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Scriptures:

John 15:15, Galatians 4:4-7, Romans 8:14-17, Romans 4:13, Genesis 12:2,3, 13:16, 15:5, 17:5,6, 22:17,18, Psalm 2:8, Philippians 3:14, Matthew 24:14, Revelation 5:10.

Luke 15:11-24.

In this parable, the lost son, repents and returns to his Father.

V17-19. He decides that He will say to his Father, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before You and I am no longer worthy to be called Your son: make me as one of Your hired servants.”

So he arose and came to his Father. When he was a long way off, his Father saw him returning. His Father had compassion on him, ran to him, hugged and kissed him.

The son said to his Father, “Father I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight and am no longer worthy to be called Your son. (He was not able to say the part about being a hired servant.)

But the Father said to His servants, bring the **best robe** and put it on him, and put a **ring** on his hand, and **shoes** on his feet, **kill the fatted calf** and let us **eat and be merry**, because this **My son** was dead and is alive again: he was lost, and is found. They began to be merry and rejoice with music and dancing.

When we put our faith in Jesus Christ and are baptised into Jesus Christ, *Galatians 3:27, Acts 3:28,29*, we put on Jesus Christ. As we come up out of the water, and are baptised with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ comes upon us for service.

Through our conversion experience we become **sons of God**. *Galatians 4:4-7, Romans 8:12-17, John 15:15.*

This is more than being a servant of God. We are servants of God, but more than servants, we are **sons of God**.

Luke 15:11-24. As sons of God, **we have access** into God’s presence all the time. *Hebrews 10:19-22, Hebrews 4:16, Matthew 27:51.* That is through Jesus, by faith, we have acceptance, forgiveness, love, grace, mercy, and truth, and access into every good thing of our God.

As sons of God, we have a **closer relationship** with God than servants do.

By the indwelling Spirit of His Son, Jesus, God reveals to us what He is doing, and how we are to be a part of that.

John 5:19,20,30, John 6:38, John 7:16,17, John 8:26,28,38, John 12:49, John 14:10,11,12,13,14, John 16:13-15.

As sons of God **we are heirs of God**, *Galatians 4:7, Romans 8:17*, and we have **an inheritance with Christ in the eternal purposes of God**.

We are being changed and transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ. *2Corinthians 3:18, Romans 8:29.*

We are inheriting **the character of Christ**. *Romans 8:29, 2Corinthians 3:18.*

Christ comes and lives within us as our life. *Galatians 2:20, Colossians 1:27.*

God is giving to us the people around us, as our inheritance, so that we can bless them with the Gospel. This includes our family, friends, neighbours, community, nation and the nations. *Genesis 12:2,3, Psalm 2:8, Romans 4:13, 1Corinthians 3:21-23, Genesis 1:26-28, Revelations 11:15, Daniel 2:35,44, Zechariah 14:9, Philippians 2:10, Revelations 5:10, Psalm 22:27, Luke 11:2, Numbers 14:21, Psalm 67:7, Psalm 103:19, Psalm 72:11, Psalm 102:13-22.*

To enable this to come to pass, God has given to every believer **His Holy Spirit**, *Acts 2:38,39, Galatians 3:13,14, 2Timothy 1:7,*

the **nine gifts** of the Holy Spirit, *1Corinthians 12:7 – 11,*

the **seven functions** within His Body, the Church, *Romans 12:3 – 8,*

and the **five ministries** to the whole Church. *Ephesians 4:11,12, 1Corinthians 12:28.*

Every believer in Christ has received a significant gift of God to be His minister to others. *1Peter 4:10.*

(Our inheritance in Christ is outlined in number 297 in Pastor Notes.)