

October 17 Adult Spiritual Growth Class Synopsis

Unshakable Hope: Chapter 4: An Heir of God

How does living out the promise as heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ change the way we view and approach life and all that it brings?

Yours, Lord, are greatness and might, majesty, victory, and splendor. For all in heaven and on earth is yours; yours, Lord, is kingship; you are exalted as head over all (1 Chronicles 29:11). Everything in heaven and on earth belongs to God!

Our minds cannot begin to comprehend this incomprehensible God, our Father in heaven, who has bestowed on us all the unsearchable riches of His grace. He has lavished on us, over and abundantly and above all that we could ask or think or imagine or desire - in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul tells us that the Father of our Lord Jesus, who we can also call "Abba, Father" because we are united with Christ, has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms (*Ephesians 1:3*). The Holy Spirit who we have received has brought about our adoption to sonship, freeing us from the slavery of fear. We have become children of God and thus heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ (*Romans 8:14-17*).

James, the brother of Christ, calls us brothers and sisters and reminds us that God has chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which God has promised to those who love Him (*James 2:5*). To be rich in faith is to have received the promise of the Holy Spirit through faith (*Galatians 3:14*) such that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God (*1 Corinthians 2:12*). For we know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for our sake he became poor, so that we by his poverty might become rich (*2 Corinthians 8:9*). We know that God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts such that that we are no longer slaves but a child, then also an heir of God's kingdom (*Galatians 4:6-7*).

The story of Joshua is one of trusting in God and laying claim to inheritance as heirs of God through obedience and faith. Following the Lord's deliverance of His people from Egyptian bondage through the parting of the Red Sea, the Israelites were to take possession of the land God had promised their forefathers, a land "flowing with milk and honey". Prior to entry, however, they became convinced they could not oust the current inhabitants of the land out of fear, even though God told them they could. Their lack of belief in God's word and promises brought forth the wrath of God and forty years of wilderness wandering until the unbelieving generation died off, never setting foot in the Promised Land, including Moses. God then spoke to Joshua, one of two faithful servants (the other being Caleb), who dissented from all others and were obedient in God's initial command 40 years prior. Joshua was now to lead God's people into the Promised Land of Canaan. God told Joshua: **"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."** (*Joshua 1:9*) The Lord gave Jericho and the land of Canaan into the hands of Joshua and the Israelites. Joshua's spies' safe passage was assured by Rahab, the harlot, through the use of a scarlet rope which gave access over the walls of Jericho for the spies. Through Rahab's fear of God and obedience to do what she was asked, she and her family were saved in the conquest, again using the scarlet rope (tikvah) as a sign of protection – a symbol of hope and expectation for Rahab. In

God's great plan, Rahab's hope was fulfilled more than she could have ever imagined as she subsequently became the great-great grandmother of King David, from whom the lineage of the Messiah Himself came!

As a child and heir of God, may we be made rich in faith through the power of the Holy Spirit made possible through the death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, who sits at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven!

A song to reflect and pray on:

[Zach Williams - No Longer Slaves \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

Looking ahead – Sunday October 24

Chapter 5 – Your Prayers Have Power

God's Promise

James 5:16 (NCV)

When a believing person prays, great things happen.