

PENTECOSTAL DOCTRINES: *THE TRINITY*

Gen.1:1- 3 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

Gen.1:26 - Then God said, "Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth."

I. THE FATHER - THE SOURCE OF ALL THINGS

James 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

1. THE FATHER - GOD'S LOVE FOR MAN - HE LOVES JESUS

Matt 3:16,17 - After He was baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and settling on Him, and behold, a voice from the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

2. THE FATHER IS GREATER

Jn.14:28 - You heard that I said to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

Jn.10:30 - I and the Father are one.

II. THE SON OF GOD

1. THE FATHER'S EXPRESSION OF HIMSELF

Heb.1:3 - And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature,

Jn.1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jn.1:14 - And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

EDWARDS

“God’s end in the creation of the world consists in these two things, to communicate himself and to glorify himself.”

God declared Himself through the life, ministry, and death of His Son Jesus. Everything the Father radiates from Christ. His teaching, His healings, His deliverances from demonic bondage, His miracles of provision, and salvation which comes through His death. So have another look at Jesus, what you see will be the Father’s love. He loves us by giving us His Son. When we embrace His Son we taste the Father’s goodness and love, this is the place of indescribable joy.

2. THE LOVE OF GOD SEEN IN CHRIST

Rom. 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. REVEALS AND GLORIFIES CHRIST

Jn. 16:13,14 - But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose it to you.

2. HE CONVICTS US OF OUR SINS

Jn. 16:7,8 - But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment:

3. HE INDWELLS

Jn. 14:17 - the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you.

Jn. 14:20 - On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I in you.

4. HE TRANSFORMS US

2 Cor. 3:18 - But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

5. HE HELPS US

Rom.8:26 - Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness;

Rom.8:26 - TPT - And in a similar way, the Holy Spirit takes hold of us in our human frailty to empower us in our weakness.

Rom.8:26 Amp. - So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness;

6. HE EMPOWERS US

Acts 1:8 - but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;

Eph.6:10 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

7. POURS GOD'S LOVE ON US AND IN US

Rom.5:5 - and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

THE FALL AND GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION

I. GOD'S WARNING

Gen.2:15-17 - Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and tend it. The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may freely eat; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for on the day that you eat from it you will certainly die."

ESV STUDY BIBLE

They know good and evil by experience, but their sense of guilt makes them afraid to meet God; they have become slaves to evil. And while they do not cease to exist physically, they are expelled from the garden-sanctuary and God's presence. Cut off from the source of life and the tree of life, they are in the realm of the dead. What they experience outside of Eden is not life as God intended, but spiritual death

Eph.2:1 - And you were dead in your offenses and sins,

ESV STUDY BIBLE

Human beings as sons and daughters of Adam enter the world spiritually dead. They have no inclination or responsiveness toward God and no ability to please God.

II. DISOBEDIENCE

Gen. 3:6,7 - When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves waist coverings.

III. SIN'S CONSEQUENCE - SPIRITUAL DEATH

Gen.3:8-24 - Now they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me some of the fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Then the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all the livestock, And more than any animal of the field; On your belly you shall go, And dust you shall eat All the days of your life; And I will make enemies Of you and the woman, And of

your offspring and her Descendant; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel.” To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you shall deliver children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.” Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; With hard labor you shall eat from it All the days of your life. “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; Yet you shall eat the plants of the field; By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread, Until you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”

Now the man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out with his hand, and take fruit also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”-- therefore the LORD God sent him out of the Garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. So He drove the man out; and at the east of the Garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

IV. ORIGINAL SIN AND THE DEPRAVITY OF MAN

Rom.5:12 - Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all mankind, because all sinned--

Eph.2:3 - Among them we too all previously lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the rest.

Rom.7:18 - For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

Jer.17:9 - The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?

V. SALVATION

John 3:3 - Jesus responded and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.

Eph.2:1-10 - And you were dead in your offenses and sins, in which you previously walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all previously lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children

of wrath, just as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Titus 3:4,5 - TPT - When the extraordinary compassion of God our Savior and his overpowering love suddenly appeared in person, as the brightness of a dawning day, he came to save us. Not because of any virtuous deed that we have done but only because of his extravagant mercy. He saved us, resurrecting us through the washing of rebirth. We are made completely new by the Holy Spirit, whom he splashed over us richly by Jesus, the Messiah, our Life Giver.

2 Cor.5:17 - Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

THE HOLY SPIRIT - WITHIN AND UPON

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN

1. FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

Jn.4:10 - Jesus replied to her; "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

Jn.4:13,14 - Jesus answered and said to her; "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life."

2. YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

Jn.3:3 - Jesus responded and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Jn.3:7,8 - Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it is coming from and where it is going; so is everyone who has been born of the Spirit."

