



**Unless you are Converted
and
become as a little Child**

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Preface

When a person becomes a Christian, he enters into a family, the family of God (Ephesians 3:15). His place in the family is that of a little child, a child of God his Father. A Christian growing in the faith, will grow in maturity to; “...the full grown man at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...” (Ephesians 4:13). Nevertheless, in the New Testament, all saints of God are referred to as “little children” (7 times); “children of promise” (2 times); “children of light” (3 times); “my children (3 times); “children of God” (10 times); and other references that show a Christian is the direct offspring of God the Father (13 times).

This booklet will bring to light the truths and the promises that not only confirm the position, but confirm the privileges and responsibilities of the child of God.

1. The Lord seeks a godly seed

“...yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring...” (Malachi 2:14-15).

God’s desire for this planet is found in the first man, Adam. He made him in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). God gave Adam his wife, “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Genesis 1:28).

As witnessed by all, the enticement of Satan to the woman and her succumbing to it, has taken the human race away from being a reflection of God’s image and likeness. When this happened, God could have destroyed Satan, the planet, and everything on it. Instead He chose to send the second Adam (Christ) into the world (1 Corinthians 15:45). The second Adam would do what the first Adam failed to do; bring forth godly seed to His Father. The purpose of God from the beginning of creation was to have His children dwell on His planet and reflect His glory (Ephesians 1:5-6). In the second Adam and in those born the second time of God, His children, God has fulfilled His eternal purpose.

Scripture tells us, “Behold children are a heritage from the Lord... == Like arrows in the hand of a warrior == Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them...” (Psalms 127:3-5). The quiver of God contains His children and is large enough to hold each and every person in the world. In fact it is the desire of God to fill it with every person on the earth who will repent to be His children (2 Peter 3:9).

Christ, the Son of God who fully and completely reflected His Father’s glory, said, “...he who has seen Me has seen the Father...” (John 14:9). The Father’s full delight is in His Son. When Jesus came up out of the water of baptism, a voice from heaven said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

God’s desire for godly seed did not remain without action, for “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself” (2 Corinthians 5:19). This Scripture shows us how a person becomes a child of God, “...but as many as received Him, to them gave He [the] right to be children of God, to those that believe on His name...” (John 1:12 JND). A person who follows the Son of God, according to His word, will be re-created into the image of the Son (Romans 8:29). This work of re-creation in the child of God is done by the Holy Spirit through the believer’s faith (Philippians’ 2:13). Only God has the power to re-create us into the image of His Son; Jesus made this clear when He said “...for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Some might say, if God is doing this in the world today, why is it such a mess? Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world...” (John 18:36). God the Father is gathering His children in this dispensation of grace for a future event. That future event is, “bringing many sons to glory” (Hebrews 2:10).

This event is called, ‘the catching away of the saints’; it is also called the rapture, and is recorded in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. At that time all the children of the Father will be taken from this world. They will go to the Father without spot, blemish or wrinkle (Ephesians 5:27). They will go in the righteousness of Christ, in perfection (2 Corinthians 5:21).

A child being born of God is no longer a child of the devil (Ephesians 2:1-2), in a state of eternal sin; he has now been made into a godly seed. He has now been brought into the kingdom of God, which is a state of eternal righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17).

2. Children, the heritage of the Lord

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord” (Psalms 127:3).

What advantage is there to be chosen of God, to be His child? Those who think like the first Adam and his wife will see little or no profit. However, God gave His only begotten Son to come into this world, and gave the riches of heaven to those who became and will yet become His children. These riches of heaven are the heritage of the children of God. “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Children in this life, born into a wealthy family, are rich in material goods the day they are born; that is their heritage. So it is with those born of God, into His kingdom, they become heirs and partakers of His riches on the day they become His child (Galatians 4:7).

All who are children of God are His heritage. They are recipients of the riches of Christ, through the promises of God. As a child of God grows in the kingdom of Christ, he becomes more aware of the inheritance given to him. “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may

know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints” (Ephesians 1:18).

These riches of God start with Christ coming to live in the believer, “...Christ in you...” (Colossians 1:27). This is accomplished by the Holy Spirit baptizing the new believer into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). From that point on, that person is a child of God; he is in Christ and Christ is in him.

