

The Grapevine

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Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

Flourishing

by Jack Northart

God designed everything in the universe to grow and expand. He commanded it to be fruitful and multiply. Yet, the mantra of our day seems to be, "the resources of the earth are depleting!" Or, "there's not enough to go around!" Conserve energy, conserve water, conserve air, conserve trees, conserve land, and the list goes on. If some of these naysayers had their way, all humans would need to check out of the planet and live in a void. Not to say that we need to be reckless, but lack and limitation are not the way our Heavenly Father designed life to be.

Genesis 1:11,12

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

God said that the earth is to bring forth fruit and saw that it was all good.

Genesis 1:20-22

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

Expansion, growth and change were designed into the earth by God. Lack and limitation were not designed into the earth by God. When he created Adam and Eve, He gave them a similar charge to be fruitful.

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Adam handed over his dominion of the earth to Satan when he sinned. Since that time, up until the time of Jesus Christ, Satan has had dominion of the earth. But what was lost in Adam was regained in Jesus Christ, with interest! The dominion and authority of Satan no longer has to have sway in the life of a believer who has Christ in him. The evil of the world that once dominated our lives before we accepted Christ, no longer has dominion over us.

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Rather than being subject to the sin of this world, we have obtained grace and can now have dominion and authority, and reign as kings in this life.

Romans 5:17

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ accomplished so much for us. He paid the ultimate sacrifice for sin. He was also the complete sacrifice for all of the results or consequences of sin. Death, destruction, poverty, lack, limitation, disease and sickness are all by-products of sin. Since he paid for it all, it should behoove us to seek out the results of what his accomplishments have done and will do for us. Instead of being bound by lack and sickness, we should be flourishing in the abundance that is now available to us.

Ephesians 3:17-21

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

To comprehend what is rightfully ours is a formidable task. He filled our spiritual bank account with so much that it could take awhile to see how big it really is. In the mean time, we can live like never before. We can flourish with all of the joy, peace and abundance that is now rightfully ours to enjoy. We can partake of the eternal inheritance that God has showered upon us.

Ephesians 1:11-14

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

The gift of holy spirit that was given to us at the time of salvation is the stamp, or the token of what is to come after we are gathered together with Christ. We are guaranteed to receive it into manifestation and to enjoy every aspect of it.

Colossians 1:12

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

The expression in the KJV, "made us meet," means that God has given us the ability to enjoy our inheritance. It's one thing to be given an inheritance, it is another to be able to enjoy it. If someone gave you an inheritance of \$10 million, but no one told you about it, or if you thought it was a hoax, you couldn't enjoy what would be rightfully yours. The same is true of our inheritance from God. He gave us this wonderful inheritance, but few recognize it's existence, or fail to discover it's vastness and richness.

It is high time to shake off the shackles of doubt and fear, and break free of the bondage of the world, and flourish in the glory and abundance that our Heavenly Father has given us.

Ephesians 5:14

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.