

# **The Father's Embrace**

## **Part One**

*“Whom He hath appointed Heir of all things.”  
Hebrews 1:2*

### **Preface**

Those who have been born again into the family of God want to receive all that the Lord has for them. Many Christians desire to receive their inheritance from the Father, but how many of us really understand what that inheritance is? Is our true inheritance the things God gives us or the mind and nature of the Heir Himself in us? Have our hearts so fully turned towards the Lord that we count nothing as gain or treasure apart from His very life filling us? Gifts can be received by the youngest of children, but the Son must be revealed by the Father in His appointed time (see Gal. 1:15-16, 4:2, I Cor. 3:1).

My heart is drawn to meditate upon the scripture that declares it is possible to understand all mysteries, have faith to move mountains and still be completely void of the Spirit of it all (I Cor. 13:2). I think about Solomon, how he inherited deep and precious gifts that he used to build the Lord's temple and to govern the Lord's people. He wrote quite a bit of the scriptures, even precious books concerning the love in God's heart for His Bride (Song of Solomon) and the wisdom of a father's relationship with his son (Proverbs). Yet at the end of his life he was found burning incense to foreign gods (I Kings 3:3). Though great and mighty things of God had been poured through this man, the essence coming forth from him at the end of his days was not a heart full of God, but a heart worshipping foreign gods. The question I am raising concerns not what God has added to us, or even how much God has used us, but if God Himself has replaced us. Is the beauty of the inheritance the manifestation of the things of God by His people, or God expressing Himself through His people?

The scriptures declare that the things God has prepared for us are for those who are motivated by love for Him and not His things (I Cor. 2:9-10). Throughout I Corinthians 13 it is declared that even things pertaining to God can be received in a manner that is void of their true nature and therefore regarded by God as nothing.

With these things in mind I want to encourage all those who hunger for the Lord to consider the preparations of the heart that are necessary to properly receive our true inheritance in Christ. May we press past even the gifts God gives to us until we find the full pleasure of the Father known only by those who receive the Spirit of His Son in all things.

## Introduction

Our dear Father has many children who are hungry for something instead of Someone. Because of this motivation they pursue their Father for the things that He can give to them. The Father responds by blessing his children with all kinds of gifts that come from being in the family, but He cannot yet give them the spirit of adoption that will bring them into the spirit of the family. As long as they are children they will serve Him with the things He gives to them and miss the real glory of being in His family. Until the appointed time of the Father the true riches of their inheritance will be hidden even to them. The relationship they desire with the Father will seem unattainable to even their best efforts to please, and their daily lives will be void of the deepest sense of fulfillment. Only when the heart begins to turn towards the Lord Himself can the discovery be made that will usher us out of our own realm of emptiness into the Father's realm of fullness. When the time of that discovery comes we will be able to declare along with Paul, "But when it pleased God, Who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by His grace, to reveal His Son in me." We will then no longer share about the greatness of the inheritance, but we will glorify the Father through the Heir Himself Who has been revealed in us as our very life.

## The Father's Embrace

### A Certain Father

*"And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living." (Luke 15:11-12)*

A certain father had two sons. Both sons had somewhat of a relationship with their father, yet each felt a deep sense of dissatisfaction with that relationship. Even though they knew him in some ways, they were lost to knowing his real heart and were dead to the true relationship he had purposed for them both. Being lost to his father, after a while one son went on search for fulfillment that ended in a deep famine. This state of emptiness drew this son back into a discovery beyond anything he had ever dreamed of.

Even though these two sons were very different, they both had things working in them that kept them far away from discovering their father's true heart. They were either busy working for him or out spending their inheritance apart from him. Although they were embracing his things, they had not yet known the embrace of his heart. Deep within they felt something had to be missing, and surely futility haunted them in their daily existence.

This story was actually a parable that Jesus used to teach His disciples about a certain father and his two sons. Many of us are familiar with this parable, yet our hearts may need to be awakened and gathered into the deep relationship that is being described in these verses. Not two thousand years ago, but today there is a Father who has countless sons that are found to be in His family yet lost to His heart and plan for them. Though they love Him and long to know Him deeper, they have yet to discover the realm of pure

communion that is only found in Christ. And this Father, even as the father in the parable, is waiting with a longing heart to begin to respond towards all His sons with His deepest embrace at the first sight of a heart that turns towards Him.