A child of God is the recipient of all the promises of God in Christ. As Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and now sits in the heavens at the right hand of the Father, so the child of God has been raised from the dead. He was dead in trespasses and sins, but now he has been brought up to sit in the heavenlies with Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:5-6). In fact we are told he is a joint heir with Christ; the Spirit, through our faith, bears witness to it (Romans 8:16-17). Scripture further shows us that the child of God has been given the very nature of God as well as the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father, manifested His Father’s kingdom. His kingdom is 100 percent grace and 100 percent truth. Jesus alone brought this grace and truth into the world and made it known to all people (John 1:14). Being an heir of God brings the believer into the full completeness of all that Christ is, “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and

you are complete in Him, Who is the head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:9-10).

The Father has made the Son heir of all things (Hebrews 1:2). As stated previously, a child of God is a joint heir with Christ. The child of God will rule with Christ over the earth. The ruler-ship with Christ means that the believer will judge the world and angels in the future Millennial Kingdom (1 Corinthians 6:2-3). As Christ was ministered to by angels (Matthew 4:11; Luke 22:43), so it is with the child of the Father who cares for His children (Daniel 6:22; Acts 5:19; 12:7-10). The angels (messengers) of God are ministering spirits sent of God to minister unto those who will inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14).

Jesus said of children, “Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 18:10). The revelation of this Scripture is clear; the angels of the children of God are always at the Father’s bidding, always beholding His face. God the Father takes note of even the smallest things of His children, “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered” (Luke 12:7).

3. The mind of a child, believing in simplicity

“Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, assuredly I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:2-3).

Jesus has told us that the kingdom of heaven consists of those who believe Him with the simplicity of a child. The simplicity of a child is found in full faith of heart to the Father’s word; in complete sincerity (2 Corinthians 1:12). This simplicity, in sincerity, found in a child of God, brings forth the fruit of God’s Spirit in a physical way. It is seen in the child of God, in his love for his Father, and in his determination to know and follow only His complete purposes. The purposes of men or religious organizations are not a part of or mixed into his response to his Father (1 Corinthians 2:2).

The child of God, who lives in awe and simplicity to his Father’s word and purposes, boasts only of His works and ways (2 Corinthians 11:10). He is confident in all that His Father has shown him (1 Corinthians 13:7). A child who believes in His Father does not think evil (1 Corinthians 13:5), because his hope in his Father purifies him (1 John 3:4). Pride, a fleshly attribute, is not found in a child’s hope and vision of his Father (1 Corinthians 13:4).

Though the child of God is surrounded by many lords and gods in this world (1 Corinthians 8:5), who are continually attempting to get him to follow them, yet in simplicity of faith, the child has only desire for and ears to hear his Father and His word (1 Corinthians 8:6). The Father's gift to His child gives him discernment to know and hear only his Father's voice, discarding all other voices (John 10:27-30). A child upon hearing his Father's voice follows Him. His Father's word to him is not burdensome (1 John 5:3).

The voice of his Father overcomes all other voices, doctrines, religious organizations, fleshly desires within himself and many other distractions which could keep him from following his Father's voice (John 8:47). The simplicity of a child, believing only his Father and nothing else (such as religious philosophies or other ideas of men), finds power in his faith and brings him into intimacy with his Father (1 John 5:4). The child's strength of overcoming comes from looking only to his Father above (Colossians 3:1-2).

The sincerity of a child's faith, glories in his Father's attributes (John 14:9; 1 John 4:8), even when the world despises and rejects them (John 19:1-6; 1 Corinthians 2:8). He sees his Father's accomplishments as greater than all things (Isaiah 45:12, 18; Mark 7:37; John 3:16; Ephesians 5:25-27). The child of God, glories only in the promise of God, through His only begotten Son (1 Corinthians 2:2).

The child's joy of his Father, His kingdom and His riches, gives him a desire to make Him known to all people. The child's aspiration is to see many become his siblings and share in the great joy of his Father, and all the other attributes and riches of the Father's kingdom (Romans 14:17; Galatians 5:22). This desire in the child is without malice or carnal intent.

Such is the heart of a child, who has a new nature, toward his God and Father.

4. As newborn babes

“As newborn babes desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”
(1 Peter 2:2).

