'GATE School of Ministry [DC] Bible Study Notes

Module : Firstborn Sonship

<u>Session 4</u>: Inheritance of the Primogeniture - Part 2

<u>Focus</u>: Mature Son is Heir of All Things in Christ



In Session 3, we listed twelve biblically documented areas of our spiritual inheritance. The list was made to make us aware of the coverage that the Scriptures accord to the matter of inheritance. In essence, these are not twelve separate component parts to one whole. In truth, we have but one inheritance, that being our <u>Heavenly Father Himself</u> by virtue of our <u>inherited name or identity as firstborn sons in Christ</u>. These <u>two</u> important aspects represent the fullness of our inheritance, of which the Holy Spirit was given as a guarantee. In God our Father, we as His sons, have access to all things within His will for us, and this would include the following aspects which we want to briefly address in the present session:

•	We are heirs of a Sonship Identity	(1)	()	We are heirs - Abrahamic Promise	(7)
•	We are heirs of God, the Father	(2)	•	We are heirs of the 'Blessing'	(8)
•	We are heirs of Salvation	(3)	•	We are heirs of the World	(9)
•	We are heirs of Eternal Life	(4)	•	We are heirs of the Earth	(10)
•	We are heirs of Immortality	(5)	•	We are heirs of the Nations	(11)
•	We are heirs of the Kingdom of God	(6)	•	We are heirs of All Things	(12)

[The numbering of these continue from 'three' (3) onwards - following on from points (1) and (2) in session 3]

3. WE ARE HEIRS OF SALVATION

Heb. 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation

Our total salvation includes our redemption, justification, sanctification and glorification. It also incorporates past, present and future elements and incorporates our spirit, soul and body. My spirit is regenerated at the time when I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, my soul is being renewed daily through the renewal of my thinking (mind) and my body will be made incorruptible at the literal second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This total salvation, including the fact that the created angels are positioned for my aid, is part of my inheritance in Christ!

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4. WE ARE HEIRS OF ETERNAL LIFE

Eternal life does not simply relate to an unending life, but a life characterised by qualities of the realm of eternal – a full, abundant life – one that is characteristic of God Himself – completely whole and well-resourced.

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Titus 3:5-7

- He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
- 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
- so that being justified by His grace we would be made <u>heirs according to the hope of eternal</u>

 life
- Matt 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life

[See also Mark 10:17; Luke 10:25; Luke 18:18]. Eternal life is part of my inheritance in Christ!

The inheritance of firstborn sons of God is itself incorruptible and eternal - unending.

Heb. 9:15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

5. WE ARE HEIRS OF IMMORTALITY

We are heirs of immortality, a life which has conquered sickness and death, the final enemy.

1 Cor. 15:50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

He who overcomes inherits the water of life - a reference of immortality.

Rev. 21:3-7

- And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,
- and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

- And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."
- Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.
- 7 He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

Note that immediately after the overcomer is given an inheritance of 'these things', reference is made to the relationship between God the Father and the overcomer who inherits as His son. Sonship is actually the inheritance and in this sonship, i.e. firstborn sonship, we have access to every single dimension of our inheritance as identified in the points above.

WE ARE HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God is an all-pervasive superimposition of God's nature and will upon every expression of life, sector or domain on planet Earth and the entire created heavenly domain.

- <u>James 2:5</u> Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him
- Matt 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world

"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" is both our cry, our prayer, our pursuit and function.

Before his death, Jehosophat gave the Kingdom of Judah to his firstborn, Jehoram, to oversee, govern and administrate.

2 Chron. 21:3 Their father gave them many gifts of silver, gold and precious things, with fortified cities in Judah, but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram because he was the FIRSTBORN.

Firstborn sons always seek first the Kingdom of God and its establishment in the earth, for we are called to administrate it on our Father's behalf. We express the kingship of God in our sphere of influence wherever God has placed us in the world (e.g. the workplace). As we seek His kingdom and righteousness first, all other things are added to us. (More of this in later sessions).

