

**“The HEART of the Church Jesus is Building” (part 2)  
January 31, 2016**

**1 Peter 1:3-12**

**CORE:** The key to living (and thriving) in a hostile world—and actually transforming it: having a HEART that BLESSES (*celebrates*) the LORD.

**“Bless”- to celebrate with praise and with content. (*Why I love you*)**

**1. Blessing our FATHER (v. 3-5)**

**a. He LONGED FOR us**

- **“According to His great mercy”- Lit.- *“impelled by all He is”*
  - Not because we were so deserving
  - BUT because He was so desiring of us (*“desire”- “of the father”*)**
- **“Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”- the invisible God made Himself visible in Jesus (John 1:18- *“declared Him (made Him known)”*)**

**b. He PLANNED for us**

- **“To cause us (*created with purpose*) to be born again”**
- **Being “born again” is the theme of OT prophecy (long before John 3):**
  - Ezekiel 36:25-26- *“I will sprinkle clean water on you—and you will be clean...I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you!”*
  - Ezekiel 37- You will be like *“very dry bones”* who suddenly have My *“breath”* and My LIFE infused into them!
  - Isaiah 66:8- You will be like *“a country born in a day, and a nation brought forth in a moment.”* (A company of people from every tribe and nation—rising up to be His Temple on the earth!)

**c. He has given us an AMAZING INHERITANCE**

- **“Hope”- *strong, joyful confidence; assurance beyond a shadow of a doubt***
- **“Inheritance”- not just “up there” and “later”—but “in here (our hearts)” and “right now”**
  - **“Infinite & eternal”—impacting us as much NOW as it will LATER!**
  - **Our inheritance is GOD HIMSELF**
    - Psalm 16:5- **“LORD, You alone are my portion!”**
    - Psalm 73:23- **“I am always with You!”**
- **“Imperishable”- unable to be taken away by our enemy; Jesus- *“Whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die!”* (John 11:26) Why? Because we are PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER**

- “Cannot fade away”-
  - Moses’ “glory” was “fading” (“*God-burn*”; *only on outside*)
  - Imperishable glory comes from within—His life in us!

## 2. Blessing JESUS (v. 6-9)

### a. He produces REAL FAITH in us

- He brings us through “various trials, which are necessary”
  - Why?
  - For “proof”—“*testing with the goal of approval*”
  - NOTE: The enemy tests with the goal of **DIS**approval—to crush, condemn, reject
  - “Proof”- a term used to describe the goal of a silversmith—who **removes the dross until he can see his face reflected.**
  - Lit.- “To give living proof of the authenticity that’s inside”
    - “Unfeigned faith” (2 Tim. 1:5) is more than **emotionalism**
    - During trials—you can “feel” like you are losing your faith
    - BUT you are actually **losing the shallow & the superficial** (*i.e., the “I’ll believe it when I see/feel it” attitude*)
- Your faith is “proven genuine”—though you haven’t seen Him—you believe Him (John 20:29)
- **LIVING IN HIS PRESENCE takes us BEYOND THE PRESENT.**

### b. He produces JOY INEXPRESSIBLE in us

- “Joy inexpressible”—incapable of describing with our finite minds—His **infinite joy** (NOTE: Joy can be w/o feelings)
- **ALSO**—“inexpressible” because it’s personal (John 21:22- “*It’s between Me and John.*”)—wouldn’t mean the same thing to you; signature.

## 3. Blessing HOLY SPIRIT (v. 10-12)

### a. He has been at work THROUGHOUT HISTORY (including YOUR history)!

- Preparing the way through “the prophets” RE: “the sufferings of Christ” and “the glories that would follow” (*i.e., our being “filled with His fullness”*)
- He’s always been about building His church (“One new man” Eph. 2:15)
- “Angels *bending over & peering into w/ extreme curiosity*” to behold fallen, rebellious ones being raised up to new life & bold authority
  - Angels are fascinated with us—Fallen ones are terrified of us

**CONSLUSION-** The key to transforming a hostile world is **HEARTS** that behold & bless Father, Son & HS for who they are!