Jesus desired that the children come unto Him. He said, “For of such is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14). Those people who have become children of the Father in heaven are a new creation and they have a new nature and a new mind (1 Corinthians 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17). They have been made new by receiving the word of the Father (John 15:3). Furthermore, each child of God has been cleansed for eternity by the washing of the water of His Word (Ephesians 5:26). They have a new Father, being reconciled to Him by the blood of His Son (Colossians 1:20). Their previous father (Satan), was a liar, and the

father of lies; knowing only the leadership of death (John 8:44; Ephesians 2:13).

This new life the child of God has, is a divine life, given and imputed to him by the Father (Romans 4:24). This divine gift from the Father, is given to each and every one of His children (2 Corinthians 9:15). This divine life is nothing less than a new wine skin, a new life, with the new wine of the Holy Spirit to fill it (Luke 5:38).

A child is admonished by his Father's instructions to increase his faith. The child is told to give all heed, even to the smallest word given to him by the Father (Matthew 4:4). The child who listens to and reverences only his Father, and attempts (even in much failure) to follow His Word, is noted by Him. "Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name. They shall be Mine, says the Lord of hosts..." (Malachi 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:11; Hebrews 12:28).

The child of God is told not to get side tracked in religious persuasions and organizations of men; because those who follow religious persuasions and the organizations of men, reflect their image and likeness (1 Corinthians 3:1-4; Colossians 2:8). The child who follows only his Father's word, will be formed into His Father's reflection (Galatians 4:19). This reflection will reveal the Father's Light and will

reveal the darkness of his former father and his influence of death on the children of men (Matthew 5:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:5). The Father's heart is big and His house is large; He seeks more children to fill it through His Light; using His Light in His children (Matthew 5:16; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6).

The pureness of the Father is brought into His child as he continually looks upon his Father, believing all things the Father has said and shown him (1 John 3:2-3). The child beholding and embracing the Father's love, becomes as his Father, "...As He is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17).

The child's desire for his Father's every word and His presence sets his heart on the heavens where his Father dwells (Colossians 3:1-2). The promise of the Father to send His only begotten Son to take His children unto Himself, brings the child to a place where he is continually looking up for the fulfillment of the promise of His word (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:28).

A child born of his mother, in nature, must follow the laws of nature to grow (eating, sleeping, exercising, using it's strength to increase growth, abiding in the mothers love, etc). Only by doing so will the child develop in nature; so a child of the Father above must do the same, (eating the Word of God, resting in the Son through His blood atonement, exercising the Father's truth in faith, abiding in the Father's love). The child's growth into his Father's

image and likeness depends on him believing, receiving and following His every word.

5. Children about their Father's business

“...Did you not know I must be about My Father's business” (Luke 2:49).

The Father has given many instructions to His children while He is away. If these instructions are carried out by the child, it will make him the true representative of his Father. Only those who have heard the Father's word and carry it out by His Spirit can be called children of the Father (Romans 8:14).

The world has many imposters who will and are masquerading as the children of the Father (Philippians 3:17-19). “But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived (2 Timothy 2:13). These people live under a curse (Romans 2:16; Galatians 1:9); because they put their faith in what men say that the Father has said, even if He has not said it (Jeremiah 17:5). A true child will put his faith only in what the Father has actually said to His children, in His Word (John 17:17). The Father's Son loved the assembly (the gathering place of His children) and gave Himself for it (Ephesians 5:25). The assembly is, “...the pillar and ground of the truth,” with nothing added to it (1 Timothy 3:15).

To insure that His word is not being misused, God has told His children to rightly divide His word (2 Timothy 2:15), and to, “Take heed to yourself and the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Timothy 4:16). Only by looking just to his Father’s truth, can a child be about his Father’s business, all others have coats of “wool and linen” (the meaning or antitype of the commandment God gave to Israel to not mix wool and linen means, do not combine spirit and flesh as the truth of God, Leviticus 19:19; Deuteronomy 22:11; Galatians 3:3). “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (John 3:6).

To be His ambassador, to make His Son and His kingdom known to all people, the child must represent only the Father’s interests (2 Corinthians 5:20). As an ambassador, the child must know the Father’s mind. To proceed in His business, he is told to, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15 JND).

