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Lesson 8

ENTERING INTO YOUR PRIVILEGES

WHAT THE PRIVILEGES ARE

We are His sons.

> **1 John 3:1, 2 –** *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved,* ***now*** *are we the* ***sons of God****..."*
>
> **John 1:12** – *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the* ***sons of God****, even to them that believe on his name."*

God the Father is truly our Father, and we are to enter into the position of "*sons*" in a definite way. What potential to be His son! This speaks of a son-ship relationship to be entered into by faith (cf. Romans 8:14-17).

We are Christ's honored friends.

> **John 15:15 –** *"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knowest not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you."*

What an intimate relationship! It is with a friend that we feel at home and can share the most intimate things about our lives. The joys, sorrows, cares, blessings – yea, every aspect of our lives – must be shared with Christ. Learn to bring everything to Him.

We have the Comforter – the Holy Spirit.

> **John 14:16, 17 –** *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another* ***Comforter****, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth..."*

- The word *Comforter* is the Greek word *Paraclete*, which means **one called alongside to help**.
- The Holy Spirit has been given to help us in every trial and circumstance.
- The Holy Spirit indwells us as believers and is always present to meet our needs.

> **1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 –** *"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye*

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> *are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

We have a personal teacher – the Holy Spirit.

> **John 14:26 –** *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he* ***shall teach you*** *all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*

Praise God, the Holy Spirit will teach us.

> **1 John 2:27 –** *"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth within you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."*

In 1 John 2:27 the *"anointing"* is referring to the Holy Spirit' s ministry in our lives. Is our teacher and will make the Word of God a reality to us. We must daily believe that the Holy Spirit will teach us, guide us, lead us, and keep us close to Christ.

We have an advocate before God.

> **1 John 2:1, 2 –** *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And the is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."*

An advocate is one who pleads our case. Praise God, today our Lord Jesus Christ is at the right hand of God pleading our case before the Father.

> **Colossians 3:1 –** *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth* ***on the right hand of God****."*

> **Hebrews 7:25 –** *"Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing* ***he ever liveth to make intercession for them****."*
> Satan has access before God to accuse us.

> **Revelation 12:9, 10 –** "*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called* ***the Devil, and Satan****, which deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven… for the* ***accuser of our brethren*** *is cast down, which* ***accused them*** *before our God day and night."*

> **Job 1:6–11 —** *"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and* ***Satan came also among them****… Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for naught? Hast not thou made*

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> *an hedge about him, and about his house… But **put forth thine hand now**, and touch all that he hath and **he will curse the to thy face**."*

Praise God, when Satan comes before God to accuse us, we have Christ, our High Priest, seated at God's right hand to be our Advocate before the Father, and thus to plead our case. The reason that we are kept, never to be lost again, is that we have Him as our Advocate. We can confess sin as children of God and continue to walk with the Lord, knowing that He, as our Advocate, is pleading for us before the throne of God.

The Holy Spirit indwells us and cares for God's interest in us. The Lord Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of God and cares for our interests before the Father. Christ pleads our case and our cause when we fall into sin. He is our able Representative before the Father's throne. Thus we have the blessed privilege of immediately confessing sin and knowing His cleansing and continued fellowship. He paid the price for our sins and does cleanse.

> **I John 1:9 —** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

We have personal promises.

> **2 Peter 1:4 —** "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: That by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

By claiming the seven promises listed below (and many more we cannot list), we enter into the power of the divine nature upon our lives. Thus we can experience God's victory in daily life. We must try these and prove them in daily application.

1. His sustaining power in temptation and trials (I Corinthians 10:13; James 1:2 – 12)
2. His continual presence (Hebrews 13:5, 6)
3. His sufficient grace (2 Corinthians 12:9)
4. His promised work in our lives (Philippians 1:6; 2:13)
5. His promised good for our lives (Romans 8:28, 32)
6. His promised security for all of life — eternal security of the believer (John 6:37; 10:27, 28; 5:24)
7. His promise of daily victory (2 Corinthians 2:14; 1 Corinthians 15:57)

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We have the promise of reward in labor.

> **I Corinthians 15:58 —** *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*
>
> **Isaiah 40:10 —** *"Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand and his arm shall rule for him: behold,* ***his reward is with him****, and his work before him."*
>
> **Colossians 3:24 —** *"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall* ***receive the reward*** *of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."*

Every Christian can rejoice that in the midst of labor for the Lord God will reward the faithful servant. He calls for our faithfulness, but He also promises the remuneration of service (2 Corinthians 5:10). Someday we will all stand before Him at the *"judgment seat of Christ"* to receive reward or loss, according to what we have done in our bodies since our loving God will reward such service (1 Corinthians 3:14). One day we will stand before the throne of Christ and will cast our crowns (rewards) at His feet (Revelation 4:10). What a privilege that will be! Therefore, what we are doing in this life for His glory is very important (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:11 – 15).

We know He is coming again for His own.

> **John 14:3 —** *"And if I go and prepare a place for you,* ***I will come again****, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also."*

Today Christ is in Heaven, interceding for us and preparing a place for us. He is coming again to take us to be with Him. The Christian has the hope of going into Christ's presence either because of death or because of the soon return of the Saviour for His own. (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21 – 23.) Physical death should have no terror for the saved; it is the portal into God's presence. It is a joyful privilege and a blessed responsibility to lead others to Christ!

> **1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17 —** *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."*

In the two verses quoted above we see that at His coming, Christ will raise the believers who have died and will translate the living believers to be with the Lord. Verse eighteen then states that this truth of His coming again should be a comfort to every believer. First Thessalonians 5 continues with the truth of His coming again. Verse eleven again states that believers should be comforted and edified with this truth.

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Assignments

1. Memorize Romans 8:23. Also, we suggest you memorize John 1:12.

2. Read John 8 — 14. Note at least one reference per chapter that reveals Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Record this information under "NOTES" on a separate page.

3. Answer the following questions in your own words:

    1. What has Christ shared with us as His friends? (John 15: 15c)

    _____

    _____

    _____

    2. According to John 15: 16, what has Christ chosen for us as His friends?

    _____

    _____

    _____

    3. What is our relationship as sons? (Galatians 4: 6, 7)

    _____

    _____

    _____

    4. Name three or four things the Holy Spirit does for us. (John 16: 13, 14)

        a. _____

        b. _____

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c. _____

d. _____

5. What is our right before God since Christ is our High Priest and Advocate? (Hebrews 4: 15, 16)

_____

_____

6. What encouragement does God give about our labor? (I Corinthians 15: 58)

_____

_____

_____

_____

7. How are we to labor for the Lord? (I Corinthians 15: 58)

_____

_____

_____

8. List the order of events in 1 Thessalonians 4: 14 – 17.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

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NOTES:

1. A blessing I received each day as I read John 8 — 14:

   Day 1 — John 8 _____

   Day 2 — John 9 _____

   Day 3 — John 10 _____

   Day 4 — John 11 _____

   Day 5 — John 12 _____

   Day 6 — John 13 _____

   Day 7 — John 14 _____

2. People to whom I have witnessed this past week:

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. My check list on my personal spiritual growth:

   1. Am I taking time daily in the Word of God?

      _____

   2. Am I spending time daily in prayer?

      _____

   3. Have I been faithful in witnessing to others?

      _____

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4. Have I begun tithing on a regular basis?

_____

5. Do I give offerings beyond my tithe to the Lord's work?

_____

4. Below I note all of the references I found in John 8 — 14 revealing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____