

Benefits of Belief VI -- The work of the Holy Spirit in the life of every Christian.

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Date: 27 December 2008

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[0 : 00] Gary, what a wonderfully enlightening passage. And I want to emphasize a couple of things that Gary just read from chapter 2. And I cannot resist, once again, the importance of understanding what the context requires here.

So often, these few verses are lifted out of context. And verse 9 in particular, As it is written, things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

But when we get to heaven, then we'll understand those things. And I hasten to point out to you that that doesn't have anything to do with it. That is not what it's talking about at all. And the context ought to make that very clear.

Now, make no mistake about it. When we do get to heaven, we are going to understand a whole lot of things that we do not understand now. But that's not what this passage is talking about.

What Paul is discussing here is the fact that God has provided information for us that cannot be grasped or understood with the human intellect alone.

[1 : 17] that there is another dimension of reality that has to be applied to this information in order for you to grasp it. That's the burden of the passage.

And what he is discussing is the fact that for those who are in Christ, for those who are in the body of Christ, this information is available to you.

God has provided it for you. Look at it again, if you will. Verse 10, verse 9, All of those things that God has prepared for those who love them. For to us, God revealed them.

When? Now! As of the time Paul was writing this information, this was information revealed to the generation of his day, to the Corinthians in particular, to whom he was writing.

God has revealed them through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. And in verse 12, Now we have received not the Spirit of the world.

[2 : 24] We already had that. But the Spirit who is from God. Why? That we might know, understand, grasp, appreciate.

Appreciate. This is a full knowledge that we might know the things freely given to us by God.

When? Now! Today! For our living. As of the time the Apostle revealed these things. This all has to do with spiritual truth.

And when we talk about spiritual truth, that in and of itself causes some of us to just kind of drop out. What is that? We read in Ephesians 1, that as believers, being in Christ, we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

What does that mean? What are spiritual blessings? These are truths. These consist of information that God has made available to us that can be appropriated only by the Spirit within us.

[3 : 41] We have a human spirit. Every human being has one. And when we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we also receive the Spirit of God.

It is the Holy Spirit or the Spirit of God that bears witness with our human spirit that we are the children or the sons of God. This is spiritual truth and it is appropriated only by the spiritual part of our being.

Mere human intellect cannot grasp this. It requires something beyond. It requires something that God has provided himself.

And in talking about these spiritual realities and spiritual blessings, we automatically remove ourselves from the sphere that the world has to operate in.

And this is the only one the world has. That is, of the intellect, of the mind, of the human comprehension capabilities.

[4 : 41] But this information transcends that. This information, for all of those who are in Christ, consists of items that are unknowable by man on his own.

Almost all of these things are found in the Pauline Epistles. And we are going to look at several of them this morning. But they are all grouped right there close together.

Now, the question might be asked, and it's a very legitimate question. Well, why is it that these things are not found in other portions of the Bible? And many of them are by way of principle.

But they are not delineated and spelled out. Why are they all grouped or couched together in what Paul wrote? And the answer is quite simple.

Because they were not revealed before. This is information that was not available. Before, God revealed this to the Apostle Paul.

[5 : 45] And another place where people really tragically go astray. And it's just so sad because it reveals a defective view of inspiration of the Scriptures. And they say something like this.

Well, Paul must have really been smart. He must have really been brilliant in order to figure all this stuff out. That has nothing to do with it.

Paul the Apostle, no doubt, was a brilliant individual. I certainly would not take that away from him. Probably one of the great intellects of all times.

But Paul didn't figure these things out. This is not something that the Apostle Paul sat down and charted out on graphs and maps and lists and whatnot.

He didn't know these things any more than we didn't know them. God revealed them to him. They are referred to in his second epistle to the Corinthians as an abundance of revelations that were given to him.

[6 : 44] Paul never figured out any of these things we're talking about. I'm sure that they all were as much a surprise to him as they are to us.