The child, going about his Father’s business, must have the proper tools for understanding the difference between what is of the Father and what is of man or Satan. These tools are acquired by reading the Father’s word in faith (1 Timothy 4:13). Out of the child’s reading of the Father’s word will come sound doctrine. This will equip him for

teaching the truths that point only to his Father, exhorting those in the faith, and bringing deliverance to those caught up in the religious organizations of men. It will also rebuke those in the house of God who sin (1 Timothy 5:20), or whose doctrine is not of the Father (Titus 1:13). The child of the Father has all authority from Him to act in His business (Titus 2:15).

The love of the Father, given to His children, is the foundation of the Father's business. A child pursuing his Father's interests as his first priority will be able to rightly prophesy the word of His Father (1 Corinthians 14:1). Without following and making known the Father's primary business (the Father's love, the next chapter), all other words the Father has spoken lose their power. He has given the knowledge of Himself and His kingdom to His children so they may live and walk in His every word. He desires that all people know the love of the Father through receiving the knowledge and life of His only begotten Son (John 1:18). Because of the Father's innate nature - love, He desires that all people will become His children and live in His truth and kingdom (1 Timothy 2:4-5).

Many examples could be cited of those who were only about their Father's business. Simeon is an example, he received the reward of faith (Luke 2:25-35). Anna is another example of one who in faith pursued only her Father's business. She, like Simeon, received the blessing of faith from her Father (Luke 2:36-38).

A child going about his Father's business has put away his own business (his own ideas, doctrines, and the words of men, religious sects, Nicolaitanism (clergy/laity system), and all other things that offend the Father's kingdom) (2 Timothy 2:19-21). When these are put away, he will be able to fulfill the Father's desire and word. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

While the Son is away, the Father's final instructions to His children are: to be about His business in the truths He has taught them and to, "**Occupy till I come**" (Luke 19:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:14).

6. The Father's love for his children

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

God the Father is seen as many things by various people. Scripture gives complete understanding on the nature of God, "...God is love" (1 John 4:8). Some may say, how can the God of all love banish some to eternal perdition, if He is love? God the Father has told us there are two fathers in this world vying for the souls of men. The second is him who is the father of all lies, the devil (John

8:44). The children of God the Father will be with Him forever and ever (John 14:3; 17:24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 21:1-7; 22:14). The devil, the father of all deception and evil, has children as well (Ephesians 2:1-3). Those who do not choose to receive the love of God will stay children of the second father, the devil, and will be with him where they will spend eternity (Revelation 20:10-15).

The love of God the Father has never been inactive. He has demonstrated His love toward us by sending His Son into the world to take our judgment upon Himself, for our violations of His eternal laws (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 5:6). The love of the Father washed His children in the blood of His Son, thereby making them eternal sons of God (Revelation 1:5).

The children of the Father are only those who believe Him with the humility of a child, making them fit for His kingdom (Matthew 18:4). This awe of the Father by the child brings him to say, "... If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

Because the Father has done wonderful things, too high for a child to know; yet, "We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). The love of the child for the Son of the Father, will bring him to obey his Father's every word, in so doing the Father has promised to manifest Himself to that child and live in Him, "... We will come to him and make Our home with him" (John 14:21, 23).

Some children may question the Father's love because of the hard things they must endure. Children need the demonstration of love, this the Father did by sending, "...the Son of His love..." (Colossians 1:13 JND) into the world to be a propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:10). (Propitiation = mercy seat, the cover of the ark or mercy seat was sprinkled with atoning blood on the Day of atonement (Leviticus 16:1-19), 'representing that the righteous sentence of the law had been executed, changing a place of judgment into a place of mercy' (Hebrews 9:11-15; Scofield).

Fathers, who love their children, must correct them as a necessity to bring them up in truth. The Father of all spirits does so to mould His children into the image of His beloved Son (Colossians 3:10; Romans 8:29; Hebrews 12:5-6, 9). This correction can take on many forms and uncomfortable experiences for the child. In fact some chastening can be very grievous. Sometimes it appears to others, and to the child who has strived to please the Father the most (according to his own ideas and strength, not the Father's, 1 Samuel 2:9), that he is also chastened the most (Job 1:12). Chastening is to bring forth the fruit of repentance and the Father's righteousness in the child (not the child's righteousness) (Job 40:1-5; 42:5-6; John 15:2; Hebrews 12:11). Chastening by the Father deals with His children as His own; if one is without chastening he is not the Father's child (Hebrews 12:7-9).