3. THE FIRST NEW BIRTH

*Jn.19:21-23 - So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be to you; just as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and *said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."*

II. THE SPIRIT UPON

4. THE HEAVENLY MINISTRY OF JESUS

Jn.1:32-34 - And John testified, saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

2. THE RIVER

Jn. 7:37-39 - Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" But this He said in reference to the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

III. THE SPIRIT WITHIN AND UPON

1. PHILLIP IN SAMARIA

Acts 8:14-17 - Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they would receive the Holy Spirit. (For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

2. PAUL IN EPHESUS

Acts 19:1-7 - Now it happened that while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "On the contrary, we have not even heard if there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.

BAPTISM

I. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Mk.1:4-8 - John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey. And he was preaching, saying, "After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to bend down and untie the straps of His sandals. I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

ONE BAPTISM

INUNDATED

Eph.4:4-6 - There is one body and one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Any time today's scripture is discussed people soon get into a debate about what baptism Paul is speaking of. Some say water baptism, others say the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and still others will argue that this is the baptism of fire. I see this passage more and more as speaking as an immersion into God. After all is said and done, we were created to live in and of God. I see water baptism that was introduced on a mass scale by John the Baptist as a prophetic act by John. I can see him in his camel skins, leather girdle, and uncut hair and beard calling out to Israel for repentance. He said he baptizes in water for repentance but the one coming after him would baptize in the Holy Spirit and fire. John's act of baptism is a prophetic act picturing the heavenly ministry of Jesus as the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit. Maybe John was immersing people into water as a picture of our need to be immersed into God. Today many Christians continue the practice of baptism by immersion. This is leaving behind our world of self and entering in to the world of the Lord. Here is how the Kittle word book describes this.

"John is preparing the people for God's imminent coming. His baptism is an initiatory rite for the gathering of the messianic community....Cleansing, connected with repentance, is the main point, with a suggestion of purification for the coming aeon. The contrast with the baptism of the Spirit and fire shows that there is at least some influence of the idea of life-giving inundation..."

I love this phrase, "life giving inundation". This is a strange, almost conflicted use of inundation. Inundation normally has the idea of destruction, such as the inundating waters of Katrina. In this sense we are inundated or overwhelmed with the life giving waters of the Lord. John foresaw a day when multitudes would be saturated with the person called the Holy Spirit. So yes, I believe in one baptism; that would be an immersion into God Himself. So let's each of us wade out into the waters and be inundated with God.

II. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Acts 2:37-39 - Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what are we to do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”

III. ENTERING INTO THE DEATH OF CHRIST THROUGH BURIAL

Rom.6:3 - Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

IV. BEING RAISED UP WITH CHRIST

Rom.6:4-7 - Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for the one who has died is freed from sin.

V. CONSIDER YOURSELF DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO GOD

Rom.6:11 - So you too, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

VI. BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF JESUS

Matt.28:18-20 - All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 2:38 - Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

When I was a new Christian I lived in the San Joaquin Valley near Fresno, California. There were many different types of Christian groups as well as cults that were fairly strong and carried influence in that region. One Of the Christian groups was the Apostolic or Oneness churches. These were Pentecostal groups that had split from the other Pentecostal churches not many years after the Azusa Street Revival. They believe in what they call oneness and were very strict in the formula for baptism. I stress the word formula for a reason. They believe that you have to say the phrase “in the Name of Jesus” while baptizing for it to be valid. Their dogmatism caused me to search and find out what I believed was the truth about baptism. I don’t think there is a formula,

so to speak, but a glimpse into the beauty of baptism seen in today's verses. Jesus said to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Peter said to baptize in the Name of Jesus. Could it be they were both saying the same thing? I believe they are. Here is what I believe is the meaning of using the Name of Jesus.

1. WHEN YOU SPEAK OF SOMEONE'S NAME YOU ARE SPEAKING OF THEIR REPUTATION OR GLORY - WE ARE BAPTIZED FOR THE GLORY OF HIS NAME.

So when you are baptized it's not the formula of exactly what is spoken by the person baptizing you, the key is that your baptism and testimony brings glory to His Name. You are being baptized for His glory, for the sake and glory of His Name.

2. NAME IS ALSO CONNECTED TO AUTHORITY - WE ARE COMMISSIONED WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE LORD JESUS TO BAPTIZE IN HIS NAME (AUTHORITY).

This is another aspect of what it means to operate in the Name of Jesus. It means you baptize not in your authority or name but in the authority and Name of Jesus.

So let's glorify His Name as we go into our world, make disciples, and baptize them in His Name.

THE CHURCH OF GOD

Matt.16:13-19 Now when Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets.” He *said to them, “But who do you yourselves say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

I. THE PROPHECY OF THE REBUILDING OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID

Acts 15:15-18 - The words of the Prophets agree with this, just as it is written:

‘AFTER THESE THINGS I will return,
AND I WILL REBUILD THE FALLEN TABERNACLE OF DAVID,
AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS,
AND I WILL RESTORE IT,
SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD,
AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,’
SAYS THE LORD, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS known from long ago.

II. THE CHURCH AS THE TEMPLE

Eph.2:19-22 - So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:4,5 - And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

III. THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

1 Cor.12:12,13 - For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

IV. THE CHURCH AS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

Rev.21:9-11 - Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

The New Jerusalem

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.