He is by the Spirit of God receiving these things and relaying them onto us. He is nothing more, and he would be the first to agree, he is nothing more than a channel, a vehicle, a go-between.

God could have revealed these same things to the Apostle John or to Peter or to someone else, but he chose this one born out of due time, this one who is completely different, not to be confused with the twelve apostles, but raised up later with a new mission, principally to be the apostle to the Gentiles, and with a new message, the message of the grace of God explained in a way, in a fashion, and in a depth that was never revealed before.

And the only reason he was able to do that is because it was revealed to him supernaturally, and he is simply passing it on. Also, these spiritual blessings with which we are blessed in heavenly places in Christ, and these things that have been freely given to us by God, 1 Corinthians 2.12, predicated upon Romans chapter 8 and verse 32, and we talked about that.

What are these all things?

[8 : 37] Freely give us all things. What are they? They are these same spiritual truths or spiritual blessings. He is not talking about houses and lands and automobiles and gold and silver.

These are paltry things compared to this information. This information is designed not only to enlighten and edify, but it is designed to stabilize and strengthen and build into the believer a basis for confident living, joyful living, purposeful living, that's what these things are for.

They are designed to settle down in our hearts and minds and spirit and enable us to live a life of joy that is well-pleasing to the Lord, that enables us to live a life of victory despite the defeats and the losses that come our way.

We all have to deal with losses of one kind or another, whether it's health or wealth or a mate or a loved one.

How does that impact you? These are the kinds of things that determine what we are really made of. How many times have I told you, when you undergo a great loss of whatever magnitude, a great loss?

[10 : 26] It will provide you with an opportunity to see if you really believe what you say you do. Nothing tests your mettle more than undergoing a great loss.

These truths that we are considering are designed to stabilize, strengthen, to solidify, to encourage, to put spiritual backbone in you, to enable you to stand despite the loss.

It doesn't mean that you don't grieve. It doesn't mean that you don't sorrow. But it does mean that you remember the only thing that really matters is your relationship to Jesus Christ and what He has done for you and what He has provided for you.

All else pales by significance. If you lose every one of significance in your life and if you lose every bit of financial capability or income that you have and if you lose your health so that you are bed fast, you cannot do anything but lie there and look up, you are incredibly rich in Jesus Christ.

Now, is that really true or are these just theological words? You have Christ.

[12 : 06] It doesn't make any difference how great or how many the losses are. This relationship in Him outweighs and outshines everything.

It's supposed to. It gives us a perspective. We believe that all that really matters is our connection with Him.

And if you have that, you have more than ample reason to rejoice in the Lord. We've already noted that first and foremost is our forgiveness that we receive when we are in Christ.

we have all charges against us dismissed because of what Christ did for us. And we've talked about our provision for our standing and our positional forgiveness, our provision for our state and practical forgiveness.

We looked at how these are rooted in the principle set forth in John 13 with the Lord washing the disciples' feet and his conversation with Peter. We've talked about a positional cleansing of all of our sin that comes from a belief in Christ.

[13 : 21] We've talked about the perpetual cleansing of sin based on 1 John 1, 9 and our confession thereof. And that is for our fellowship, not for our salvation.

That is very, very significant. All of these involve operations of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. And I admit that when we talk about the Holy Spirit, even when we talk about the human spirit, we are in a very unfamiliar territory.

Although you and I interact moment by moment with our inner human spirit, what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of man that is in him.

That is your immaterial part of your being, non-physical part of your makeup. Nobody has ever seen the human spirit.

You cannot subject it to any kind of empirical testing in a laboratory. This leads many in the scientific community to simply dismiss the reality of the human spirit altogether.

[14 : 35] It is not scientifically demonstrable. And for many, that's enough to discount it right away. But all we are saying is, and the scriptures make it very, very clear, that man lives life in another dimension apart from his physical being.

We have a human spirit within us. and you operate from that human spirit without even thinking about it. Everybody does. Even atheists do.

