June 19, 2022

Blessed Father’s Day

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**Welcome, Welcome, Welcome😊**

**“Living and Loving Like Jesus”**

Living and loving like Jesus is only possible if Jesus is abiding in us and us in Him!!!

***"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*** John 15:5

An excellent question that was asked last week: Are Believers really a Princes or a Princesses?

In America we are not familiar with royalty. What are a few Biblical statements concerning Believers?

*“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”* 1 Peter 2:9

*“Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ…”* Rom 8:17a

From Ephesians chapter One - Chosen, Adopted, Redeemed, Forgiveness of Sins, Graced us with Grace, Sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

I’m not sure if Prince or Princess is good enough term!

Maybe Son or Daughter of the KING OF KINGS, but then we are back to the idea of a Prince or a Princess

Today’s Scripture Passage:

*“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

Colossians 1:9-14

There are many truths in this passage, we will only focus on a few☺

**“…not stopped PRAYING…”**

Prayer is a Mystery (not magical)

God already Knows (Matthew 6:8)

Ask!

In Faith

Repeatedly

(Luke 18:1-8; James 4:1-3; 5:13-16)

(Pray like you are talking to a loving Dad)

Sometimes the answer is “Yes”. Sometimes the answer is “No” or “Wait”

**The First Core Value of C&MA-** Prayer is the Primary Work for the Believer

It seems as though, at times prayer changes us more than our circumstances!

Back to verse 9b

*“…to fill with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”*

Notice that the prayers were not for material things:

(Not “Name it Claim it” as in the Prosperity Gospel; **it is not wrong to ask for needs!)**

Remember Jesus’ prayer ***“NOT MY WILL BUT THY WILL BE DONE”***

Verse 10 *“And…”*

*“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way:”*

What does that look like?

*Bearing Fruit, Growing in the Knowledge of God, Being strengthened, with all power resulting in great endurance & patience, Joyfully giving thanks to the Father.*

*Why?*

*“…****qualified you*** *to* ***share in the inheritance*** *of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has* ***rescued us*** *from the* ***dominion of darkness*** *and* ***brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves****, in whom we have* ***redemption, the forgiveness of sins****.”*

**Spoiler Alert**

**It is possible to please God☺!!!**

“…may please Him in every way…”

What are some ways that you have pleased God? (Hint How have you pleased your earthly dad?)

**Silent Time with God**

**(THANK YOU, DAD,☺!!!)**

**Table Talk** (Discussion Points)

What are your thoughts on prayer being a mystery?

Why is it okay to pray repeatedly for something?

In your own words, What does a life worthy of the Lord look like?

In your own words, according to Colossians chapter one, Why can Believers be thankful?

What are some ways that you have pleased God?

What the Holy Spirit impressed upon you personally during our time together.