

NEW BEGINNINGS

Sunday Morning - January 11, 2004

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:13-16 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; 14. Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you. 15. For all things *are* for your sakes, that the **abundant grace** might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. 16. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the **inward man is renewed day by day**.

This time every year we think about a new year and when I think about a new year, I think about new beginnings. We all need to start over, some more than others but we all have to evaluate ourselves and make adjustments in our life and be encouraged to start over and not to quit. There are people that quit, they give up, there's no use; but you know, I'm thinking about what God has provided for us. We don't have to give up. I just think about the help that we have with the Lord Jesus Christ as our High Priest. He's interceding on our behalf. The Holy Spirit is interceding on our behalf according to the will of God and we don't have to give up and there are several illustrations in the, particularly in the Old Testament that help us to see that men of God in the Old Testament didn't live perfect lives and they had to start over from time to time and one of them was Abraham. And I think about one of the kings, Manasseh. Manasseh was a very wicked king. And he did that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord, he sacrificed his children; can you imagine sacrificing one of your own children to an idol? A waste of life and a waste and an abomination in the sight of God and he had to run for his life and they caught him in the thicket of thorns and took him to Babylon. But you know what Manasseh did? He humbled himself; he repented! You know what God did? He gave him back his throne. And we need to take courage that god can restore us back to the way things were. And when the locusts eat all we have, we can just thank God there'll be another crop next year. And so we've got a new year and a new crop and we want to, I want to encourage all of us to take hope and be encouraged to do what? To be faithful to the Lord! He wants us to be faithful; He wants us to trust Him. He doesn't want us to quit. He knows that we're going to grow weary in well doing. But you know what? He's going to provide what we need to keep us from fainting and quitting.

DO NOT BE WEARY

Galatians 6:9 And let us **not be weary** in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, **if we faint not**.

I want to read from second Corinthians chapter four verses thirteen to fourteen

FRESH START DAILY

2 Corinthians 4:13-16 We having the same **spirit of faith**, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also **believe** [present active], and therefore **speak** [present active]; 14. Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you. 15. For all things *are* for your sakes, that **the abundant grace** might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. 16. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the **inward man is renewed** [present passive] **day by day**.

We don't have to wait to count our roles over to a new year to be renewed. We can be renewed day by day. And I think all of us appreciate the fact that the outward man, that which you see and which I see, we all see; is going to wear out and there may be persecutions and troubles that come with living a life for the Lord, we don't have that so much here but the aches and

pains that we suffer can cause us stress and it does and can affect our inward man. But it's by the grace of God that we're renewed day by day. And one of the things that we notice in these verses that I just got through reading is that, he says, we have the same spirit of faith, in other words he's identifying with those that are pleasing God. We're all, we're all in this to please God and he goes on and he says, "according as it is written, I believe and therefore have I spoken and we also believe (present tense) and therefore speak (present tense)". Part of renewing ourselves is talking, communicating, fellowship, talking about the things that we believe, the things that we hope for, talking about faith, talking about grace; all of these things work together to do what? To renew our spirit! To renew us day by day and we need to abound in grace. It's abundant grace, God is able to make all grace abound unto us. He's the God of all grace and grace provides us with peace. Grace provides us with contentment. Grace provides us with sufficiency and when we can draw upon the grace of God in our life at the throne of grace, then our struggles will be minimized. So we need to appropriate His grace. And notice this in the sixteenth verse of second Corinthians four. It's the inward man that's renewed. And that is in the present tense too. It's an ongoing thing and it's passive. Passive means that it's being acted upon outside of my self. In other words, it's important for your input into my life to encourage me not to quit. It's your input into my life and my input into your life that encourages us not to become weary in well doing but that our inward man is renewed day by day. This is the reason why the Word of God is so important to be taught. It's doctrine that doesn't change. When we think about the experience things that churches are promoting today, experiences can change! Our emotions do change but the Word of God never changes and so therefore we can draw on it and depend upon it.

