretherubbermeetstheroad

I hope you know I'm not just stepping on your toes because this question is for me, too!

I'd like you to look over the list you compiled and choose **one** blessing in Christ you think you should meditate or focus on. You know the one. It's the one you often fail to remember or really understand. Pick that word or statement.

Write it down here: _____.

Fix it in your mind and think about this great benefit. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you—to bring you more insight about how it should affect your life.

Christian sisters, we have a living hope that can never be taken away. The one who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing is surely worthy of our hope and trust.

REACH OUT

You and I both know we are blessed to be a blessing. What word of encouragement do you need to give to someone today? I believe they need to know or be reminded of what Jesus has done for them. Pray before you act or speak out. Like Jesus, be sure to be full of grace and truth. We should meet people where they are and show them the love of God by being the love of God.



Day Five || Enriched Every Day

“Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny.”

—Christopher Markus

SEEK GOD

Acknowledge the presence of God with you in this moment. Lay all your worried and anxious thoughts down before Him, and realize who you have on your side.

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Isaiah 26:3 ESV

OBTAIN TRUTH

Read John 10:1-5 and 10:10-11 printed here for you. As you read Jesus’ words, be ready to underline each reference of what the shepherd does, and circle the words that show us what the sheep do.

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.”

John 10:1-5 NIV

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:10-11 NIV

What does the good shepherd, Jesus, do?

Choose all that are true:

- A. calls you by name
- B. leads you
- C. goes before you
- D. engages in your life
- E. brings you life in abundance
- F. lays down His life for you

Now, write out the two things the sheep should do.

1. _____
2. _____

Pretty simple, right? But it’s not always so easy to do.

John 10 has beautiful imagery. The Savior you and I love and serve is like a good shepherd caring for all your practical needs. In Christ, you are fully supplied! There isn’t anything you need that your Heavenly Father doesn’t already know about. He’s concerned about your big needs and even the stuff you think is too petty for prayer. Our God is that good.

There have been countless times in my life when God has given me exactly what I needed—sometimes without me knowing I needed it yet—when I needed it. Sometimes it was a Scripture that opened my eyes and broke my stubborn pride to bring healing to a relationship. Other times, it was a calming call from my husband Craig right at my tipping point of becoming a crazy mom. It was also an answered prayer for my child when I began to think things were hopeless. Yes, Jesus Christ is a very good shepherd.

Name some specific needs your Shepherd has provided for you.

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And then there are other days when I am sure I lack something, only to discover the blessing of not getting what I thought was essential. Can anyone relate?

One example was when I had a strong desire to have some ministry encouragement from my friends. My new discipleship endeavor had become a battle of my insecure, rookie self versus my child-like, faith-filled, and obedient self. Like me, you may think the encouragement was something I'd require to keep on keeping on. My wise husband knew differently. After my rant about this seeming lack, Craig very gently suggested I consider that my loving Savior was giving me an opportunity to grow by withholding their support.

The Father knew I needed to learn to depend on Him and Him alone for approval. Now, I'm not saying God isn't for us being there for each other. Obviously, He is. But He also wants our hearts to wholly rely on Him whether life is going the way we want or whether our prayers go unanswered. A growing faith in God requires that we often lack the stuff keeping us from needing Him.

When were you blessed with the gift of *not* receiving what you thought you needed?

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Let's read a passage you might have read many times before, Psalm 23. While you pore over the words, pay attention to the nearness the sheep—the psalmist David—and shepherd—God—must have for the sheep to be shepherded well.

The first and last verses have always been my favorites. Write them in the space provided.

Verse 1:

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Verse 6:

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ABIDE BY THE SPIRIT

In Christ, you and I have a daily, living hope—the constant care of God! It’s a sure thing not up for debate.

Is there a need you have right now that has you nearly hopeless? Maybe it’s someone without the Lord that you’ve prayed for decades would know Him; maybe you’ve been out of a good, paying job and don’t know how much longer you can make ends meet; or you might be facing a fear about your health. It could even be something very small, but it matters to you—so, it matters to your Father.

Based on what you’ve been taught or reminded of in today’s lesson, write out a prayer of hope below and name whatever need is heavy on your heart.

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REACH OUT

... *The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.* Galatians 5:6 NIV

Go be an expression of the love of Jesus. Spread the fragrance of His abundant life everywhere you are today.