



Royally Blessed

How God Sees You in Christ: Ephesians 1:3-14

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Abstract: In Ephesians 1:3-14 the Apostle Paul provides us with seven spiritual blessings inherited by every believer in Jesus Christ. These spiritual blessings show us as believers how God sees us in Christ. The following paper describes and illustrates each of these seven blessings in Christ.

Royally Blessed: *How God Sees You in Christ: Ephesians 1:3-14*

On July 22nd 2013, a king was born. His name is Prince George of Cambridge. The baby weighed 8 pounds and 6 ounces, notably the heaviest future king to be born for 100 years.¹ His Father is Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and his Mother is Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge. He is the only grandchild of Charles, Prince of Wales and the late Diana, Princess of Wales. He is now the third in line to succeed his great-grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, after his grandfather and father.²

As of this writing, he is only a month old. He is still in diapers (or nappies as they call them in the UK). At this time, he isn't acting like much of a king. And his Daddy, Prince William who has described this experience of Fatherhood as "emotional" says that his son is a "little rascal...like his little brother".³

What I find most amazing about this story is the fact that this little boy is oblivious to the fact that he was born a king! From observation, he looks no different than any other one month old. He doesn't act any differently, communicate differently or perceive himself differently. It will take time, training and experience for this young boy to become what he was born to be – a king.

I think the same holds true for most Christians. We are a people born of royal birth, but like Prince George, we are clueless to the idea and even at times reject the concept. "Me, royalty?", "No, Pastor, I'm just a sinner saved by grace." But I contest, "No, you are more than that, you are a child of the great king. You have rights, privileges and an inheritance that are inherently good." In fact, the Bible says that we are "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession" a people that God has elected to "declare the praises of him who called (us) out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" Ephesians 1:3

In the first chapter of the book of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul states that we have *every* spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. When Jesus came to this earth, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, signs and wonders, then died on the cross, rose again and ascended to heaven, he poured out his Spirit upon the church (those who believe in His name) and gave to us every spiritual blessing imaginable! God has spared no expense for us in Christ. In Christ, we have every conceivable spiritual blessing!

Paul lists seven of these spiritual blessings in the opening verses of Ephesians. These seven spiritual blessings change our identity and even our outlook on life. However, in order for this to take place, we must accept, receive and believe these blessings with our hearts. You see these are spiritual

¹ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/royal-baby-duke-and-duchess-of-cambridge-name-son-george-alexander-louis-8729372.html>

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_George_of_Cambridge

³ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2397037/Prince-William-interview-Baby-George-little-rascal-just-like-Harry.html>

blessings, not material blessings. A material blessing is easy to comprehend. It is tangible. It can be seen, touched, heard or smelled. Every blessing is from God whether it is material, relational or spiritual. (James 1:17) Spiritual blessings are at times a bit more challenging to benefit from because they cannot be seen with the natural eye or touched with your hand. For example, you may have confidence today in your salvation. Yet, you have never seen your salvation, touched your salvation or carrying around your salvation in your pocket book. It is a spiritual blessing that is just as real as anything material and you know that you have it by faith. So this day, I call you to put on eyes of faith, for we are called to walk by faith and not by sight, as you hear and grasp seven of the spiritual blessings that Paul goes on to describe in the first fourteen verses of Ephesians chapter 1.

Blessing #1 – We are Chosen

“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,” (Ephesians 1:4)

When many of us think of our salvation, we think of the day or time when we accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. And while it is true that our decision to follow Jesus as an act of our will was important, it was not preeminent. You see before we chose God, he chose us. In fact, the Bible says that he chose us before the foundation of the world. Try to wrap your mind around that concept! He chose us before “us” even existed!

Before there was time, God knew that He would need to send his only Son Jesus to this world to put on human flesh, be born into a family, live among sinful people, work miracles, be accused, suffer, die and be buried. God knew the cross would be essential before the beginning of time! And He knew that you would eventually accept his offer of salvation.

Interestingly, in the days of Jesus, a leader would choose his followers. In our day, we often see it the other way around. People choose their leaders. We choose who we want to be in our government, our school board, our church committees, etc. Not so, in Bible times. Remember the stories of Jesus walking along and identifying his disciples and calling them to follow him. That was the norm.