RENEW OUR THOUGHTS

Ephesians 4:23 And be **renewed** [present active] in the **spirit** of your **mind**;

What are you thinking? Are your imaginations vain? Did you know that it's our imaginations that are strongholds that can bring our thoughts into bondage and we begin to imagine things that are not so, that do not agree with the Word of God. There are times when we imagine that God has given up on me, that God has forsaken me. Did you know what? That's like right in the face of the Word of God. But it says He will never leave us nor for what? Forsake us! And so when we imagine God has left us, we're calling the Word of God a lie. And we can do that. God doesn't like us to do that and it puts us in bondage and it's the Word of God that releases us from that bondage. So we need to renew, be renewed in the spirit of our thinking and the mind provides us with a spirit of hope, a spirit of anticipation and also this word 'renewed' is in the present tense as well and it's in the active voice. It means that **we** need to be doing this. Now I reflected upon Abraham; there's Isaac, he had his problems. Jacob had his problems and Moses had his. We can go through all the famous men of the Old Testament. They had their problems but I want to reflect on Abraham.

ABRAHAM AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Matthew 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and **shall sit down with Abraham**, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the **kingdom of heaven**.

What is the ultimate goal of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? They're going to be in the Kingdom of the heavens. And so therefore they will enter into what they were hoping for.

In Isaiah chapter fifty-one, verse two we see that God called Abraham and he called him alone

CALLED ALONE

Isaiah 51:2 Look unto **Abraham** your father, and unto Sarah *that* bare you: for **I called him**

alone, and **blessed** him, and **increased** him.

It was Abraham that was called, by himself. Did Abraham leave by himself? No, he didn't do that! We will see that in just a moment. By the way, he called him to an inheritance.

CALLED TO AN INHERITANCE

Genesis 15:7 And he said unto him, I *am* the LORD that **brought thee** (alone) **out of Ur of the Chaldees**, to give thee this land to **inherit** it.

Abraham was called unto an inheritance. Did you know we are too called unto an inheritance? Abraham will have a heavenly inheritance. Part of Abraham's seed will have an earthly inheritance but Abraham will be sitting in the Kingdom of the heavens with the Lord with an heavenly inheritance and this is what he's talking about here in Genesis fifteen. But when we look at Genesis chapter eleven verse thirty one we find that Abraham wasn't in charge or the Lord really was in charge in Abraham's life and it says that

ABRAHAM NOT ALONE

Genesis 11:31 And **Terah TOOK Abram his son**, and **Lot** the son of Haran his son's son, and **Sarai** his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan;

Abraham's beginning was not too good. And sometimes we don't start off good, do we? We make a commitment, we believe what God says but sometimes we don't fully follow what the Lord would have us to do. It happened in Abraham's life. And it will happen in our life. Well, God didn't give up on Abraham. In fact

BEGAN AGAIN

Acts 7:4 ...dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, **he** [God] **removed** him into **this land**, wherein ye now dwell.

God told Abraham, 'look, your not there yet; now get up and go or get up and I'm going to bring you in to the land.' That's a new beginning. Abraham started over again. He started over by doing what god wanted him to do. We need to do the same thing. And how do we know that, well, by reading the word of God. Reading the scriptures. When we find out something's not right in our life we need to make adjustments just like Abraham did. Now, but he still didn't go alone.

BUT NOT ALONE

Genesis 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and **Lot went with him**. . . .

Lot was with him so Abraham wasn't alone yet, okay? And God promised Abraham an inheritance in Genesis twelve seven

INHERITANCE PROMISED

Genesis 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, **Unto thy seed will I give this land**: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, . . .

Abraham worshipped the Lord. We, this is the first time that we've noticed that Abraham was building an altar unto the Lord and so therefore he got his perspectives together about who he is to worship. He's worshipping His father, or worshipping God in the land where the Lord brought him. But you know Abraham detoured. We have detours in our life too and Abraham had a detour. His detour was south

ABRAHAM DETOUR

Genesis 12:10 And there was a **famine in the land**: and Abram **went down** into Egypt to

sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.

