

Why we grace age Gentile saints are partakers of the New Covenant

“That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:” (Ephesians 3:6 AV)

God’s PROMISE IN CHRIST is the whole package – Holy Spirit baptism into Christ’s body, righteousness, justification, forgiveness, redemption, sanctification, resurrection, glorification, eternal life.

The PROMISES were made to Abraham and his seed

(Seed singular – Jesus Christ).

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy **seed, which is Christ.**” (Galatians 3:16 AV)

ALL of Christ’s are therefore Abraham’s SEED and heirs according to the PROMISE.

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. **And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.**” (Galatians 3:26-29 AV)

By becoming “of his flesh and his bones” we are heirs of Christ’s inheritance. We are family.

“For we are members of his body, **of his flesh, and of his bones.**” (Ephesians 5:30 AV)

The prophesied New Covenant was between God and the HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make **a new covenant with the house of Israel**, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;** and will be their God, and they shall be

my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-34 AV)

The idea of God "writing the law in their hearts" is also expressed as "putting his Spirit upon or within them".

"As for me, **this is my covenant with them**, saith the LORD; **My spirit that is upon thee**, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever." (Isaiah 59:21 AV)

"A new heart also will I give you, and **a new spirit will I put within you**: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*." (Ezekiel 36:26-27 AV)

The law is "written in hearts" when the Spirit of God dwells within. God is a Spirit. God is love. All of the law is fulfilled in "love thy neighbour as thyself".

"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24 AV)

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." (1 John 4:8 AV)

"That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:4 AV)

"Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the law." (Romans 13:10 AV)

"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Galatians 5:14 AV)

This is not man's emotional love but the love of God which can only come from God and is the Spirit of God. The "mind of Christ" is being formed in us by the effectual working of his Word and Spirit. His ways and thoughts are not our ways and thoughts.

"For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9 AV)

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually

discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." (1 Corinthians 2:14-16 AV)

Joel prophesied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Peter was quick to see that this prophecy had been fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. (See Acts 2:16-18.)

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that **I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh**; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit." (Joel 2:28-29 AV)

The Holy Spirit is a witness to us – that he has written his law into our minds.

"Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;" (Hebrews 10:15-16 AV)

There is a tendency among Pauline dispensationalists to associate the "writing the law in their hearts" exclusively with Israel. But Paul used very similar words to Ezekiel, Jeremiah and Isaiah when speaking of the difficult bunch of grace age Gentile saints at Corinth.

"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, **written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God**; not in tables of stone, **but in fleshy tables of the heart.**" (2 Corinthians 3:2-3 AV)

There is a dispensational difference between the prophesied pouring out of God's Spirit which commenced in Acts 2, and the unprophesied "being sealed" with God's Spirit in this present grace dispensation. But the effect of God-given righteousness on an individual in either dispensation should be the same.

When God promised the Jews that he would "put his law in their hearts" he did not tell them HOW he was going to do it.

- He did not tell them that his Son would "give his life a ransom for many".
- He did not tell them that he would then raise his Son from the dead.
- He did not tell them that his Son would ascend to his right hand in heaven and become the MEDIATOR of the New Covenant.
- He did not tell them that the subsequent outpouring of his Spirit upon them would bring with it the RIGHTEOUSNESS of his Son (i.e. "put his law in their hearts").

HOW God had made many righteous was explained to everyone by Paul, who received the full revelation of the mystery of Christ from the Lord himself (Romans 16:25, Galatians 1:12).

Some dispensationalists argue that those of us who receive the Spirit in the present dispensation of grace, receive a more HANDS-OFF Spirit than the Jews did in Acts 2. They argue that the Spirit CAUSED Peter's little flock to obey his statutes and they no longer had a choice in the matter - like the hapless humans whose bodies were hijacked by an alien life form in the movie "Invasion of the Body Snatchers". But the subsequent behaviour of Peter and his flock, after their receiving the Spirit under the Jewish New Covenant dispensation, proves that they were not immediately PERFECT. Ananias and Sapphira were still liars (Acts 5:1-10); it was necessary for Paul to rebuke Peter on one occasion (Galatians 2:11); John Mark took decades to become a mature saint (Acts 15:37-39; 2 Timothy 4:11).