GOD'S WORD

I. HAVING A REVELATION THAT GOD'S WRITTEN WORD IS INSPIRED

2 Tim.3:16 - All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

- theopneustos - God breathed or inspired

MY TESTIMONY OF SEEING THE DEVINE INSPIRATION OF PAUL'S LETTERS

II. CREATION AND THE WORD

Gen.1:1-4 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

Jn.1:1-5 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

III. THE WORD BECAME A MAN

Jn.1:14 - And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

IV. THE HEALING POWER OF THE WORD

Pro.4:20-23 - My son, pay attention to my words;

Incline your ear to my sayings.

They are not to escape from your sight;

Keep them in the midst of your heart.

For they are life to those who find them,

And healing to all their body.

Matthew 8:5-13 - And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, begging Him, and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, terribly tormented." Jesus *said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." Now when Jesus heard this, He was amazed and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such

great faith with anyone in Israel. And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but the sons of the kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” And Jesus said to the centurion, “Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

V. MEDITATION ON GOD’S WORD

Ps. 1:1-3 - Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
But his delight is in the Law of the LORD,
And on His Law he meditates day and night.
He will be like a tree planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season,
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Joshua 1:8 - This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will achieve success.

VI. THE PROPHETIC NATURE OF GOD’S WORD

BLESSING ON JOSEPH

Gen. 49:22-26 - Joseph is a fruitful branch, A fruitful branch by a spring; Its branches hang over a wall. “The archers provoked him, And shot at him and were hostile toward him; But his bow remained firm, And his arms were agile, From the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), From the God of your father who helps you, And by the Almighty who blesses you With blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father Have surpassed the blessings of my ancestors Up to the furthest boundary of the everlasting hills; May they be on the head of Joseph, And on the top of the head of the one distinguished among his brothers.

Today’s scripture passage was actually a word spoken over my life around 1980. I had just begun to pastor our church here in New Orleans when Mike McIntosh, one of the pastors from our Bible School in California, came to visit me and to speak at our church. Mike had a strong prophetic edge on his life and he spoke this passage from Genesis over my life. Obviously this is the word that Isaac (Jacob) spoke over his son Joseph just before his death. I had no idea that forty two years later I would still be reflecting on the words of this prophesy and how it relates to my life. I have broken this word down into eight words of prophesy that have all been part of my story over all of these years. Check out these eight specific words.

1. The favor of God
2. Fruitfulness - souls
3. Resistance - the archers
4. Blessing despite attacks from your brothers
5. Blessings of heaven
6. Blessings of the deep - the internal blessings of the Spirit
7. The blessings of the breast and of the womb
8. The blessings of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

All of us like to focus on the blessing rather than the other stuff. I have had way more than my share of blessing and favor during all of these years but I have also felt the sting of the arrows shot at me. Too often, like Joseph's story, they came from my "brothers". The beauty of this word is that our branches grow over the wall even in times of adversity. To this day I am still taking in the blessings of heaven, the blessings of the deep, and the blessing of the breast and the womb (soul winning and discipleship). The amazing thing about Joseph, he became God's vehicle of blessing and deliverance even for his brothers who had dumped him in the well and sold him into slavery. So what do I say after all these years, "I am Joseph and what others meant for evil God meant for good".

Laying on of Hands

A. A foundational doctrine.

Hebrews 6:1-2

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

B. Old Testament examples of impartation through the laying on of hands.

In Jewish practice, the laying on of hands was significant in three ways. (a) It was the sign of the transference of guilt. Those making the sacrifice laid their hands upon the head of the victim to symbolize the fact that they transferred their guilt to the animals being offered. (b) It was the sign of the transference of blessing. When a father blessed his son, he laid his hands on the son's head as a token of that blessing. (c) It was the sign of setting apart to some special office. Individuals were ordained to office by the laying on of hands.

2 Chronicles 29:23

“Then they brought out the male goats for the sin offering before the king and the assembly, and they laid their hands on them.”

Gen.48:14 - Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn.

Num.27:18-20 - And the LORD said to Moses: “Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.

Deut.34:9 - Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

New Testament examples of impartation through the laying on of hands:

1. Impartation of the of the Spirit:

Acts 19:5,6 - When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

And when Paul had laid hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.

2. Impartation of gifts.

Timothy 4:14 - Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

Timothy 1:6 - Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

3. Impartation of healing power.

Mark 16:18 - they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Luke 13:13 - And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

Luke 4:40 - When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.

4. For blessing the children.

Mk.10:13-16 - And they were bringing children to Him so that He would touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, “Allow the children to come to Me; do not forbid them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.” And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.

5. Placing into ministry.

Acts 6:5-7 - And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 13:1-4 - Now there were prophets and teachers at Antioch, in the church that was there: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit

said, “Set Barnabas and Saul apart for Me for the work to which I have called them.” Then, when they had fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

6. To be taken seriously.

1 Timothy 5:22 - Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.