

Your Empowered Inheritance . . .Now! –Sample

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You do not have to be a member of the family of God for long, before you will be exposed to one of the major divides in doctrine and practice among believers. I am referring to the division between believers regarding the continuation of all the gifts of the Spirit, and all the gifts of Ephesians 4:11-13, until the return of the Lord.

The term “charismatic” has become associated with the view in favor of the continuation of these gifts. The term “cessation,” or Cessationism, is associated with the view that these gifts “ceased” by God’s intent, at some indefinite time in the past history of the church—usually associated with the death of the last of the original twelve disciples, or the completing of the canon of Scripture. My own convictions will be obvious in this work.

There is an unfortunate prejudice (not totally without merit, historically) that anyone who believes in the present-day manifestation of all the gifts is somehow less intelligent, unscholarly, or less committed to the accurate handling of the Scriptures than others. The realm of the Spirit is often dismissed with a wave of the wand of “emotionalism” or “feelings rather than Scripture.” I hope this work helps to bury these worn-out canards.

This book is not written for the novice or the casual, devotional-level reader. This is not a “how-to,” “seven-steps to success” kind of book. This is about a spiritual awakening to a foundational element of our faith: our inheritance in Christ, and His inheritance in us.

In order to possess an inheritance, you must first be awakened to your right to have one! If you don’t know what’s available, there’s no reason to exercise your relational trust (the definition of faith) toward God, and with one another, on behalf of humanity.

Appropriation and implementation of an inheritance follow the awakening. While the practical aspects of “how to” are critical at an individual level, it’s not my intent to address those aspects in this work. I want to shine a light on a treasure, let you know it’s yours, but not attempt to script specifics, for anyone, on how to appropriate the treasure. Engaging Him in the pursuit of the treasure is itself, part of the treasure—vague and unmanageable as it may be. After all, ultimately, He is our Treasure, and we are His. As valuable as lesser things may be, they do not approach the supremacy of knowing Him in His Person.

My hope is this might be a reasonably “mid-level” scholastic/academic resource for those with a practical equipping calling on their lives, as well as serious Bible students, teachers, leaders, and influencers in the body of Christ. I trust that the skilled equipper will be able to digest, synthesize, and restate this material in a truly relational and Spirit-led unique way, one soul at a time.

My passion is for the Lord, His interests in His people, and their full inheritance in Him. My burden is for a manifested quality of life, a life on the order of Jesus Christ, in time and space, fulfilling Divine purpose, and benefiting a fallen, needy, and pain-soaked world.

I pray that the world might see neither the Pharaic, powerless, piety of arid biblical doctrinalism, nor the arrogant, impious, elitist, boasting pretentiousness of being empowered by the Spirit. My hope is that the life of Christ in fullness, grace, truth, character, and power, manifested in mortal flesh (2 Cor. 4:11), might be seen in all those who are called by His Name. I also pray that the body of Christ could find oneness in a blessed middle ground that avoids the spiritual stagnation at either dead-end extreme.