It is my present understanding that the Spirit today has no less power than it had on the day of Pentecost but that it ministers according to the TIMES. If we can discern the times and the seasons to some extent then we can rest assured that the Spirit can discern the times and seasons more perfectly. In this present time the Spirit is not manifesting signs and wonders because it is not the season for signs and wonders. The 'signs and wonders' nation to whom the great commission was given, and who is to eventually rule the earth with Christ, is presently in spiritual darkness (Romans 11:7).

In this PRESENT TIME God is raising a heavenly army; not an earthly one led by saved Israel (Romans 11:26). God SEALS us unto the day of redemption with the Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13, 4:30) and we are HID with Christ (Colossians 3:3). We are engaged in spiritual warfare with Satan's angels (Ephesians 6:12) and are increasingly spiritual beings (Ephesians 4:15) that will soon be clothed upon "with our house which is from heaven (2 Corinthians 5:2-4)" - when we depart this present evil world (Galatians 1:4).

God is a Spirit. God is love. Love is the fulfilling of the law. We have the Spirit of God; therefore we have the fulfilling of the law - LOVE and RIGHTEOUSNESS - written in our hearts. Or put another way - we have "put on Christ". The effectual working of the Word of God and the Spirit of God is giving us the "mind of Christ" - the mind of One who has already paid the death penalty for sin required by the law.

Jesus had to GO AWAY for the PROMISE of "power from on high" to be fulfilled.

Having promised to "put his Spirit in their hearts" we can scripturally follow the progress of God actually fulfilling his promise. The Comforter (the promised Holy Spirit) could not come to anyone until after Jesus had departed the earth.

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." (John 16:7 AV)

God required a great sacrifice before he could send his Spirit to dwell within sinful flesh. The LAMB OF GOD had to be sacrificed for the PROMISE to be fulfilled.

“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to **give his life a ransom for many.**” (Mark 10:45 AV)

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold **the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**” (John 1:29 AV)

“And to **Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling,** that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” (Hebrews 12:24 AV)

Although proclaimed from the beginning of the scriptures that we call the New Testament, the New Testament or New Covenant of God did not COME INTO EFFECT until AFTER THE DEATH OF THE TESTATOR.

“ And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. **For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.** For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.” (Hebrews 9:15-17 AV)

The fulfilment of the PROMISE was close at hand after Jesus rose from the dead and just before he ascended to heaven.

“And, behold, I send the **promise of my Father** upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with **power from on high.** And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, **he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.**” (Luke 24:49-51 AV)

“ And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, **but wait for the promise of the Father,** which, *saith he,* ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**” (Acts 1:4-5 AV)

The PROMISE of power from on high arrived on the day of Pentecost. Jesus, now at the right hand of the Father, had received of the Father the PROMISE of the Holy Ghost.

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, **I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh:** and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your

old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:" (Acts 2:16-18 AV)

"Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having **received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost**, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear." (Acts 2:33 AV)

Israel as a nation judged themselves unworthy

Establishment Israel ferociously resisted the growing little flock of Jews who had received the Spirit promised by God under his New Covenant. They judged themselves unworthy of God's New Covenant spiritual things and so God raised up a new and very tough apostle to offer Israel's SPIRITUAL THINGS (the Holy Spirit of the New Covenant) to the Gentiles. These next scriptures are words spoken by Paul – the apostle of the Gentiles.

"Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and **judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.**" (Acts 13:46 AV)

"Be it known therefore unto you, that **the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles**, and *that* they will hear it." (Acts 28:28 AV)

"For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as **I am the apostle of the Gentiles**, I magnify mine office:" (Romans 11:13 AV)

"It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. **For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things**, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things." (Romans 15:27 AV)

We Gentiles were once STRANGERS from the covenants of PROMISE but are MADE NIGH by the BLOOD OF CHRIST

In time past we Gentiles were strangers from the covenants of promise and without hope in the world.