And even though you may have come to a place of decision at a church, a crusade or by your bedside, the truth of the matter is that God was right there with you. He was extending the offer and you were only accepting the offer He already extended. He chose you before you ever chose Him. You see it’s kind of like a man is a suitor to a woman. He treats her nice, takes her out to dinner, buys her flowers and candy, washes her car and eventually proposes to marry her and she accepts. Deal done. Or if you remember in the school days when you’d line up in gym and have two captains who picked the teams. As you stood there in line, you were waiting to be chosen, hoping you wouldn’t be the last one.

In Christ, God has chosen you. He has wooed you to himself. The Bible says that it was his kindness, tolerance and patience that led you to repentance. (Romans 2:4) The Scriptures confirm this reality when they say, “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” (1 John 4:10) and “We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) Brothers and Sisters, God has chosen you!

Blessing #2 – We are Holy and Blameless

“that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,” Ephesians 1:4

God created us in his image and in his likeness. He has always desired to have a deep and personal relationship with us. But because of our sin, we have been separated from God. “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” (Isaiah 59:2)

When I talk to people about the nature of sin and how sin separates us from God, the best analogy that I can come up with is that between a mother and a son. Imagine with me that a mother has installed brand new white carpets throughout her home. Her young son goes out to play and comes back filthy dirty. He knocks on the door and asks his mom to let him in, but she refuses to do so unless he takes his dirty shoes off at the door. Did the Mother not love him? Did she not care for his well being? Of course she did! She just had a standard of living that she wanted him to live by. The boy hems and haws, but eventually agrees to remove his shoes and is afforded the opportunity to come into the home.

Our Father has a standard of righteousness that we have all broken. He says we shall not lie, but all of us have. He says we are to never steal, but most of us are probably guilty to some degree. He tells us to love him and not have any idols in our lives, but we have all bowed the knee to something or someone other than God at some point in our lives. We are naturally born sinners!

When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He completely wiped away the penalty for our sin as well as the guilt and shame that is associated with our wrongdoings. Now *in Christ*, we stand free. We are no longer condemned; we are justified. When God sees us, he now sees the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. That is the good news of the Gospel. God has made you holy and blameless in his sight!

You may say, “But wait! I still sin. I’m not holy”. I know that you still sin and so does God. “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8)

But guess what? The blood of Jesus is powerful enough to not only cover your past or present sins, but also your future sins. You are covered in the blood of Jesus. “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17) “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1) “If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.” (1 John 3:20) “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.” (1 John 1:9)

Now we can say with confidence, “I am holy and blameless before him in love” because it is by his love that we are made clean, pure and without fault. Halleluiah! What great news! We no longer rely on our righteousness, but on God’s in Christ! “(H)e saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,” (Titus 3:5)

Blessing #3 – We are Adopted children (not orphans)

“having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,” Ephesians 1:5

When many of us here the word “adopted”, we don’t consider the word as an endearing term. Honestly, many of us consider the adoption as being “second-class” citizens. I think our perspective is wrong. In fact, I really like what Pastor Scott Turansky, the father of two adopted daughters has to say about it.

I love to talk to adopted kids. I love to say “You have something that biological kids don’t have.” They often look at me puzzled as if to say, “What’s that?” I say, “Your parents picked you out.” ... Your parents picked you out. If you have biological children you just get whatever comes. You get a boy if it’s a boy; you get a girl if it’s a girl. If it’s ugly, that’s what you get. But with an adopted kid, you pick them out. You are picked out. I like to say that we have three that are homegrown and two that are handpicked. God is the one who’s picked us out in our lives.

He gives the story of two kids talking to one another, one a biological child and the other an adopted child. “The first one says, “I came from Mommy’s tummy,” and the other one says, “Yeah, but I came from Mommy’s heart.”

God has a heart for you, for me, for all of humanity. And his heart has extended out to adopt us into his own family. Jesus is his only “begotten” son. In other words, he’s the only biological child. But through Jesus God has given all of humanity the right to become children of God.

“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” (John 1:11-13)

I recently learned the story of a local woman by the name of Nancy Tate. Nancy went onto Facebook one day to peruse around, see what her friends around the country were up to and to “check in” so to speak. One interesting picture caught her eye. It was a picture of a former colleague of hers holding a baby. “He doesn’t have a baby” she thought. So in curiosity, she inquired, “Who is the baby?”