Sometimes when we have struggles, you know what? We don't look to the Lord for help, we look to whom? Egypt! We look to the world. We look to our friends. Now I'm not down on friends because we are friends and we are family and we are here to encourage one another but our counsel and encouragement would be from the scriptures and not from a worldly perspective. So Abraham, he was having a tough time and so he went down into Egypt and he got in trouble. And no need to go into all the troubles he got into, but when he was embarrassed by the Pharaoh, Abraham left and which way did he go? Did he go down anymore? No, he went up! Look in

NEW BEGINNING

Genesis 13:1-3 And Abram **went up** out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south. 2. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. 3. And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;

So we see Abraham going up but notice in verse one

NOT ALONE

Genesis 13:1 And Abram **went up** out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and **Lot with him.**

“and Abraham went up out of Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had” and what? Lot was with him. He still wasn't alone. He still had baggage. And there are times when we are trying to do what God will have us to do but we keep bringing the baggage. Keep hauling the baggage. Then in Genesis chapter thirteen, something happened and finally we see Abraham alone.

NEW BEGINNING ALONE

Genesis 13:14-15 And the LORD said unto Abram, **after that Lot was separated from him,** Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: 15. For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

I think it's interesting the Lord communicated with Abraham in the Ur of the Chaldees and after Lot is released or Lot went in to Sodom and Gomorrah and he was, Abraham was alone, we find God communicating with him again. Talking to him. And sometimes our fellowship with the Lord is not like it should be until we have complied with His will and we are doing His will. Another thing that God provided for Him was a priest, Melchizedek.

BLESSED BY MELCHIZEDEK

Genesis 14:18-19 And **Melchizedek** king of Salem brought forth **bread and wine:** and he was the **priest** of the most high God. 19. And he **blessed him,** and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

Melchizedek brought forth bread and wine. You know what? They had fellowship around the communion table. Just like we have this morning and Melchizedek was his priest and of course we know from other verses that Abraham gave tithe to Melchizedek and we give to the Lord. In our giving we provide for him, not that he's broke! Giving is for us. What is giving for? We give to show that we depend upon God to provide our need. Not that God needs food stamps or is broke. He is not broke, okay? Don't worry about God being broke! Now under Melchizedek we find an interesting promise in chapter fifteen

PROMISE UNDER MELCHIZEDEK

Genesis 15:5-6 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward **heaven**, and tell the **stars**, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, **So shall thy seed be**.
6. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for **righteousness**.

This is an act of faith on Abraham's part. We find this quoted in Romans. And under Melchizedek there was a promise of what? A heavenly inheritance! Your seed will be as the stars of the heavens and by the way, Abraham did not have the benefit of the Hubble telescope or any telescope so he could count the stars. Stars were not innumerable from the human eye perspective. In fact it tells us in the psalms that God has named the stars. So anyway and I'm applying this to many are called but few are chosen - chosen to rule and reign in the heavens. So where is this blessed, blessing of promise and heavenly inheritance made? Under Melchizedek! That's the same thing we have today.

THE WORD HAD NO BEGINNING

John 1:1 In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word was God**.

The Word had no beginning. Jesus Christ is God or was God and He was with God and He was God in John one, one but He had a new beginning. Did you know that Jesus Christ had a new beginning? Well, you find that

A NEW BEGINNING

Luke 2:11 For unto you is **born this day** in the city of David a **Saviour**, which is Christ (the Word) the Lord.

Is that a new beginning? Assuredly! He was given a body, he was given a body like you and I have. That was a new beginning for Him. He had never had one before and here we find the Lord Jesus Christ with a body like we have. Why did God give Him a body? Because He needed a body to die on the cross for the sins of the whole world! In fact, in John nineteen thirty

SALVATION COMPLETED

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and **gave up the ghost**.

