

Voice of Triumph



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"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... [as a gift of God's most cherished possession]" Isaiah 9:6

THE UNOPENED GIFT

Many gifts are left unopened under the Tree of Life. These priceless gifts demonstrate the value the giver has for his named beneficiary. This beneficiary is not known as a stranger or a beggar, but as the giver's own royal heir. Therefore, the giver bestows a gift that is fit for a king. What joy the giver has to know that he gave his all--once and for all--holding nothing back. His definition of splurging is simply this: Heaven's storehouses can only accommodate his heirs' entire earthy dowry. Countless heirs pass by the Tree of Life wondering. Some doubt that their name is on the package because they cannot perceive being a recipient. Made to feel despised and rejected by the enemy or their own shame, they never pursue the tailored-made presents. Some are curious enough to shake the contents. Others are only conscious enough to hold them close. Therefore, they just enjoy the creatively wrapped gift from the outside only. Some are daring enough to open the gifts. They passionately tear off the wrapping. They anxiously dig deep inside to discover something they just sit on their mantle, but never fully intending to use it. Still others may never understand the original intent of the gift so just leave it in its box and store in the back, in the corner, in a dark place in the attic. Finding the storage room a little cramped for space, off the little wonder goes with the other unwanted things for the prized rummage sale like a sheep going before the slaughter. Checking it off your list, it is gone forever. So its value was never recognized. Only a few still cherish this rare gift to the fullest extent possible. They make room for it so it can feel right at home. Then throughout the day, they return with a smile to keep the image fresh in their mind. Often they will carry it throughout the dwelling so they can behold its beauty as they bask in the memories of a gracious giver. These understand the price of this hidden treasure. These clearly see the sacrifice made to sculpture relief. They receive the crown, from the cross. They receive triumph from the trials. They receive the glory from the gory. They receive the pleasure from the pain. Much to their surprise, it was not a gift given once a year; instead, it is the lifetime gift purchased by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Who is the one who sees his own wholeness from the holes in Jesus' side, hands, feet, and head? Your name is on the gift. Develop a greater expectation. Then discover the divinely designed original. Custom-made. First quality. God-promised. Handpicked. Just for you! Jesus Christ is the best gift of all. Celebrate him all year long.

STEP UP INTO THE LEVEL OF YOUR BELIEVING

You have been fully recognized and accepted in righteousness as the authority in the earth. Fully recognized and accepted by God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the angels, satan and his demons with this same position because you are an heir of salvation. Don't be at all surprised that you are the one who has been accepted in the beloved. Yes, "In whom [Jesus Christ] we have boldness and confidence by the faith of him," Ephesians 3:12. Now all you do is nurture your self-image to envision yourself as the kingdom of God sees you in the Word of God. Heaven's image of you is always at the most high level, which is according to the Creator's model. Excellence is the best that you can do; and perfection, the best that can be done. The love of God casts out the fear of you feeling despised and rejected. The blood of Jesus covers your sin and shame and presents you faultless before the presence of the Lord. After that, you can begin to see Jesus clearly as the overcomer of the world system. When you live, move, and have your being in him then you will fully express yourself as the authority in the earth. Whatever place you see, you can advance to-- even if it is only a step at a time. God is saying the same to you that he said to Abraham in Genesis 13:14-17 from The Message, "Open your eyes, look around. Look north, south, east, and west. Everything you see, the whole land spread before you, I will give to you and your children forever. I'll make your descendants like dust--counting your descendants will be as impossible as counting the dust of the Earth. So--on your feet, get moving! Walk through the country its length and breadth; I'm giving it all to you." You hang on Abraham's family tree as one of his divinely inspired descendants. Galatians 3:29 confirms this, "And if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Know this for yourself: "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us," II Corinthians 1:20.

May you always abide in God's choice so he is glorified every day and in every way in 2008!

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Thought for Transformation
God planted the Tree of Life among the other trees found in the Garden of Eden. First-mentioned in Genesis 3:22, its created purpose was for the preservation of the God-kind of life on earth--everlasting. After Adam and Eve's disobedience, God guarded it by Cherubims and a flaming sword to prevent the two from becoming crystallized in an irreconcilable state to Him. This ensured deliverance from sin could be graciously received for mankind. Psalm 1:3 illustrates the vitality of the Tree of Life comparing it to our life in Christ. The Message Bible names the Garden of Eden as its focal point and gives us an image of the quality of life within the kingdom of God. "You're a tree replanted in Eden, bearing fresh fruit every month, never dropping a leaf, always in blossom." This ushers our return to a place of security, sense of belonging, self-esteem, and significance under God's meticulous care. Revelation 22:1 demonstrates its power. "In the midst of the street of it, on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." Work restoration to the fullest so every part produces value from the leaf and the fruit even down to the seed.