

"BIRTHRIGHT BANDITS"

Are they robbing you of your destiny?

Our society is motivated more by negative reports than good reports. If you have been living with the negative reports, and following the doomsday voices, you may be robbing yourself of the inheritance that GOD promises to those who believe on His Name, and believe in the Promise of Abraham, mentioned in Galatians 3:14, **"Through Christ Jesus, GOD has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing He promised to Abraham, so that we who are Believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith!"** Paul is saying that the blessing of Abraham has come to us, so that we might receive the Promise of the Spirit through faith in Christ Jesus. Now, if your life doesn't show the blessings of this covenant, then you may have allowed Birthright Bandits to confiscate your inheritance, and steal your GOD-given birthright promised to you.

Has your life been like that of Esau, who gave his birthright away to his younger brother? No, Jacob didn't take it; Esau gave it away! Because of Esau's words and disrespect for his birthright, GOD said, **"Jacob I have loved but Esau I have hated."** (Malachi 1:2-3) Esau's sin is a good opportunity for you to examine yourself: **"Look diligently (examine yourself) lest you fail in the grace of GOD, lest any root of bitterness spring up in you and trouble you (NASB: and more troubles come as a result of bitterness) and many be defiled; lest there be any fornicator (adulterer) or profane person like ESAU, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright!"** (Hebrews 12:16)

If you have already given up on life and chosen the path of least resistance, there is "Good News" for you; your Father is the GOD of 2nd chances! You still have time to discipline your thought life and renew your mind in the Word of GOD, because you know that if you go for the path of least resistance, it's never the easy way out. Your blueprint in life does not have "Loser" written on it. GOD wants you to have a vision for your life. Proverbs 29:18 gives insight to the fact that without a vision the people of GOD run wild: **"Where there is no vision (revelation), the people are unrestrained."** Some translations say **"the people perish."** We want you to win and accomplish GOD's perfect will for your life, that of being a productive member of the Body of Jesus Christ!

If you didn't know it by now, you are in a war, but GOD gives you ample power and weapons to combat every tactic of the enemy. II Corinthians 10:3-5 gives you power and authority to defeat satan: **"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying every vain and evil imagination, and every lofty thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of GOD, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ!"**

It is through the renewing of your mind in the Word of GOD that you will triumph over every evil and wicked thought from the devil. This is how you do it: **"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of GOD to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable (well-pleasing) to GOD which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing (renovation or remodeling) of your mind, that you may prove what the will of GOD is, that which is Good and Acceptable and Perfect!"** (Romans 12:1-2) GOD wants you to live a life that is good and acceptable and PERFECT, and to do that you may need to face some Birthright Bandits that are trying to rob you of your rightful inheritance. Below is a list of Birthright Bandits that you need to look out for and eradicate out of your life:

PRIDE: Pride says, "I can do it better than You can, GOD," "I know how this works, GOD; I don't need Your help," or "GOD, I don't want to bother You" (inordinate or ungodly self-

esteem). Proverbs 16:18 tells what happens to the one who doesn't deal with pride: **"Pride goes before a fall and a haughty spirit before stumbling."** I John 2:16, **"Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world."** Also Mark 7:22

CURSES: denial or acceptance of manifested "family traits"; confusion in your life; closed doors to everything you try; sickness; oppression; never quite making it in life. These are curses brought on by disobedience and not walking in GOD's ways: Deuteronomy 28:15-49, **"Curses of confusion and rebuke shall come upon you, in all that you undertake...on account of your deeds, because you have forsaken the Lord."** Also Psalm 51:5

HABITUAL SINS: refusal to use God's Word to bring a heart change; "doing the loop"; what Derin said so many times, "To do something over and over and expect a different result is insanity."

Numbers 32:23, **"Be sure your sin will find you out!"**

Hebrews 12:1, **"...let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin (action by which you keep "missing the mark" of pleasing God and losing out on the blessings), which so easily entangles us...."**

GUILT: holding yourself to blame after you have been forgiven = false guilt; speaking the problem rather than the answer; refusing to believe GOD's Word about you

Ezra 9:6, **"O my GOD, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face to Thee, my GOD, for our iniquities have risen above our heads, and our guilt has grown even to the heavens!"**

James 2:10, **"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in ONE POINT, he has become guilty of all."** Prayers of repentance and confession are for everyone!

FEAR and WORRY: Allowing worry and anxiety to take over your life is a sin.

Isaiah 41:10, **"DO NOT FEAR, for I Am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I AM your GOD."** II Timothy 1:7, **"GOD has not given you a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind!"** Fear is a spirit from satan, not from GOD! Matthew 6:25 **"Stop being anxious for your life..." STOP DOING THE LOOP!** Proverbs 12:25. **"Anxiety in the heart of a man weighs it down."**

Worry and anxiety are really forms of pride.

COMPLAINING: grumbling and murmuring against GOD's plan for them kept the children of Israel out of the Promised Land. Is it keeping you out of your Promised Land?