Part of our humanity is the fact that we have a human spirit. God breathed into Adam the breath of life and he became a living soul.

It is your human spirit that animates the body, that orders the body about. And James tells us that the body without the spirit is dead because the spirit vacates the body and in the case of a believer is joined with the Lord.

Now we are talking about things that are spiritually appraised. An unbeliever has a human spirit, but it is separated from God, isn't connected.

[15 : 51] It is not connected with God or his spirit. He has a human spirit. And if he comes to the place where he believes on Jesus Christ as his personal savior, God activates that human spirit and makes it alive toward him.

He re-establishes the connection between the human individual spirit and himself. This is the connection that was severed when Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

And when the scriptures say that they died, it means that they died spiritually. They did not die physically. The spiritual connection that Adam and Eve had with God was cut off.

They were estranged. They were divorced from God. And that's why they were fearful when God came looking for them because their guilt had consumed them and the connection was broken.

So when a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ as his personal savior, God re-establishes that connection. And now, as a regenerated individual, you are able to grasp, appreciate, understand, and work out of a whole host of spiritual realities and blessings that Christ has made available to you.

[17 : 27] And it is just bottomless. It just goes on and on. And all we're doing is considering some of those that are most obvious.

And I would ask you to turn, first of all, please, to Ephesians chapter 2 and verse 1. Familiar passage. By the way, probably most of these are going to be familiar to you.

And as I mentioned, people who have been around grace for several years will find this as very familiar material. But we can all use a little review.

And for those of you who haven't had it, it may well be as eye-opening to you as it was for us. chapter 2 and verse 1 of Ephesians, And you were dead.

There's that disconnection. Dead, very much alive, able to walk, talk, and take nourishment. But dead toward God. You were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

[18 : 39] This is the satanic spirit, the evil spirit that is working in the sons of disobedience. You see, Satan has a spiritual constitution also.

He is a spirit being. Angels are spirit beings. They do not have bodies. We are spirit beings, but we have a body. And that's one of many things that distinguish us from the angels.

And then Paul goes on and further describes this disconnected reality and what is true of it. But I want you to note that in verse one, he says, you were dead, but you have been made alive.

And then in verse five, even when we were dead, disconnected with God in our transgressions, he made us alive together.

He made our spirits alive. He quickened, that's the meaning of the word quickened, he quickened or made alive our human spirit.

[19 : 51] We had one, but it was disconnected. It is as if when Adam and Eve sinned, the plug was pulled. and there was no longer current or power going between them.

There was a break in the service. And when we are regenerated, we are plugged in again.

We are reconnected spiritually with God. and that opens up a vast area of realities that did not exist when we were unbelievers.

I mean, they existed, but they did not exist to us. They were not available to us. But now, regenerated, and as a believer in Christ, you are in an entirely different sphere spiritually than you were before.

Possibilities are unlimited. We have divine operating assets made available to us just because we are in Christ that were procured as part of the finished work of Christ on that cross.

[21 : 09] And it is just absolutely amazing. While we are in the ballpark, let's come over to Colossians chapter 2. Just a couple of pages beyond.

And verse 13. And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive together with him having forgiven us all our transgressions.

Made us alive. Spiritually alive. Whereas we were dead and disconnected and disinterested and uninvolved and uncaring, all of a sudden when we place our faith in Christ, we are quickened, made a new creature, we are regenerated and something in us that we cannot describe, but I have referred to it as our spiritual being comes alive.

And do you know what? The whole world looks different. Everything looks different. My attitude is different. My desires are different.

My tastes are different. For a lot of people, their language is different. all things have become new.

[22 : 42] Old things have passed away. Any man be in Christ is a new creation, brand spanking new. It is only by regeneration that this can be realized.

And then in Titus, and I won't ask you to turn there, but Titus chapter 3 and verse 5 talks about this same thing. Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy, he has saved us by the washing and regeneration of the Holy Spirit.

