



God's Resources for Life and Healing

Part 1—Our Position in Christ: The Launching Pad

"I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full."

(John 10:10b; NIV)

Since RCM began sending out a bimonthly *Prayer Matters*, I have written an article on spiritual warfare to accompany it, desiring that we understand the crafty ways in which our enemy can derail us and interfere with God's plan for our lives as well as the effectiveness of our ministry to others. As God has rekindled in me the special calling He gave me in 2000 to help abuse survivors understand the resources that they have in Him, I have felt strongly led to change the focus of these articles to this topic. While we definitely need to know the enemy and his tactics, we also need to know all that God makes available to us, not only for living an abundant and victorious daily life (John 10:10b) but also for finding healing and freedom from bondage wherever we may need it or for facilitating this journey most effectively in others (Isa. 61:1). If God Himself has given us *everything* pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3), then we should be looking to Him as our primary resource for inner healing.

As a starting place in this series, I'd like to consider the many treasures we receive just through our immediately acquired **position in Christ**. When we accept Him as our personal Savior from sin, we are translated from death to life in a way that enormously affects both our earthly and eternal destiny (John 5:24; Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:13). Only in Christ can we have 1) *the peace of knowing we belong eternally to the kingdom of heaven* (John 3:16; 1 John 5:13) and 2) *the potential to experience the highest quality of life possible for man on earth* (John 10:10b; Ps. 16:11). What greater starting place could a Father give His children as they enter His family?

The exclusive opportunity believers have to experience the utmost quality of earthly life is due, first and foremost, to the washing away of our sins through the blood of Jesus and the major psychological benefits this provides (Isa. 1:18; Eph. 1:7; Ps. 32:1-2; 51:7-9). The fact that our sins are removed as far as the east is from the west and can never be counted against us again (Ps. 103:12; Rom. 8:33-34) means that we can live in 3) *total freedom from the burden of guilt!* Furthermore, because of God's promise that confession will continue to remove from our lives the sins that mar the image of God in which we were created, we also have restored to us 4) *the potential to be transformed into the very image of Christ* (Gen. 1:27; 1 John 1:9; Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 15:49; 2 Cor. 3:18), a tremendously enriching boost to our self-image. Again, we see the marvelous launching pad that God has positioned us on for experiencing the optimum emotional and psychological health!

Another almost unfathomable aspect of our salvation is that God immediately puts us into the position of being His sons and daughters (John 1:12; 1 John 3:1; Rom. 8:15; Eph. 1:5). We are not slaves, servants, or subjects in His kingdom. 5) *We share a position of sonship with Jesus Christ Himself!* The Father loves us just as fully as He loves His own Son, and we can approach Him as freely as a child to his (good) Daddy with 6) *the assurance that He will delight to answer our requests for the things He knows are good for us* (Matt. 6:25-33; 7:11; John 3:35; 17:23; Gal. 4:4-7; Phil. 4:19; 1 John 3:1). Our lives will never be without 7) *a perfect source of unconditional love*. How beautifully this compensates for any and all deficiencies of our earthly parents (Psalm 27:10)!

Recognizing how God has positioned us on such an ideal launching pad to experience the utmost quality of life here on earth should cause us to evaluate how far we have allowed ourselves to be propelled toward that destiny. If we are not experiencing the full benefits of our position in Christ, as mentioned above, we may need to explore where Satan has succeeded in getting us to believe lies that negate our true spiritual inheritance. I suggest we ask ourselves questions such as: What do I believe about my past sins? My self-image? My potential for ultimate life experience? God being my Father? His love towards me? Then, we need to consider how these beliefs line up with the truth expressed in God's Word. (Check out the references given above.) Doing this self-evaluation and aligning any errant beliefs with truth will release us to move more fully into the abundant life God intends us to live.