

AGAPE LESSON 17

FATHERING GRACE

Put together by Bongie Kuzwayo

[Ephesians1v3—9] 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 without blame before Him in love, (5) **having predestined us to adoption as sons** by Jesus Christ Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, (6) to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He made us acceptable 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. 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 also who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. (13) In 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.

Let us walk together through a few verses:

- V3 – we are blessed with every spiritual blessing.
- V4 -- we were predestined and elected.
- V5 – adoption as children – the nature of God the Father was imputed into us –has placed us in the family of God as sons.
- V6 – we are accepted in the Beloved.
- V7 – the finished work of the cross.
- V11 – our inheritance.
- V13 – we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

You will notice that all the above speak about **family** – not denomination/institution – none of the religious good ideas which are not God ideas. These are fabrications to increase numbers and wealth – which are not in the word of God. The above has to do with **relationship** – has to do with **inheritance and family headed by a father**. What am laying down here has always been in the Bible; we, the church did not see it. **God is able to restrain your eyes not to see**, as He restrained the eyes of the two disciples who did not recognize Jesus who was walking and talking with them on their way to Emmaus (Luke24v15—31).

[Matthew23v9] **Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is you Father; He who is in heaven.**

Father God in heaven is Father of us all. Jesus prayed, and said, “**Our Father in Heaven; hallowed be Your name. - - - - .**” (Matthew 6v9—13)

[Genesis 2v1—3] Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. (2) And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He **rested** on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. (3) Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

To this day God is resting because He had created Adam (humanity) as His deputy.

[Genesis 2v15] Then God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **tend and keep it.**

[Hebrews 2v8] You have put all things in subjection under his (Adam/humanity) feet. For in that He put all things in subjection under him, **He left nothing that is not put under him.**

Tend = (aw-bad in Hebrew) meaning:

- To serve as subject.
- To work for another – serve another by labour.
- To serve God (to serve with Levitical service).
- To worship.

Keep = (shaw-mar in Hebrew) meaning:

- To have charge of.
- To keep, to guard, to keep watch and ward, to protect.
- To watch for.
- To be circumspect.
- To preserve, protect.
- To hedge about as with thorns.

This now, means God vested dominion in the hands of Adam (humanity) to deputize on His behalf. Today, the church is God’s deputy to administrate the resources of the kingdom.

Fathering:

God has chosen vessels (**men/women**) and has endowed them with **His fathering grace to act on His behalf.** So, it is **the grace of Father** that does the fathering. These men/women **provide covering that aligns us back to the family of Father** in heaven. We become part of the lineage of Jesus (Matthew chapter 1). **We are entered into the same register.** In the kingdom of God there is no orphan and there is no widow. You are a widow/orphan when you do not have a covering. Under a **covering**, you are a son in the house. When the widow of Zerephath (1 Kings 17v13—16) dished for Elijah first, she and her son received covering from Elijah’s grace. She and her son were now sons under Elijah’s grace and God provided for their household throughout the days of famine.

God will speak in natural terms in order to teach us a spiritual principle. Joseph, a just man (Matthew 1v19) and a carpenter was hand-picked by God to father Jesus. He provided

covering for Him as He grew up. God Almighty in His infinite wisdom orchestrated that Jesus be born at the time when everyone had to be registered with his family.

[Luke2v4—7] Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, (5) to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. (6) So it was that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. (7) And she brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the Inn.

So, Jesus was entered into the **registry** of His father's house, the tribe of Judah. He is referred to as the 'Lion of the Tribe of Judah.' Isaiah prophesied, and said, "**There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of His root.**" (Isaiah11v1)

You will remember that when Joshua apportioned land to the children of Israel, no one would be given land unless they appeared in an authentic register. **There can be no inheritance outside a relationship.** Denominations/institutions are not relational. Unless you relate to someone who will align you into the Father's Family register, **you cannot receive any inheritance.**

Jesus grew up as an apprentice under His father, Joseph, and He learned by instruction and demonstration. In the carpenter's house He learned all types of wood and all sizes of nails. He became acquainted with the sound of a hammer. He knew the pain of being hit by a hammer when He hit a miss. **Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things He suffered** (Hebrews5v8). God, in His infinite wisdom, chose that His Son grow up in a carpenter's house. This is why He did well at the cross.

How do you to identify a father?

[2Timothy3v16—17] All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

A father will rebuke in love, will exhort, comfort and charge you as he would his own child to walk worthy of God and the gospel.

[Exodus 12v3—4] Speak to the congregation of Israel, saying, "On tenth of this month, every **man** shall take for himself a lamb, **according to the house of his father**, a lamb for a household. (4) And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall take your count for the lamb.

When the lord fed the children of Israel with manna in the wilderness, He commanded that **each man gather for his household.**

[Exodus 16v16—17] This is the thing which the Lord has commanded, "Let every man gather according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent." (17) Then, the children of Israel did so and gathered some more, some less.

According to God's design, **it is the fathers who collect manna(doctrine)** for their household.