What did he regenerate? He regenerated your spirit. He didn't do anything for your body. If you only had one leg when you became a Christian, you don't get another leg when you become a believer.

If you only had one lung, you don't get another lung when you become a believer because this is a spiritual operation. Now when the body is glorified and God finishes what he has begun in us, then you'll get that other leg.

You'll get on the spirit part of our being. And we read in Romans 8 that the whole creation groans and travails in pain until now waiting for the redemption of our bodies.

[24 : 05] Our spirits have been redeemed. Our bodies have not. That's why we still die physically even though we have been redeemed and saved spiritually.

We still have a body that is dying. Your body is not the finished product. This body with all of its weakness and pain and debilitation and aging is going to undergo a transformation that will be akin to what your spirit underwent at the point of salvation and that will be at the point of glorification when Christ returns.

That's another subject. All of these things have to do with the spirit of God. Now, while we're in the ballpark, let's come over please to 1 Corinthians chapter 6.

Back to where we started from. 1 Corinthians chapter 6. I was amused at Jed when he was talking about his coming to Christ while he was in the Navy.

and he said he had this buddy on board ship who had talked to him frequently about the Lord and had witnessed to him and gave him tracts and encouraged him to read passages in the Bible and etc.

[25 : 33] And Jed said and he was talking one day with another fellow, another one of his buddies on board ship and he was remarking to him that so and so this fellow who was a Christian had invited me to go to a Bible class with him and I think I'll go it sounds like it'd be interesting and this guy said to Jed well you want to be careful about so and so anything you do with him and Jed says what do you mean why is that well this guy he you know people like that are really strange you want to be careful of him and Jed didn't quite know what to make of it but this is what we're talking about this is what we're talking about 1st Corinthians chapter 6 and let's look at verse 19 do you not know that your body your physical body is a temple of the

Holy Spirit who is in you whom you have from God and that you are not your own for you have been bought with a price therefore glorify God in your body you know how you glorify God in your body the best way to do it is by making your spirit submissive to his spirit because your body takes its commands and takes its orders from your human spirit your human spirit is in control your human spirit includes your decider your motivator your distinguisher that is your human spirit and the human spirit is where you make up your mind the human spirit and the mind are so closely connected I dare not I have no idea how they can be separated but they work in tandem not to be confused of course with the brain which is very much involved as well but the brain is a physical organ the mind is not the mind is immaterial and that's part of the difficulty we have in getting our mind around this so we are indwelt by the spirit of

God and this takes place at the point of salvation this is Christ in you in the person of the Holy Spirit Christ in you the hope or the absolute confidence or guarantee of ultimate glory when does this happen it happens when you place your faith and trust in him how do you know that this happens oh well I know because I felt it I just felt this shiver this quiver from the top of my head right down to my toes that's how I know the spirit of God dwells within me okay but my problem is I never had such a quiver so maybe the spirit of God does not dwell in me some of you remember

Bob Harrington from years years back chaplain of Bourbon Street talks about his conversion he went into this little church and the only reason he was there was to make some business context because he was a high powered life insurance salesman and he sat there in the church and he looked over there and he said he ought to be good for about a hundred thousand dollar policy he put his name down he was making up his list there in church and this preacher was preaching away and he was preaching the gospel and he hit him like a ton of bricks and he wasn't intending anything like that but the spirit of God got a hold of Bob Harrington and in And he was crying.

And they took him in a back room where they were going to lead him to the Lord, and one of the pastors and one of the elders. And he said he got down on his knees and he was praying and he was so emotional and he was bawling like a baby.

[30 : 10] And this thing was so real to him and so powerful. And he prayed and he received the Lord and he was just so grateful. And he said he didn't know what to do. And he pulled out his wallet and pulled out a \$20 bill and gave it to him and said, here, share this.

Typical insurance type salesman. Just wanted to do something financial. And he was telling his friend about it. And his friend said, what happened to you? And he said, well, I'll tell you what.