Matt. 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Firstborn sonship and **kingdom representation/administration** are linked, and as such place a demand upon the firstborn to live a life of purity and obedience. Note the following Scriptures in this respect:

1 Cor. 6:9-11

- 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,
- nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God
- Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God

Eph. 5:3-5

- But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints:
- 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.
- For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

GAL 5:18-21

- 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.
- 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,
- idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will <u>not inherit the kingdom of God</u>.

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7. WE ARE HEIRS OF PROMISE - and BENEFICIARIES OF THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE

Gal. 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise. (See also Heb.6:17)

In Christ we are heirs to all the promises vested in Abraham, because as Isaac was, so are we sons of promise.

Gal. 4:28 And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise.

Inheritance is not by the law, the legalistic attempt to keep regulations and so earn favour with God, but by <u>a promise</u>. Inheritance is not works-centred. To receive an inheritance requires an identity and intimacy, not industry, although industry will flow from identity and intimacy.

Gal. 3:18 For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.

This does not take place through 'law' but through the righteousness of faith, i.e. by faith in Christ Jesus, we are made righteous, the righteousness of God in Christ, and not through works of our own.

Gal 4:7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God

We are heirs OF God (Rom. 8:17) simply because we are heirs THROUGH God (Gal. 4:7).

In the light of our inheritance - we ought not to be easily discouraged nor get sluggish, but we must maintain faith, patience and perseverance.

Heb. 6:10-12

- For God is not unjust so as to <u>forget your work and the love which you have shown toward</u>

 <u>His name</u>, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.
- And we desire that each one of you show the <u>same diligence</u> so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end,
- so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Details of the promise to Abraham are recorded in Genesis 12 and again in Gen.17.

Gen. 12:2,3

And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great;

And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

Gen. 17:1-8

- 1. Now when Abram was ninety- nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless.
- 2. "I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly."
- 3. Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying,
- 4. "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.
- 5. "No longer shall your name be called **Abram, But your <u>name shall be Abraham</u>**; For I have made you **the father of a multitude of nations**.
- 6. I will make you **exceedingly fruitful**, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.
- 7. I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.
- 8. I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God

God promised to make Abram's name great in Gen. 12. In rehearsing this promise in Gen.17, God changes his name to Abraham. Abram means 'exalted father' and Abraham means 'father of a multitude'; or 'father of nations'. This too is our 'name', i.e. 'father of nations'. The 'name' of the 'Son' is also 'Everlasting Father' (Isaiah 9:6,7). As God's sons, we are to represent the Heavenly Father and portray His love to the nations of the earth. This is part of our inheritance in God. Many only conceive of the Abrahamic promise and blessing only in material terms. It includes this, but is far more profound than this.

In Christ we are Abraham's seed, and are too the recipients and beneficiaries of these promises.

- Gal. 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.
- Gal. 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Obedience is fundamentally important as we position ourselves for this.

Gen. 22:18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.

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WE ARE HEIRS OF THE BLESSING

We are heirs of all spiritual blessing in Christ. This includes being hugely favoured in life by God

1 Pet 3:9a "... for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing."

Our calling includes the inheritance of a blessing or THE blessing. It is part of the Abrahamic promise in Christ, in whom we are already blessed with every spiritual blessing. Blessing, amongst other things, incorporates favour, great well being and kindness bestowed by God upon you.

Eph. 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

As firstborn sons of God we are blessed and highly favoured of the Lord. He has resourced us with spiritual and material blessings in Christ.

The birthright blessing that Esau forfeited for a momentary satisfaction of his flesh related to the Promise given to Abraham in Gen 12.

Heb. 12:17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears

'Blessing' amongst other things is also the right and privilege to continue this legacy of blessing and promise in your time, and steward it with care and diligence so that it can be transferred to the next generation. You are blessed to be a blessing.

1 Peter 3: 8,9

- 8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;
- 9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, **but giving a blessing instead**; for you were called for the very purpose that you **might inherit a blessing**.