In her own words she writes:

This ten month old boy had just arrived in America on a medical visa from Haiti. He had been rescued in Haiti, severely malnourished, disabled, and near death. He needed donated medical care and a family to stay with. There was no donated care to be found. His issues were too extensive. There was no family willing to “go there.” He had no family to whom he could return. He had been abandoned. It was not looking good for him. He would most likely return to Haiti, to a friend's orphanage (where he would be left to die).⁴

⁴ <http://joyinthetruth.blogspot.com/2013/03/backspace-moving-toward-brokenness.html>

As she went to write a pat, “Christian-like” response, like “I will pray and spread the word” she felt the Holy Spirit tug on her heart and say, “This boy is for you. He is broken. He needs a family.” Now Nancy and her family have taken on the emotionally painful journey of raising a severely challenged boy.

When God adopted us into his family, he didn’t choose us because He was impressed with all we could give to him. We didn’t offer anything he didn’t already have. He is the all-sufficient, all-wise God. In fact, the Bible says that

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

God in his mercy has brought us into his great big family. We are adopted. It is our privilege to have Jesus as our older brother and God as our father. “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 John 3:1)

Blessing #4 – We are accepted into the Beloved

**“to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”
Ephesians 1:6**

I came to the Lord in November of 1998 at the age of 22. At the time, I was employed by a pharmaceutical company in New Jersey, but was working for them in Paris, France. Poor me. Well, it was coming up on Christmas time and most of my co-workers were making plans to head back to the States to spend time with their family. I had an idea. My family is originally from Lebanon. My mom was born there and was one of 13 kids. My father’s parents were born there as well. Yet, I had never even been to visit. In fact, no one in our family had been there in over twenty years because of the war. But I was compelled to go and to spend Christmas with my family in Lebanon.

I remember going to my boss and asking if it was okay for me to fly to Lebanon for Christmas instead of the States. I explained that the cost of the flight would actually be cheaper. He looked at me as if I had a third head. “You want to fly to Beirut for Christmas?!” That made me think a bit. I mean let’s be honest, as Americans who have seen most of the world through the scope of our television, what do you think of when you hear the word “Beirut”? You think “war, instability and danger”.

But at that time, things were peaceful and I was determined to go. So I got on a plane and headed to Beirut for Christmas to see my family. I remember the flight well. It was in the evening and it was dark outside the windows of the plane. I was seated on a plane with people who were mostly of dark complexion and hair. I was by blood “one of them”. As I had always told people, “I’m full blooded Lebanese.” But the reality set in that I was much more American than I was Lebanese and my fear of Arab people was probably just as strong as anyone else’s. I was thinking and praying, “God, let this plane land safely!”

When the wheels hit the ground I was so relieved. I was still alive. I arrived. I went into the terminal and walking out the single exit in the airport to get my bags and meet my family. Now let me say that most of these people I had never met before in my entire life. We didn't have Facebook back then, so I was not at all familiar with faces or names. I only knew a couple uncles and aunts who made brief trips to the States.

I walk out of the doors and immediately hear a crowd of people about 40 to 50 – no exaggeration – loudly begin cheering and shouting my name. I looked around me thinking there must be another Pierre here. Maybe Pierre Cardin was on the flight. But no, they were looking, waiting and cheering for me! I couldn't believe my eyes. This whole crowd of people all came to the airport to pick me, one person, up!

I was soon whisked away via car to my Uncle Claude's home up in the mountains of Lebanon. When we arrived, it was a full fledged party. There was kibbee, taboulee, hummus, and grapeleaves. There was dancing and celebrating. It was probably the closest experience I will ever have to the prodigal son. I knew that I was accepted. I knew that I was loved. I knew that I was part of their family.

In Christ, you are completely and totally accepted. You are part of his family. He has accepted you and embraced you as His own. There is nothing that you can do to be separated from His love and grace. (Romans 8:35-39) The implications of this are profound. You can be yourself. You don't have to try and impress anyone – no one! Because the one who's opinion matters most is already head over heels madly in love with you! If God accepts you, it doesn't matter who rejects you because his opinion overrides theirs. Thank God for the love that we have found in Jesus Christ!