He said, here's what you do. You go to such and such a church. And you go to the third row back, second seat.

And you sit there in that second seat. Almost like mystical, you know. Like if you sit in the right seat in the right church, this is going to happen to you.

And the Spirit of God will come. No, no. It doesn't work that way. How do you know? There's a song that says, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

[31 : 21] What do you mean, feel the Spirit? An emotional feeling? A hunch?

A compulsion? What is that? It's an emotional thing. But the problem is, not everybody has the same kind of emotion.

We are wired differently. When I received Christ as my Savior, December the 8th, 1956, in Main Street Baptist Church in Ellensburg, Washington.

I got down on my knees from the pastor. And Barbara sat in the seat there beside me. And I stumbled through some kind of a prayer that I'm confident God was able to make sense of, even though I wasn't accustomed to praying.

And I finished praying. And the pastor prayed. And I got up off my knees. I didn't feel anything.

[32 : 30] I didn't feel anything. I didn't feel like a thousand pound anvil was lifted off my shoulder. I didn't feel tingly. I didn't feel like I had goosebumps all over me or hot flashes.

I didn't feel anything. I said to the pastor, I said, Doug, is that it? And he said, well, did you really mean what you said in that prayer?

I said, oh, yes, absolutely. It never occurred to me to kid about a thing like that. I said, yeah, absolutely. I meant it. He said, well, you meant what you said.

God heard your prayer. God saved you. I said, okay, that's good. Didn't feel the thing. How do you know?

There's just one way you know. Only one way that is reliable. It is not your feelings. It is you know because God says so.

[33 : 37] That's it. You mean that's all we got to go on? That's all we got to go on. What more do you want? God says so.

That's it. That's all we need. Do you know what you call that? You call that taking it by faith. God said it.

You believe it. That's it. That's it. Simple. Nothing really terribly profound about it.

Yes, it is terribly profound. But it is also terribly simple. Just like the gospel. How do you know these things are true? Just because God says they are.

And if we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater. So, here in 1 Corinthians chapter 6, we are indwelt.

[34 : 42] Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. And this does not mean that we always act like we are indwelt by the Spirit of God.

Sometimes we act like we are indwelt by a different spirit. But that does not negate the reality of God's indwelling. And we are, if you would look at 1 Corinthians, while we are in the neighborhood, chapter 1 and verse 30.

All of these wonderful things.

We possess the very righteousness of Christ. This is what Paul was talking about in 2 Corinthians 5 and 21. About our being in union with Him.

For He hath made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ.

[36 : 06] We have His righteousness. We have His sanctification. That means His setting apart. When God saved you, He as well as picked you up out of the sea of humanity, out of all of the aggregate of people in the world, He picked you up from the body of humanity and moved you over here and put you down in this small body, which is the body of Christ, where He placed you with all other believers.

He saved you out of the world and moved you over here into this special group that is referred to as the spiritual body of Christ, made up of all believers.

That's the meaning of the word sanctified. He set us apart. It is a Holy Spirit operation that He performs upon us.

And we are, while we're in 1 Corinthians, and by the way, 1 Corinthians is just loaded with these things, chapter 12 and verse 13, a very familiar passage, For by one Spirit, this is God's Spirit, we were all, that is, all believers, we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

No one is excluded. There are no nobodies in the body of Christ. Everybody is a somebody in the body of Christ.

[37 : 57] No one is excluded. This is amazing. And this too is a spiritual operation, and the word baptized means literally to be caused, to be identified with.

And the classical Greek uses this in a way that closely establishes the identity, perhaps better than anything I can say.

When you take, when you take a garment, you take a garment and dip it in a vat of dye, and you pull the garment out, and it has this new color that it takes on as a result of the dye, so that the garment is in the dye, and the dye is in the garment, and they are inseparable.

That's the meaning of baptized. It means to be identified with so that the individuality is swallowed up in the oneness of the two coming together.