The entirety of the blessing associated with the firstborn son demands a responsibility to live a pure life, and one characterised by a deep love for your brothers/people. Those who know they are indeed

blessed in Christ with all spiritual blessing in heavenly places, **respond only in blessing others**, especially those who oppose them. Tangible proof of your blessed state is evidenced by how you bless others who malign your character and reputation.

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9. WE ARE HEIRS OF THE WORLD

Rom. 4:13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith

World = kosmos = 'order, regular disposition and arrangement'. It includes the universe, heavens and earth. We are heirs of the right arrangement and proper functioning of the entire earth and the universe, according to the original blueprint of God. Right now, the entirety of creation is malfunctioning due to an absence of divine sonship in the earth. The whole of creation groans for the manifestation of the sons of God. When firstborn sonship is restored to the earth in maturity, the entire cosmos will respond to it and align itself back to Divine order. This is part of our inheritance. We, as firstborn sons of God in Christ, seek to install divine principles of operation to every system in the world.

10. WE ARE HEIRS OF THE EARTH

Matt. 5:5

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Psalm 25:12,13

What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.

But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace

(KJV)

Psalm 37:22a

For such as be blessed of him (i.e. the righteous) shall inherit the earth

The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever

The earth, created on day three, before the solar system and universe, was to be the centre of all created things, with man on the earth as the absolute centre. Earth, resourced from Heaven, was to reflect the will of God in Heaven. From the domain of the earth, man was to reflect and represent all who God is and also steward His purposes. The earth was given to us not only manage/steward, but it is also the place from which we, in **CHRIST**, would have custody over **ALL CREATED THINGS**, visible and invisible. This is part of the responsibility attendant with firstborn sonship. The EARTH is part of our INHERITANCE. Take care of your world.

Earth belongs to the Lord, and what belongs to the Lord, He has made us heirs of.

Psalm 24: 1 The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it

It is not just the physical planet that is part of our inheritance, but 'those who dwell in it', i.e. people from every nation.

Earth = The physical planet

All it contains = Every created thing and resource in the earth

The world = Principles, laws, orderly arrangement by which the world functions

Those who dwell in it = Nations - People.

Start now to express your inheritance of the earth, in your own little part of the world that you occupy. Start with your home environment and then proceed to larger spheres of influence you may have. Take care of it; manage it, steward it; keep it clean, neat and tidy; bring dignity and excellence to it, even within the limits of finance you have; make it the best you can.

The same also applies to the way you interact with, relate to, manage and influence people. Let love, care, compassion, mercy, peace and grace, rule and characterise all your relationships. Care for the earth, the world and the people in it.

Also, trust God to can into land ownership.

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11. WE ARE HEIRS OF THE NATIONS

Psalm 2:7,8 "I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.'

This is part of our apostolic mandate to bapstise and immerse all nations into the name (i.e. nature and will) of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We do this by teaching apostles' doctrine which is the doctrine of Christ (Matt. 28:18-20).

Note in the verse above, the open invitation of 'ASK' for nations is given to one who is a 'SON'. Mature sonship is prerequisite for stewarding God's purposes in nations. After the Heavenly decree validating and affirming sonship – we can ask for the nations as our inheritance and the ends of the earth as our 'possession' – which alludes to the capacity to steward Divine purpose attendant with nations and the entire world.

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12. We ARE HEIRS OF ALL THINGS

Heb. 1:2 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of ALL THINGS, through whom also He made the world

'All things' literally means 'all things' - every seen and unseen thing belongs to Christ, and us, who are in Him and have a joint inheritance with Him.

Col. 1:19-20
For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile ALL THINGS to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Reconciliation and the bringing of all things back to their original placement in Christ is our business and inheritance. Reconciliation and establishment of peace between men and God, through the administration of the forgiveness of sins, and reconciliation of brothers who have offended each other is an essential part of our mandate in Christ. This too is our inheritance.

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As we conclude, reflect on Hebrews 3, especially Heb. 3:14 (NLT):

For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed,

we will SHARE IN ALL that belongs to Christ.

