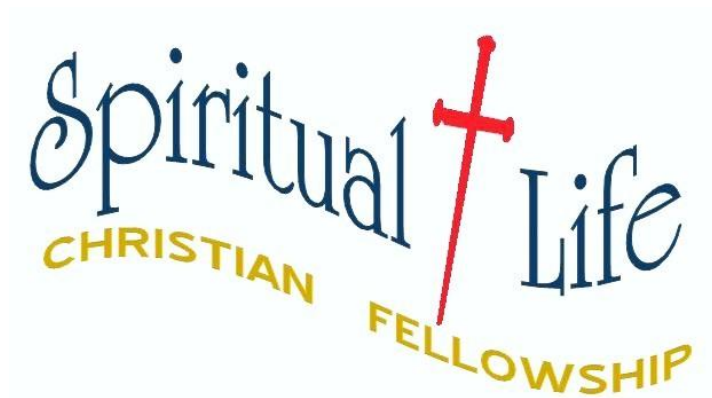


“A Year of Blessings”



Christ Centered, Holy Spirit Empowered, Love Focused

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Date: 12-7-2008

Main Text: Eph. 1:3-14

(Note all scripture references are from the New King James version on the Bible)

Main Text:

Ephesians 1:3-14 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. ¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

¹³In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Introduction:

1. Today we celebrate the one year anniversary of the start of Spiritual Life Christian Fellowship. We have many blessings to number with such a short time of existence. Yet every blessing has one source and that source is God. We owe Him the glory for all His benefits.
2. In the book of Ephesians we see the words of Paul, a 12 verse song of praise to God the Father, God the Son & God the Holy Spirit.
3. We too need to make this a time that we recognize the blessings of the Triune God.

Body:

1. First, we see that Paul gave praise to the Father for all spiritual blessings.
 - a. God the Father is the one who gives us all spiritual blessings in Christ.
 - b. The father is the one who choose us form the foundation of creation.
 - c. He is the one that predestined us to be adopted Sons and Daughters of the most high.
 - d. It is the Father that blessed us with the high callings from His bosom
 - e. He is the one that ordained the birth of Spiritual Life Christian Fellowship.
2. Second, we see that Paul gave praise to the Son, Jesus Christ, for Redemption and Forgiveness of Sin
 - a. Paul acknowledges that it is through Christ that we receive the fullness of grace.
 - b. We see that we are gathered together in one (both those in heaven and on earth) in Christ.
 - c. Paul speaks to us about predestination – that is, those who believe is Christ are predestined to have inheritance with Christ and to be to the praise of Christ.

- d. Christ is the foundation of Spiritual Life Christian Fellowship. All the blessings that we have through Christ, are received – not because of who we are – but because of who He is. They speak of His glory and majesty and all the glory is due Him. All we have is our inheritance through His grace.
3. Third, we see Paul acknowledges the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The Holy Spirit is the one who leads us into all truth.
 - i. **John 16:13** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.
 - b. We are sealed in the promise of salvation through Christ by the Holy Spirit.
 - c. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance until the final day of redemption.
 - d. Spiritual Life Christian Fellowship is blessed by the Holy Spirit as He leads us into truth. We cannot have truth in and of ourselves – it only comes to us through the Holy Spirit. We only enjoy the blessings that we have because of the graciousness of the Triune God.

Conclusion:

1. We have enjoyed a year of multifold blessings authored by God Himself.
2. God the Father, Son & Holy Spirit should be praised – this is our Biblical example.
3. We will continue to prosper and enjoy the blessings of God as long as we put God first in all things.
4. We should render ourselves to God in reasonable service.
 - a. **Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.