Blessing #5 – We are Redeemed and Forgiven

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” Ephesians 1:7

The word “redeemed” means to be bought back. And that's exactly what we have been in Christ. The Bible says that you and I were all slaves to sin. (John 8:34) Paul said, “We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.” (Romans 7:14) God had to purchase us back and that is what he has done in Christ.

When I hear the word “redeemed” my mind always goes back to my days growing up in Upstate New York. You see in NY State, you can redeem empty soda cans (we called it “pop”, not soda) for five cents apiece. That didn't seem like much, but if you get together 20 cans, you had a dollar. And if you had 200 cans, that was 10 bucks. Not bad for an empty, used can.

I remember there were poor people in my town who would go around collecting empty cans. They would go to the ball parks and other venues where people congregated and threw out old cans. And they would dig in these trash cans to pull out what to them was a treasure – 5 cents at a time!

These cans would be taken to a redemption center where they were sorted by brand and then returned to the beverage centers that originally sold them. I know this because my father owned a beverage distributing center and I when I would go out on a run to deliver beer and “pop”, we would

have to bring these bags back to my Dad's warehouse. They would then be taken away once a week, crushed, cleaned and shaped into new cans. The cans would be refilled and used again by new people.

That's a great picture of what God has done for us in Christ. He has picked us up, cleansed us, recycled us and put his Spirit inside us. He purchased us by his shed blood in order to redeem us and make us whole. We are made new. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17) When God sees us, he no longer sees our sin. He sees us as whole people in Christ. He sees us at our best at all times because of Christ's righteousness. We are redeemed and forgiven, washed in the blood of the lamb and filled with the Holy Spirit. Give praise to the God of redemption! "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!" (Psalm 107:2)

Blessing #6 – We have an inheritance

"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will," Ephesians 1:11

Just when you thought it was good enough. Just when you said to yourself, "I'm so happy to be a child of God." You then come to the realization that what we have today in Christ is nothing compared to what we will have one day with him in eternity. Today, we are only tasting the appetizers. We are only getting a sneak preview of the movie to come. "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" — the things God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Jesus promised that when we get to heaven, he will have a mansion awaiting us. "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?" (John 14:2) And guess what, there will be no foreclosures in heaven!

Not only will we have a mansion, we will have rewards. Even though we have been saved by grace, even though we didn't earn our salvation, even though it was a gift from God, He wants to reward us. My goodness, we serve an awesome God indeed!

But when the time arrived that was set by God the Father, God sent his Son, born among us of a woman, born under the conditions of the law so that he might redeem those of us who have been kidnapped by the law. Thus we have been set free to experience our rightful heritage. You can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as his own children because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, "Papa! Father!" Doesn't that privilege of intimate conversation with God make it plain that you are not a slave, but a child? And if you are a child, you're also an heir, with complete access to the inheritance. (Galatians 4:4-7 MSG)

You see it is important to know that we are children and not just slaves because in Jewish law, only sons would receive an inheritance, slaves would not. "A son born after the death of his father (Yeb. 67a), or one born of illegitimate connections ("mamzer"; *ib.* 22b), is also a legal heir to his father's estate, but the son born of a slave or of a non-Jewess is excluded"⁵ Since we have our birthright in Christ, we are written into God's Final Will and Testament.

⁵ <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/8114-inheritance>

Now the inheritance we have in Christ was only made possible by his death. Because typically until a person dies, their inheritance is not distributed. (Which goes to show how out of line the Prodigal Son's request was to his Father!, see Luke 15:12)

For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives. Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood. (Hebrews 9:15-18)

In essence, when Jesus died, we became the next in kin. He passed on his blessings to us! "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Ephesians 4:8) The spiritual gifts we have been given are all an inheritance from the Father passed down through the Son!

Blessing #7 – We are sealed with the Holy Spirit

"In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."
Ephesians 1:13-14

But you may ask yourself, "How do we know all of this is true?" How do we really know for sure that God has given us all of these wonderful spiritual gifts? Or you may ask, "How can I be certain of my salvation and of this great hope?"