[Psalm68v6] God sets the solitary in families; he brings out those who are bound into prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

This we see when David adopts Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth. Jonathan and his father (Saul) had died in the battle, and Mephibosheth was lodging in Lo-Debar in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel. And David said to Ziba, (Saul's servant), "Mephibosheth, your master's son, shall eat at my table always. As for Mephibosheth, he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons (2Samue9v10—11).

What did David mean?

- Mephibosheth shall be an apprentice and learn from me by instruction and demonstration.
- He shall always be present at my table when food (manna/doctrine) is served.
- He shall eat the same food that I eat.
- As a son, he will understand what I understand, and believe what I believe.
- He will adopt my ways – will imitate me. Paul says, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." (1Corinthians 11v1)
- He will share my joys and my sorrows. He will love the Lord, His word, and will grow to fear the Lord as I do.
- His lameness will be hidden under my table.

So, we realize that the father **provides manna/doctrine/food for the soul**. Your father is **your storehouse**. Everything you need for your journey to your **destiny is packaged in the fathering grace that God has assigned for you**. God says, "bring all the tithe to the storehouse (Malachi 3v10).

[Hosea14v4—5] **I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from him. (5) I will be like the dew to Israel;** he shall grow like the lily, and lengthen his roots like Lebanon. His branches shall spread, his beauty shall be like an olive tree, and his fragrance like Lebanon.

[1John 1v8—9] If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, **He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleans us from all unrighteousness.**

From the Scriptures above, we realize that Father God is **compassionate and will readily forgive us when we acknowledge and confess our sins**. We see the same strength and compassion in the father of the prodigal son. He accurately represented our Father in heaven. He readily forgave and received his son with open hands and celebrated his return.

[Luke 15v20—24] **And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son." (22) But the father said to his servants, "Bring the best**

robe and put it on him, and put a ring in his hand and sandals on his feet, (23) and bring a fattened calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; (24) for this my son was dead and he is alive again; he was lost and is found." And they began to be merry.

We also see the same compassion, love and grace of Father in David: This account stretches from 2 Samuel chapters 15—19. David said, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." (2Samuel 18v5) He also cried, "O my son Absalom—my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place! O my son, my son." (2 Samuel 19v33) Joab thought the king was stooping low by weeping, because he did not understand David's heartbeat. David saw future in the young man, while Joab saw an enemy: and he himself never fathered anyone. David was looking forward to giving Absalom a second chance.

Our Father in heaven will not let anyone perish. He gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross to redeem humanity (John3v16).

Paul writing to the Roman church:

[Romans 1v9—13] For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you in my prayers, (10) making request if by some means now at last, I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. (11) For I long to see you, **that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established--** (12) that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. (13) Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), **that I might have some fruit among you also**, just as among the other Gentiles.

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians:

[1 Thessalonians2v7—12] **But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.** (8) So, affectionately longing for you, **we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives,** because you had become dear to us. (9) For you remember, brethren, our labour and toil; for labouring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. (10) You are witnesses, and God also, **how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; (11) as you know how we exhorted and comforted, and charged everyone of you, as a father does his own children, (12) that you would walk worthy of God** who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

What does a son look like?

We will look at a few examples:

A poor widow:

[Mark 12v41—44] Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how people put the money in the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. (42) **Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.** (43) So, He called His disciples and said to them, **"Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than those who have**

given to the treasury; (44) for they all put in out of their abundance, but she, out of her poverty, put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.

- This poor widow **became a sacrifice**. She put herself on the altar.
- We see in her the love and total surrender.
- She voluntarily **submitted/connected herself to the grace in the house. She now has covering that aligns her to the family of Father in heaven**. (She is no more a widow but **a son** in the house.
- She was obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
- She demonstrates great faith.

(B) **Timothy:**

[Philippians 2v19—23] But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. (20) For I have no one **like-minded**, who will **sincerely care for your state**. (21) for all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. (22) But you know **his proven character**, that **as a son** with his father, he **served** with me in the gospel. (23) Therefore, I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.

Paul says to Timothy, “But you have carefully followed my

- Doctrine
- Manner of life
- Purpose
- Faith
- Longsuffering
- Love
- Perseverance
- Persecutions
- Afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all. The Lord delivered me.
(2Timothy 3v10—11)

(C) **Ruth:**

But Ruth said, “**Entreat me not to leave you**, or to turn back from following you: for where you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. (17) Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me.” (Ruth 1v16—17)

Here, you realize that according to Ruth, this was a lifetime connection. She would not let go of her Mother-in-law (Naomi). She pursued vigilantly. Some supernatural force compelled her to glue herself to Naomi. It is like she saw something great in the distant future that she was not prepared to let go. Whatever it was going to take; she would not let go. Perception will always determine your altitude. She ends up as part of the genealogy of Christ Jesus (Matthew 1v5). **You realize that everything Ruth needed, that would take her to her**

destiny, was locked in this Naomi, her mother-in-law. **The fathering grace in Naomi orchestrated the marriage between Ruth and Boaz**. Ruth submitted to all her instructions.

May I encourage you to read that Book of Ruth – it is only four chapters.