In that the Father loves His own children, and has demonstrated His love, the child can have full trust in the Father and what He has told him in His word (Matthew 4:4; John 3:16; 17:23; Romans 2:16; Galatians 1:8-9).

7. A true child worships his Father

“O come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep of his hand ...” (Psalms 95:6-7).

No person can be a true worshipper of the Father without first seeing himself as the one in the following Scripture; “But we are all as an unclean thing, all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags ...” (Isaiah 64:6). Our natural condition (what we are as natural people) before God, the judge of all the earth (Genesis 18:25), points this Scripture out to us. “Again as it is written: there is none righteous, no not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one” (Roman 3:10-12). A person’s recognition of these truths within himself is the only foundation for a person to be a true worshipper.

Without God sending mercy (His Son) into the world as a saviour for man, he would forever be in his natural

condition, apart from God, “having no hope and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12). The one who receives the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, is told that, “. . . God who is rich in mercy, because of his great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:4-6). When a person comes to realize with the simplicity and humility of a child, these truths, and appropriates them into his heart in faith, he can say, **“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God” (1 John 3:1).**

In this place of total dependence on God the Father, the child can worship in joy and praise. The more the child humbles himself before the Father (the Lord Jesus is the example, Philippians 2:8), the greater his recognition of the Father’s love for him. This increases his understanding and knowledge, enabling him to enter into the kingdom of his inheritance. This recognition compels the child to not trust in himself (2 Corinthians 1:9), man (Jeremiah 17:5), or religious sects, (Jeremiah 7:3-4; 1 Corinthians 1:11-15; 3:1-5), but to worship only his Father.

Unbeknown to the true child of the Father, he has been predestined to be to the praise of his Father (Ephesians 1:5-6). His Father in eternity past wrote his name in the “Book

of Life” (Philippians 4:3; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 21:27). Again it is written: “...brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth...” (2 Thessalonians 2:13). The child’s full understanding of his divine position compels him to give full adoration and worship to his Father.

The more the child perceives his great distance from the Father in days past, the greater his understanding of the mercy he has received, which brings him into thankfulness in a depth of worship (Luke 7:36-48). The child, apprehending in his heart, the Father’s work in sending his Son from heaven to take his place in judgment on the cross, brings forth true worship. Because the Father alone redeemed him, his worship places no confidence in man or himself, only in his Father and His Word (Philippians 3:3).

Sitting at the feet of the Son from heaven, is the child’s true place to approach and worship the Father (Luke 8:35; 10:39). In this place of humility, the child joins all the saints of God in heaven and on earth (Revelation 4:9-11; 5:8-14).

8. The faith of a child == kingdom entrance

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32).

Every one of the Father's children have been called by Him, and are chosen, elected and appointed to eternal life (John 6:37; 13:18; Acts 13:48; 1 Peter 1:1-3). This calling is to bring them into the kingdom. This kingdom is not a kingdom of buildings, cathedrals, sanctuaries, religious hierarchies, sectarianism, Nicolaitanism (clergy/laity system) or anything else of man made religion. It is a kingdom made without hands (Daniel 2:34, 44-45) and it is not of this world (John 18:36).

As seen earlier, a person cannot enter the kingdom of God by his own will, but only through a child like faith can he receive and enter into the kingdom (Mark 10:15; Luke 18:17). Through the child's faith, the power of God the Father has taken him and translated him (placed him) into the kingdom of His dear Son (Colossians 1:13). This kingdom cannot be shaken by Satan or man (Hebrews 12:28).

The kingdom is the Father's treasury, it is found only in His Son; He has given the key of it to His children to possess (Isaiah 22:22; Matthew 16:19; 1 Corinthians 3:21-23; 2 Corinthians 4:7). "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens" (Revelation 3:7). The kingdom of God in this dispensation is not physical; "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy

Spirit” (Romans 14:17). Neither is the kingdom of God in words of men, but in the power of God (1 Corinthians 4:20). In this power, the child can discern truth (Christ) and walk after Him, which is the Father’s good pleasure (3 John 4).

Flesh and blood cannot enter into the Father’s kingdom (John 3:4-6; 1 Corinthians 15:50). Man in the flesh is of this world and produces only the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21). The child of the Father’s kingdom produces the fruit of his kingdom which is, “...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control. Against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23). There are laws without number to stop the flesh from its works. There are no laws of God to prevent the exercise of the fruit of the Spirit.

