

Qualified

Col 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

Col 1:13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

Col 1:14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Almost in every area of life we must qualify. Too often growing up we had to qualify to get our parents acceptance and love. We had to qualify to get a driver's license. We had to qualify to graduate high school. We had to qualify to enter college. We had to qualify to get a job. Later on in life we must qualify to retire and receive social security. This life on earth is about us qualifying. It is no wonder then that we take this mindset right over to the kingdom of God when we get saved. We often have the mistaken understanding that we must qualify to partake of our inheritance in God. The whole system of qualifying ourselves came into being with the curse in the Garden of Eden. **God never intended us to ever qualify ourselves for anything He had created.** God created all things and these things were created for us. He created them to be given as grace gifts-love gifts. However, the curse of sin darkened our understanding and darkened this world. When Adam and Eve brought in sin into the earth we all incurred debt to God. Every one of us has felt that debt at one time or another in our life. It can be felt by the guilt we bear. We sense that we owe God. God indeed was owed because of the debt of sin, but praise be to God, He has paid that debt off for us! Many at this point would say, "I know that already!" **However, if you still live with that guilt and compulsion to pay that debt off before you can receive from God then you have just been a hearer of the message and not a believer or doer of that message.**

Many a Christians' faith is being paralyzed by trying to qualify to receive from God. They spend much of their time examining themselves and looking to see if they qualify to receive things from God. If they do not feel they measure up they feel guilty and their faith is crippled. They try to do good things to make themselves feel better or more qualified to receive from God or they throw a pity party and get depressed until they have been convinced that they have punished themselves enough for their sins so they can feel more qualified to receive from God. **Living like this is living in darkness my friend.** He has rescued and transferred you ought of that dark domain. You need to get rid of that dark thinking now! If you are trying to earn things from God you are living in darkness. **If you are trying to qualify yourself to receive from God then you are walking in darkness.** You do not have to qualify yourself to partake of what God has made for you. **Instead of examining yourself to see if you are qualified you need to examine Christ, your qualification!**

Lev 21:17 "Give the following instructions to Aaron: In all future generations, none of your descendants who has any defect will qualify to offer food to his God.

Trying to qualify to receive from God is tantamount to trying to offer food to God. We are trying to pay God off and earn the right to get what we need or want from Him. If we have any defect in our lives we cannot qualify to offer food to God. We don't qualify! It is important to note that when someone sinned in the Old Testament, they had to bring a sacrificial animal that would die for that sin. This animal had to be without blemish. It had to qualify to pay the price for your sin. When someone brought their animal for sacrifice, the priest did not spend one minute examining the person who brought the animal for their qualifications. The priest spent no time looking for any worthiness in the sinner who brought the lamb. **Instead the priest spent a significant amount of time looking over and examining the sacrifice to make sure it qualified. My friend, when you come to God, He spends NO time examining you for your qualifications to receive from Him. He is examining your sacrifice.** He is beholding the blood of Christ shed for you on the His mercy seat. He looks to His spotless Son given for you. He looks at your true qualification which is Christ Himself! **If you look in at yourself when asking things from God faith will flee, but if you will but look to the Christ, faith will arise and you are assured to receive!**

Have you ever asked yourself, "How then can I repay God for all the good things He has done for me? Surely I must do something to pay Him back for what He has done." Many have this mindset and say something like this- "Since God died for me at least I can do to pay Him back is living for Him." This is deception my friend. You cannot pay God back. **We live for Him because He gave us a new heart that wants and needs to live for Him.** David in the Old Testament knew the feeling of wanting to pay God back for what He had done for him.

Psa 116:12 What shall I render unto the LORD *for* all his benefits toward me?

Psa 116:13 I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD.

David asked, "What shall I render back to the Lord for all His benefits towards me? David came to learn what we must learn in our lives. He learned that the only way to glorify God for what He has done is to partake of what He has provided. **This means to humble ourselves and in simple faith take the cup of salvation that was poured for us and simply drink it. No qualifying, no begging, no earning, no looking inward to find worthiness. Just drink the cup that God offers to you. This brings great glory to the One who died to give us salvation. It is honoring His sacrifice!**

God has already qualified you to partake of everything in your inheritance. Christ has died and you are the heir! He has qualified you. If sin is bugging your conscience today, then by all means confess it to God. When we do not confess our sins to God when we sin it causes our conscience to be defiled. Without a clear conscience we have no confidence towards God. However, being sin

minded and looking within yourself to try to find worthiness will cripple your walk with God. Look to your slain lamb today- Christ. He has forgiven you of all your sins. Receive that forgiveness. Be done with it. Be done with the guilt. Get up and take the cup God offers and drink it! We drink by faith. Drink of healing, drink of natural provision, drink of protection, drink of favor, drink of forgiveness. Go ahead and drink... Jesus has qualified you!

1. When you pray to God for things do you feel you must qualify to get your prayers answered?

2. When you pray, which is your first inclination- to look to your recent behavior or look to what Christ did for you on the cross?

3. Have you been trying to offer food to God to get things back from Him in return?

4. **Faith exercise:** Before you pray the next time, spend some time thinking about Jesus' perfect life. Think about His love for you. Think about what He suffered for you. Think about his death for you on the cross. Think about Him being at God the Father's right side now praying for you. Think about His blood that is before the Father right now crying out mercy for you. After you have done that- pray. (Note: Do not spend **ANY** time looking at you or your past!!!).

5. **Confession:** I have been rescued and transferred out of darkness. I do not have to try to qualify for God any more. I am now in the kingdom of light. God has provided all I need. He has qualified me to partake of everything right now. I refuse to live in guilt and self pity. Jesus is my sacrifice and He is perfect. I receive everything based up on His merits and not my own. Therefore I will glorify you today Jesus by drinking from the cup of salvation that you poured just for me. I receive from you now. Thank you for blessing me. I love you and I serve you because you gave me a heart to do so. Amen.