It is similar to an expression of marriage where the two become one, if you will. That's the meaning of baptism. It's the cause to be identified with so that one becomes such an integral part of the other that you cannot hardly separate them or tell them apart.

[39 : 18] Another analogy that is given is a snake swallowing a frog. It ingests the frog into its own biological system, and now the frog becomes part of the snake through the digestion and the process of ingesting that.

the two are inseparable. They become one. That's the way we are in Christ. And when you understand that connection, you will understand also why it is a permanent connection, never to be severed.

So we are baptized or caused to be identified with, and Romans chapter 6 and verses 3 and 4 speak to the same issue. In 2 Corinthians chapter 1, let's take a look at that please.

We are right in the neighborhood. You will just give your fingers a little workout this morning. 2 Corinthians chapter 1, now he who establishes, oh boy do I like that.

Established. Established. When I hear that word I think of something solid, something fixed, something permanent, something in place.

[40 : 52] When they build a new building, they often chisel in or inscribe on the cornerstone established and give the year that the building was built.

And you look at it and you get the impression that building is there to stay. It is established. Now he who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God.

Anointed us. You know what does that word mean? In the Old Testament Samuel was told to anoint David as the next king of Israel.

And what he did was he took a vial of oil, olive oil, and went to David, this young shepherd lad, and just dumped this bottle of olive oil right on his head.

This is reminiscent of the 23rd Psalm, thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runs over.

[42 : 15] This was a very significant symbolic expression of the Holy Spirit being typified in oil.

And the anointing means the selecting, the choosing, the picking, the electing, if you will. Jesus Christ is referred to as the Messiah.

He is Yezu or Yeshua in the Hebrew, Yeshua Hamashiach. The Hamashiach is the word for Messiah in Hebrew.

it means that Jesus Christ is the anointed one, the chosen one, the selected one, the picked one. Who picked him? His father picked him.

The father anointed the son to be the savior of the world. And in pouring this oil on him, the symbolism is being delegated and chosen for some special service.

[43 : 31] And in the case of David, it was the king. In the case of our Lord Jesus, it was the king of kings and the suffering savior and all that went with it. There's a verse that talks about the oil of anointing being poured on Aaron and it ran down into his beard.

Now, we look at that and we don't appreciate the culture of it and we say, ooh, that sounds like it's really messy. You know, oil all over your face and all over your beard. Who in the world would want that?

Well, if you understand the significance of it, it was a tremendous honor and it was something that was very much relished. So, you, spiritually speaking, are anointed by God.

We are anointed as one of his children. Now, he who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the spirit in our hearts as a pledge or the earnest of the spirit.

And, that is a very beautiful and significant expression that is given and we will explore that in our next setting together.

[44 : 53] Have you a question or comment? all of these incredible things are ours just by virtue of being in Christ.

And no believer is accepted of these. No one is left out. Every believer has these same spiritual benefits provided them. Anyone with a question or comment?

all right. In our next session, we want to take up the sealing and the filling, both of which are very, very important.

And the filling makes all the difference in the world as to how you enjoy your Christian life and how you serve the Lord in it.

I'm really looking forward to that. May we pray together. Gracious Father, we are recipients of what you have said we are recipients of.

[45 : 51] We are blessed with all spiritual blessings and heavenly places in Christ. And we know this is true. Not because we figured it out, not because we feel it, not because we deserve it, but simply because you have revealed to us that this is our state.

And we are so blessed. We pray that you will enable each of us to understand these riches have been poured out on us for our enjoyment and our empowerment.

No believer need be spiritually impoverished because of all you've made available to us. And Father, our prayer for these people is that each of us may realize in a maximum way the benefits and blessings that you've provided for us and that we will derive from those a life that is rich and full of joy, unspeakable, and full of glory.

We bless you and thank you for the reality of it in Christ. In his name we pray. Amen. Thank you all and gentlemen if you would be so kind as to help one more time.