When a person becomes a child of the Father, he receives his Father’s Spirit and nature. His Adamic nature is also still with him, it will oppose on every occasion the leading of his new nature and the Spirit within. The world (man’s system that opposes the kingdom of God) that we live in, is entirely contrary to the kingdom of God and will oppose the child as he walks in his Father’s kingdom. The devil is the ruler of this present world and age (Ephesians 2:2; 1 John 5:19). The world system opposes the kingdom of the Father but is responsive to the devil, as is the Adamic nature within every person born.

As the child of the Father strives to live and walk and grow in His kingdom, he is or will be confronted by much opposition. This opposition is from the kingdom of darkness (Acts 26:18). To fully enter into the kingdom, that is the inheritance of the Father's child, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

When a baby is born into this world, and grows and ages, development is continually taking place. Only by the child continually striving to use what it has (brain – body), does it become a developed person. This is also how a child develops in the kingdom of God, using what has been given him (Galatians 4:19). By using what he has been given, the child will become a full grown saint in full stature (Ephesians 4:13).

When the child was born of God he had an eternal inheritance waiting for him (Ephesians 1:11). The Father, by the power of His Spirit, has guaranteed this inheritance (Ephesians 1:14). Furthermore, the Father has sealed His child to be eternally His, forever (John 10:27-29; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30).

The child's knowledge of these gifts makes him free to walk in the kingdom, with his Father as his only refuge. What was true for Israel is also true for the child of God. "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, and will say Destroy!" (Deuteronomy 33:27).

9. The expectant hope of a child

“Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).

When a child has love for his or her father, and the father leaves for the day, the child may look continually during the day for the father’s return. The child may even have anxiousness in waiting for the father’s return. In fact he may go to the window many times in the day to see if he has come home yet. If the child were asked if he had any doubts about his fathers return, the answer would be, no, my father said he would come to me.

The child of God who believes in his Father through the Scriptures has this same hope of the Fathers return, to take him unto Himself (1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The Father has told His child, “to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come” (1 Thessalonians 1:10).

The coming of the Son for the children of the Father (the rapture), to take them unto Himself will deliver them from the wrath of God that is coming upon the world, “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth” (Revelation 3:10). Behold, I am coming quickly and My reward is with

Me...” (Revelation 22:12 JND). The assurance of deliverance from the Father to His children is found in His Word to them, “For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him” (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10).

Those who do not belong to the Father have the sure word of God to be included in the wrath to come (Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:6). Despising the grace and love of God has only one end, “But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each one according to his deeds” (Romans 2:5-6).

The hope of the Father’s child should not be in timidity. The Father has told the child to, “Abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13). The child’s hope in the Father is with all boldness, to proclaim the Father’s promises, without shame (Philippians 1:20). The hope in the Father is a lively hope (1 Peter 1:3), which brings much joy and rejoicing (Romans 12:12; Hebrews 3:6). For the child, an heir, this hope is seen by faith in the Father’s Word as an eternal reality (Titus 3:7), laid up for him in heaven (Colossians 1:5).

The promise to the elect of God the Father who cannot lie (Numbers 23:19), is built on His Word, “In My Father’s

house there are many abodes; were it not so, I had told you; for I go to prepare you a place; and if I go and shall prepare you a place; I am coming again and shall receive you to Myself, that where I am ye also may be” (John 14:2-3 JND). And again, “Then I, John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall not be any more pain, for the former things will have passed away” (Revelation 21:2-4).

D. Neely
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“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?” (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

“Then we who are alive shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18).

Father, let thy Spirit, over me have full power
Father of the morn, in seeking Thee I am near
Father of all height, You are my high place and my Tower
Father of all love, in thy Son it is seen as clear
Father of eternity, Thy purposes are without time or hour
Father of revelation, Jesus, reflects Thee like a mirror

Father of all grace, lead me unto Thee
Father, divine, deliver me from evil, my unbelief
Father of all magnificence, give me Thine eyes to see
Father of all truth, keep me from being a wandering leaf
Father of redemption, a Saviour complete to me
Father send thy Son, take me from, this desert reef

D. N.

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