Deuteronomy 28:47, **"Because you did not serve the Lord with joy and gladness for the abundance of all things, you will serve your enemies!"** Grumbling leads to Stumbling!

UNBELIEF: (lack of faith) Things appearing in the natural or physical realm have more influence than the spiritual; cynicism = a sneering fault-finder; it's the "in thing" in today's national arena of telecommunications and media to question everything. Mark 6:6, **"Jesus wondered at their unbelief (mistrust)."** Hebrews 3:19, **"And so we see that they were not able to enter [into the Promised Land] because of unbelief (evil and hardened heart influenced by grumbling and complaining)."**

PAST FAILURES and LOSSES: fear of failing again so there is no motivation to try again ei. "I'm getting too old," "It didn't work before, it won't work again." A victim mentality kills the dream!

James 4:17, **"Therefore to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin."** Perseverance does bring a reward: Perfection and Righteousness! (James 1:4)

INFERIORITY: unworthiness and inferiority carry a false identity; it believes satan's lies rather than GOD's promises; it is a form of false pride (self hate) and may be one of the most dangerous. King Ahaz is an example of what happens when inferiority is in charge (II Chronicles 28:19).

Hebrews 10:39, **"But My righteous one shall live by faith and if he shrinks back My soul has no**

pleasure in him. But we are not those who shrink back to destruction but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul!"

UNFORGIVENESS AND BITTERNESS: not disposed to overlook or pardon offences;

Matthew 6:12, "And forgive us our debts as we forgive those who have offended us."

Matthew 6:15, "If you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

Forgiveness: #863 to dismiss or liberate an offender from offence, eradicating a root of bitterness

Hebrews 12:15, "See to it that no one comes short of the grace of GOD; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled."

DEPRESSION and ANGER: a violent passion or emotion of the mind, excited by a real or supposed injury to one's self or to others; when one allows himself to fall to a lower state or position; adverse to what GOD wants, or comes as a result of not getting what you want; close association to rebellion;

Examples of depression and anger: Cain in Genesis 4:6, King Saul in I Samuel 18:10

Forgiveness is an absolute necessity in getting rid of depression and anger which are sins.

Proverbs 22:24, "Do not associate with a man given to anger...lest you learn his ways and find a snare for yourself." Ephesians 4:26 "Do not let the sun go down upon your anger."

MISPLACED VALUES: putting more importance on the things of this world = the pride of life, the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh mentioned in Genesis 3:6 and I John 2:15-16

I Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of ALL EVIL!" That which begins in the spirit can wind up in the flesh. King Saul was a prime example of one who lusted after power and prestige more than obedience to GOD (I Samuel 19-25).

POVERTY MINDSET: low-level thinking; no motivation because of refusal to discipline the mind [flesh] to the Word of GOD; "I'm poor but I'm proud" is stinkin' thinkin'!

Proverbs 14:23, "In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty." Proverbs 23:21, "For the heavy drinkers and the glutton will come to poverty." Proverbs 30:8, "Keep deception and lies far from me, give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the fool that is my portion, lest I be full and deny Thee, or lest I be in want and steal, and profane the Name of my GOD."

LAZINESS: (lack of motivation) adverse to labor or exertion; the country's welfare system as a whole has brought a spirit of laziness upon a nation of people;

Proverbs 6:6, "Go to the ant, O sluggard, observe her ways and be wise...." Proverbs 13:4, "The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing!" Matt. 25:14-29 Parable of the talents

JEALOUSY: uneasiness from fear of being supplanted by a rival; envious or resentment of others success, position, wealth, happiness or health I Cor. 13:4, "GOD's kind of love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant..." James 4:1-2, "What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in you members? You lust and do not have so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask."

DOUBLEMINDEDNESS: tentative or hesitating about life; having basically 'given up'; is not forthright in decision-making even if it's wrong; would rather not make a decision than make a bad decision; wavering in every area of his life; James 1:6 -7 "The one who doubts or wavers is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." Psalm 119:113, "I hate those who are double-minded, but I love Thy law."

Remember: "Confession is good for the soul!"

In Matthew 11: 28, Jesus said, "Come to Me ALL who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest." If you are laden over with burdens, He wants you to cast (heave) them upon Him...He can take it!

(I Peter 5:7) He says, “Learn from Me...and you shall find rest for your souls!”

Prayer to rid one's life of Birthright Bandits:

Father GOD, I cut off _____, and any sin that is dominating my mind and heart, and wreaking havoc in my life. I say that this Bandit is defeated and cast out of my life forever! I pray and ask, Father GOD, that You scrub clean the tablet of my heart. Holy Spirit, be my Guide and Teacher as I discipline my mind to do Your perfect will. I allow You to go through my heart and my mind and bring peace and joy and righteousness into prominent places in my spirit-man. Thank You for the freedom that I now have because I have put down the evil strongholds in my life, in Jesus' Name, Amen.