Salvation was complete. That work was finished. But did you know that Jesus Christ had a new beginning and we find that in Hebrews chapter five

NEW BEGINNING

Hebrews 5:5-6 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I **begotten** thee. 6. As he saith also in another *place*, Thou *art* a **priest** for [the] **ever** [age] after the order of **Melchisedec**.

Jesus Christ became our High Priest. After the order of Melchizedek, just like Abraham had when he had a new beginning. What was that new beginning? It had to do with his inheritance in the heavens.

NEW BEGINNING FOR JESUS

Acts 13:32-33 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that **the promise** (agelasting life 1 John 2:25) which was made unto the **fathers** (Abraham, Isaac, Israel), 33. God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, **this day have I begotten thee**.

"The promise" I'm persuaded is the promise to Abraham in Genesis fifteen, "thy seed shall be as the stars of the heavens." Now let's continue, verse thirty-three. In other words, the

resurrection of Jesus Christ was for the purpose of him being our high priest. To help us to do what? To begin again and to begin again and to begin again and over and over! He is our High priest interceding on our behalf that when we confess our sins He is what? Faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness! So, as Abraham had a high Priest we too have a high priest

SAME HIGH PRIEST AS ABRAHAM

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of **good things to come**, (heavenly inheritance)

He is helping us to keep on renewing our spirit. Renewing the inner man. He is our high priest. In First Peter chapter one verses three through five we see the significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; when we read

A NEW BEGINNING

1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath **begotten us again** unto a **lively hope** by the **resurrection of Jesus Christ** from the dead, 4. To [*for*] an **inheritance** incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5. **Who are kept** by the power of God **through faith** . . . (pleasing God)

He “hath begotten us again”; I apply that to He begot us the first time from above when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, He begot us again. He put us in the family. That’s from the beginning. When a baby comes into the world that’s a new beginning, isn’t it? When Jesus came into the world it was a new beginning for Him. But God has begotten again unto a living hope. How does this hope stay alive and stay living? It’s because Jesus Christ is our high priest. Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and is in the heavenlies today. Now, what is that hope? It’s a hope for an inheritance. What kind of inheritance? A heavenly inheritance; that is to rule and reign with Christ in His coming, for an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away received, reserved in heaven for you. Now a lot of people stop right there and they tell, say, ‘O man there’s no chance of me ever losing my inheritance’. Let me tell you, there are people in the Old Testament that lost their inheritance. Rueben, the first born, he defiled his father’s bed. He went to bed with his stepmother. And you know what? Rueben lost his inheritance. We too can lose our inheritance. We can’t lose our salvation but we can lose reward, we can lose our inheritance.

How do we keep from losing our inheritance? Verse five, “who are kept by the power of God through faith. Faith is a noun. Faith is, what is faith? It’s believing in something that we can’t see is to be true and it changes our life. Faith is not a verb, it’s a noun. And we please God by faith. Without faith it is impossible to please Him. If you stop pleasing God, you’re not going to have your rewards. When Rueben defiled his father’s bed, was his father happy with him? Uhuh! He

FORGET THE PAST

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing / *do*, **forgetting those things which are behind**, and **reaching forth** unto those things which are before, 14. I **press toward** the mark for the **prize** of the **high calling** of God in Christ Jesus.

One thing that we are all very aware of is that we have not arrived spiritually. We will never become complete in this life time. That is the reason that Paul said that he had not apprehended what the Lord had intended for him.

NEW BEGINNING

1 John 1:9 If we **confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to **forgive** us *our* sins, and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.

DON'T FAINT

Hebrews 12:1-3 . . . let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us **run** [present active] with patience the race that is set before us, 2. **Looking** [present active] unto **Jesus** (our high priest) the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the **joy** that was set before him **endured** (He did not faint) the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3. For consider him that **endured** such contradiction of sinners against himself, **lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds**.