"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers from the covenants of promise**, having no hope, and without God in the world:" (Ephesians 2:11-12 AV)

BUT NOW IN CHRIST JESUS we are MADE NIGH by the BLOOD OF CHRIST – the blood of sprinkling of the New Covenant.

“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the **blood of Christ.**” (Ephesians 2:13 AV)

“And to **Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling,** that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” (Hebrews 12:24 AV)

How were we Gentiles made nigh by the blood of Christ? This is more easily seen when you think of Jesus in his role as a sacrificial lamb. When the Jews of Moses’ time sacrificed a lamb in the tabernacle, who BENEFITTED from the sacrifice? Obviously it was those on whose behalf the sacrifice was made. On whose behalf was the Lamb of God sacrificed? According to John the Baptist he was the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the WORLD – not just the sin of Israel.

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, **which taketh away the sin of the world.**” (John 1:29 AV)

This is most likely why the situation of Israel at the time was such that they were not able to execute the Lord themselves. They had to get the ruling Roman GENTILES involved, thereby ensuring that the blood of Jesus was also on the hands of the Gentiles.

“The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, **both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,** For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.” (Acts 4:26-28 AV)

We Gentiles were unwitting beneficiaries of God’s one acceptable sacrifice for sins forever.

“But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;” (Hebrews 10:12 AV)

“And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.” (Acts 10:15 AV)

We are now FELLOWHEIRS of the covenants of PROMISE and PARTAKERS OF HIS PROMISE IN CHRIST BY THE GOSPEL.

“ Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree: That **the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ;** that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” (Galatians 3:13-14 AV)

“That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:” (Ephesians 3:6 AV)

Note: BY THE GOSPEL. A new gospel of the grace of God. PAUL’S GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD.

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.” (Acts 20:24 AV)

THE GOSPEL PAUL RECEIVED BY REVELATION FROM THE RISEN AND GLORIFIED LORD JESUS CHRIST.

“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 1:11-12 AV)

Although the New Covenant was initially between God and the house of Israel, we Gentiles are now PARTAKERS OF SPIRITUAL THINGS that were initially promised to Israel.

“It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.” (Romans 15:27 AV)

We are sealed with that ONE AND ONLY Holy Spirit of PROMISE.

“That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” (Galatians 3:14 AV)

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,” (Ephesians 1:13 AV)

The DISPENSATION of the GRACE OF GOD

The dispensation of the grace of God is a NEW DISPENSATION of New Covenant spiritual things, initially promised to and sent to Israel, BUT NOW available to the GENTILES by Paul’s gospel. This revelation was hidden from prophecy and is the MYSTERY OF CHRIST revealed to Paul.

“For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few

words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the **mystery of Christ**) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; **That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:**" (Ephesians 3:1-6 AV)

Under this new dispensation the GENTILES, who have faith in Paul's gospel of the grace of God (MY GOSPEL),

"Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:" (2 Timothy 2:8 AV)

have become fellowheirs of the spiritual blessings of God's covenants of promise with Israel.

"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the **covenants of promise**, having no hope, and without God in the world: **But now** in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:12-13 AV)

The blood of sprinkling of the New Covenant

The blood of sprinkling of the New Covenant is the ONE AND ONLY PERFECT SACRIFICE FOR SINS FOREVER.

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;" (Hebrews 10:12 AV)

The "all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" that we currently enjoy,

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with **all spiritual blessings** in heavenly places in Christ:" (Ephesians 1:3 AV)

were made possible SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF THE SACRIFICE OF THE LAMB OF GOD WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD.

"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and **hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God** for a sweetsmelling savour." (Ephesians 5:2 AV)

The Jesus Christ that we NOW KNOW AMONG US is the CRUCIFIED Lord Jesus Christ.

"For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2 AV)

"For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you." (2 Corinthians 13:4 AV)

The life that lives in us is the life of one BEYOND THE GRAVE.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20 AV)

The veil is no longer between us and God. It is between us and the world. We are on the DEAD side of the cross. We are crucified with Christ yet we live.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. **For ye are dead**, and your life is hid with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1-3 AV)

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, **through the veil**, that is to say, his flesh;" (Hebrews 10:19-20 AV)

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (Galatians 6:14 AV)