When we consider the richness of our inheritance in God our Father, and all He has afforded us in making us fellow-heirs with Christ Jesus, we can with deep gratitude declare like David did long ago, ...

The Lord is the PORTION of MY INHERITANCE and my cup; You support my lot.

The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Indeed, my HERITAGE is BEAUTIFUL to me.

Psalm 16:5

You and I have been QUALIFIED to SHARE in the INHERITANCE of the saints in LIGHT.

Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

Col. 1:12

Practically accessing this inheritance for which we are positionally qualified for demands that we mature practically in our sonship identity. This will be our focus in our next session.

SUMMARY AND PRACTICAL REMINDERS

- 1. God, our Father, is our total and absolute inheritance. We are heirs of the Father.
- 2. We access our inheritance in God through our firstborn sonship status in Christ. We are joint-heirs with Christ Jesus.
- 3. We are heirs of everything God the Father and Son is and has. The Holy Spirit is given as a guarantee of this.
- 4. Sonship and our inheritance in God must become an entrenched and incontestable fact in our minds our thinking. It must become our predominant mental default setting.
- 5. Intimacy with the Father as His sons is something we already have and must be conscious of. Our perpetual cry within our spirit is 'Abba Father'.
- 6. The hearing of, understanding, reception of and obedience to the 'Word of His Grace' is the means by which inheritance is activated.

- 7. We are heirs of salvation, which ultimately includes total restoration of spirit, soul and body; and daily and varied expressions of God's power in our lives.
- 8. We are heirs of eternal life, which not only incorporates a timeless eternal life, but a life depictive of the character of God in every sense full, abundant, whole, complete.
- 9. We are heirs of immortality, a life that has conquered sickness and death, the last enemy.
- 10. We are heirs of the kingdom and its administration; we pursue His Kingdom first, its coming and establishment in the world, its predominance over every other system or kingdom in the earth.
- 11. We pursue His Kingdom and His righteousness first. As tangible proof of our prioritiasation of His Kingdom, we demonstrate our imputed righteousness practically by living lives of purity and obedience, lest unrighteous behaviour disqualifies us from kingdom inheritance.
- 12. In Christ we are heirs of the Abrahamic promise. In us, all the families of the earth are blessed.
- 13. Inheritance is by promise through rest, not by human attempts to keep external regulations. The fact that it is promised must be dominant in our thinking, for we access it through rest and not works.
- 14. We are heirs of all spiritual blessing in Christ. This includes being hugely favoured in life by God.
- 15. The blessing attendant with our inheritance must not be dis-esteemed, as Esau dis-esteemed his birthright blessing for the momentary satisfaction of his fleshly nature.
- 16. We are blessed to be a blessing. Our blessed state is for the benefit of others. We are conduits of blessing. This is an essential part of our inheritance.
- 17. Tacit indication of our blessed state is aptly and powerfully demonstrated in how we bless those who hate us, instead of responding carnally.
- 18. We are heirs of the world the right arrangement and orderly functioning of its systems according to God's ways. As such, we seek to install divine principles of operation to every system in the world.
- 19. We are heirs of the earth, the physical planet, all its resources, the principles governing its effective and efficient functioning, and all the people who dwell in it. As such we care for the planet. We impose divine standards upon our spheres our homes, workplaces; we should be neat, tidy, orderly, etc. We also manage all relationships according to God's expectations of us.
- 20. We are heirs of the nations. It is our responsibility to immerse all nations into the nature of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit through the repetitive teaching of apostolic doctrine (the doctrine of Christ), and so bring all nations under Christ and His rule.
- 21. In and through Christ, who is the sum of all things, we are heirs of all things, the heavens and the earth, whether visible or invisible. All things are to be reconciled in Him. Reconciliation and the bringing of all things back to their original placement in Christ is our business and inheritance.
- 22. Reconciliation of men to God through the administration of the forgiveness of sins and reconciliation of brothers who have offended each other is an essential part of our mandate in Christ. This too, is our inheritance.
- 23. Ultimately, we will share in ALL THINGS that belongs to CHRIST (Heb. 3:14).

Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.

Psalm 16:5b

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