### **I'm Ready Father!**

Instead of a zeal that cleaves to the Lord and His Cross until our old carnal nature is consumed, we may find ourselves zealous for the things of God to bless us in our yet unchanged state. The gifts the Father gives are magnificent and can bring forth a measure of satisfaction and even splendor for quite some time. These gifts can cause us to leave Him for the joy of spending them on that which ministers to our own stature. The benefits of being in His family could distract us from the reason why we were birthed into this family. Yet God does not hold back from giving due to our motivations but freely releases unto us all that He has, for He has already freely given us all things in His Son.

Yet the Father alone knows the time when each child is truly ready to receive the riches of the inheritance. When that time comes He will reveal unto them hidden Treasure that will fill them beyond measure. The Lord declares in *Proverbs 8: 21*, “*That I may cause those that love Me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.*” Until every gift we have received is full of His Nature, we have not yet found the true riches of our inheritance! Until He is the substance by which it consists, it is yet something temporal that will not be found abiding. In the end, only the Son Himself endureth. If He is our portion then our Treasure will consist of the eternal life that was always with the Father and always will be with the Father. True Treasure is a life that was before us and is greater than us.

### **A Squandering**

*“And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.” (Luke 15:13)*

The place where the inheritance is squandered is called “a far country.” A far country is our location when our heart is abiding somewhere else besides the bosom of the Father, even though we may be doing things in His name. It’s an ugly feeling on the inside, because although outwardly there may be abundance of gifts from the Father’s house, inwardly there is an aching emptiness that is void of His presence. Though there may be outward communion with others over His things, there is inward loneliness due to lack of true communion with the Father. His things do not bring His presence, and His gifts do not give the relationship that your heart desires.

A sense of having squandered something intimate may have begun to arise in the prodigal’s heart when he found himself spending his father’s things apart from his father. Jesus, the Son, did only what the Father Himself did through Him. The words He spoke were His Father’s. He found His life in every word that proceeded from His Father’s mouth. All that Jesus did as a man was the fruit of an inward union with His Father. Yet,

in a desire to spend the inheritance the prodigal son separated himself from his father and found himself empty. His lack was not the things he had lost but the Father he had left.

*Proverbs 8:17 also states, "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."* A person will not find the Eternal Son of the Father's heart when they seek to spend the inheritance on themselves, but they will find out just how empty and dry life is apart from Him. Therefore this season of squandering the inheritance became a time period of preparation for the prodigal. During this time the prodigal became convinced that the whole world was a wilderness outside of the father's house. During this time of separation the prodigal came to know that in himself he was a barren wasteland. All these conclusion were preparing the prodigal's heart to receive the true riches of the inheritance.

### **True Famine**

*"And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!" (Luke 15:14-17)*

Many people may never experience true spiritual hunger because they allow themselves to be filled with so many other things. A true and great spiritual hunger is developing in many hearts all over the world. As wave after wave of "my inheritance which is due unto me" is being received and spent, many are finding themselves coming up empty instead of fulfilled. Their hunger not only remains, but has become acutely more real as even the things of God have not brought satisfaction. The heart begins to cry out, "I perish with hunger!" Their emphasis is no longer the excitement of spending the Father's gifts, but their need for LIFE!

The far country carries with it the dryness of separation even though the inheritance may remain. The world, even the church world, has gone into famine IN THEIR HEARTS. True famine will bring you to a place where all allures have lost their sweetness and the only hunger within you is for your Father's presence and your Father's bread, which is Christ as Life.

There is a remembrance of the essence of the Father's house that begins to awaken and turn the prodigal's heart back to the Lord Himself. He is not returning to "get more inheritance" so that he can go back to the far country with more power and gifts to enjoy. He is not remembering gifts and outward blessings. He is not hungering to understand more mysteries or be empowered with more faith. He is remembering the blessedness of being where the Father is and eating what the Father eats. He is remembering the peace of living where the Father Himself is. (continued in Part II)\*\*\*

## **Take Me Home Father**

Lord, all I want is You  
And all I need is You, Lord.  
I have searched so far,  
And I have traveled so long  
Just to be found empty.

Take me home, Father,  
for I'm hungry for Your Bread.  
Take me home, Father,  
for I have not yet been fed.  
From the table of Your pleasure,  
I haven't known the joy yet.  
But I'm ready...I'm ready to come home.