The answer is simple. His name is Holy Spirit! You see God has not left us to wonder whether all of these things are true. Jesus promised not to leave us as orphans.

If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (John 14:15-18)

God's gift of the Holy Spirit is to us a guarantee that He is coming back, that his promises are true and that we will one day be in heaven with him and receive our full inheritance! The Holy Spirit is God's deposit on his investment in us. He is our guarantee. In fact, the word guarantee here a business term that means a down payment has been made and the full payment is to come. It has also been called "caution money", "a deposit", or "a pledge".⁶

It reminds me of layaway. I know some of you younger ones don't remember this concept, but I sure do. I remember my mother taking me to Hills department store in our hometown mall. We would go periodically, maybe once a week, and put down \$5 at a time towards a special item that we wanted to purchase. Each time we put down money, it was a sign that we were coming back to make the

⁶ Spirit-Filled Bible

complete purchase. So is the same with us. The Holy Spirit is God's down payment to assure us that He will come back and will redeem us completely. We will one day see the fullness of our salvation in Christ!

Today, if you have accepted Christ, then you can be assured that the Holy Spirit lives in you. "And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ." (Romans 8:9) The Holy Spirit of God in us is our assurance of eternal salvation as well as all of these other promises and blessings! He is our guarantee. He is our confidence. He is God's down payment living in us!

How Now Shall We Live?

**To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
(Ephesians 1:6)**

That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. (Ephesians 1:12)

**Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession,
unto the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:14)**

You can't help but ask yourself, "If God has blessed me so much, how now shall I live?" If God has been so merciful, so gracious, so forgiving, so kind, to abundant in his love, how now shall I live?

Paul repeats a phrase three times within this passage that I believe gives us the answer. The phrase is simply, "To the Praise of His Glory". Now that sounds awful lofty and eloquent, but what on earth does it mean practically?

In my home, I take great honor in raising my kids and teaching them God's ways. I know that is my responsibility, my calling and also my privilege. I'm thankful for my children and consider them a blessing to my wife and me. For the most part, my kids are wonderful, bright, loving and beautiful. I love to see them excel in all they do and look to find ways to encourage their good behavior.

But they do have their moments. And at times, the way they act and behave is unbecoming and improper to me and my wife. In those cases, we try to be diligent about correcting their behavior. "Correct your son, and he shall give you rest; yea, he shall give delight unto your soul." (Proverbs 29:17)

On a rare occasion, when I feel like it's important to really make an impression on the importance of what I'm teaching them, I will sternly say, "You're an Eade. Eades don't do things like that!" I'm not trying to make them feel guilty or manipulate them or come down hard on them. I'm simply trying to teach them to think not only about who they are, but who they represent and how their decisions and actions affect others around them. Let's be honest, people are going to not only judge them by their character; they will judge *me* by their character. "A wise son makes a glad father: but a foolish son is the grief of his mother." (Proverbs 10:1)

In the same light, we are children of God. When we tell others that we are following Jesus, they will have a certain expectation of our character and conduct. We may not like that, but it's a fact. People will sometimes look at you with even greater scrutiny when they deem you as "religious".

Jesus summed up this point so succinctly when he said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) Our goal as children of the King is to live for his glory, to live in such a way that the watching world around us, and even our own brothers and sisters amongst us say, "God is good".

Become God's Child

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name (John 1:2)

If you are not completely positive that you are a child of God, that you have been born again by God's Spirit or that you have placed your total confidence and faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, I want to give you that opportunity today.

The Gospel is very simple. The God who created the universe also made you and me in his image and likeness. He desires to have a close, intimate relationship with each of us. However, our sin, our wrongdoing, our breaking of his laws, has separated each and every one of us from Him.

But God in his mercy sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) God welcomes all people, no matter how old you are, how young, what you've done in the past or what's been done to you, to come to his son Jesus to find salvation, wholeness and eternal life.

If you'd like to accept God's offer of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ, I invite you to pray this prayer with me:

Dear God, I am a sinner. I know that I need your forgiveness, your redemption and your new life. I confess now that Jesus is my Lord. I believe that He died for me and rose again. Jesus, come into my life. Forgive me of all my sins. Fill me now with the Holy Spirit. Change me by Your Word, the Bible. I want to be your child and live to the praise of your glory. Amen.