

FREEDOM'S GATE

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EASY Living

Sure, reading that title I bet you're thinking this is going to be some pretty cheesy material right about now. If not you're probably expecting a ten step plan from the self-help aisle at the bookstore. I can strongly assure you that it's not at all what I want to share with you. To be honest, I want to encourage you **not** to engage in any kind of self-help exercises any more! Too many times, the source of issues/problems can be easily credited to us and our own doings/planning/fixings. The reason why is because God didn't set things up to revolve around us managing and restoring our own lives! He's already accomplished a finished work for us to rest and to reign in! Let's explore.

Reign in Life |

I want to begin with a quote from the book "Destined to Reign", by Joseph Prince. He says in the very first chapter, "You are destined to reign in life. You are called by the Lord to be a success, to enjoy wealth, to enjoy health, and to enjoy a life of victory. It is not the Lord's desire that you live a life of defeat, poverty, and failure. He has called you to be the head and not the tail. If you are a businessman, God wants you to have a prosperous business. If you are a homemaker, you are anointed to bring up wonderful children in the Lord. If you are a student, God wants you to excel in all your examinations. And, if you are trusting the Lord for a new career, He doesn't just want you to have a job. He wants you to have a position of influence so that you can be a blessing and an asset to your organization! Whatever your vocation is, you are destined to reign in life because Jesus is the Lord of your life. When you reign in life, you reign over sin, you reign over the powers of darkness, and you reign over depression, over poverty, over every curse, and over every sickness and disease. You REIGN over the devil and all his devices!" Boy, if that doesn't knock your socks off, I sure don't know what will! The reason that we reign over all the things just listed in that quote (and more) is because all things are under the feet of our precious Lord Jesus Christ, and it says that we are seated together **in Him** in heavenly places. This means that in our fixed position **in Christ Jesus**, **there** we are destined to reign, and **there** all things are under our feet because we are **in Him!** (Ephesians 1:20-22, Ephesians 2:4-6). So many financial issues (and others) that we allow to dominate our lives and minds would never penetrate the hidden position in Christ that we were designed to remain seated in! The Word says that we were crucified with Christ, and we are to reckon our carnal minds and bodies dead. We are now made alive and a new creature in Christ Jesus (Galatians 2:20, Colossians 3:3, Ephesians 4:22-24, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 5:17). What more is there to ask for? Let's continue now and ponder the royal benefits that God has made available for us in this position of rest as members in particular of the Body of His Son, Jesus.

Royal Benefits |

Ephesians 2:10 clearly says "For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." You see, He has predestined us to walk in Kingdom living! If you are living a life of defeat (in

any area), then you are not living the life that God intended for you! You are royalty, and called to rule above and exercise Kingly dominion over all challenges and circumstances. The Word says that we are joint heirs with Christ, and that we have boldness and access to the throne with confidence by the faith of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:12, Romans 8:17, Galatians 4:7). God wants us living and operating in the fullness of our inheritance in Christ Jesus now, not later! I want to share a family situation that we experienced this year that might make this a little clearer. Since last Christmas, both of my grandparents (my mom's parents) went home to be with the Lord, leaving a modest inheritance for their eight daughters to share in. My mother was the power of attorney who received the "privilege" of signing and filling out what seemed like an endless amount of paperwork through the whole process. It was a huge responsibility, with many bumps in the road, but obviously, she never gave up and threw in the towel. After all, why would she? She and my seven aunts are the rightful heirs to the inheritance that my grandparents left them! Even when things were the most difficult, she never once battled doubts or questioned her identity as the daughter and rightful heir of John and Betty Sutton. You see, my mother and her seven sisters know who they are without a doubt, and what was made available for them in that position! Do not let Satan trick you into believing that the fullness of your inheritance in Christ is not yours, or that God is trying to teach you something by being poor, or having lack in any area of your life! Romans 8:32 says, "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not **with Him** also freely give us all things?". Satan does not want you operating in the fullness of Christ, and enjoying what's rightfully and legally yours in that position! Romans 8:17 says that we are joint heirs with Christ. So look in the mirror and say on a daily basis that you are royalty and a rightful heir to the throne!

Enter the Rest |

Now comes the easy part! Many of us have already received the revelation of this inheritance available to us in Christ, but God also wants us to receive it **effortlessly!** In Hebrews 4, God tells us to labor to enter the rest, and to hold fast our position/confession. The only laboring that we are to do is the renewing/exchanging of our minds with Jesus', and to continually see ourselves in our position of rest in Him, where God called us, placed us, and always sees us! Contrary to the world's system and what the enemy tells us every day, there is a higher way than relying on our own efforts to achieve success in life. **You need to know that this is not about you, or what you can do - it is pure and simply about the finished work!** Satan tries to tell me quite frequently that success is achieved by self-effort and diligence, but now I know otherwise. I'm not telling you that you shouldn't do your best at everything you put your hand to, but to steal a quote from a dear friend and mentor of mine, "God created us to be human beings, not human doings!" He never created us to live our own lives at all! He wants us to sit down, and rest in Him, and let Him live through us! (Ephesians 2:6) What an honor!

It is Finished |

Hebrews 4:3 says that we are to rest in the **finished work** of the cross. As a musician, and pianist to be specific, there are so many different directions to go that I have to be sure to **approach all of my decisions from my seated position.** Some of the playing/performing opportunities that come up provide wonderful compensation, or seem really superb at first, but it doesn't take long to see when I've chosen too many or not rested in the best that God has for me. The past few years have been a time of growth for me both spiritually and musically as God has blessed my education and the training that I've received for the occupation I've chosen. Yes, I've done some practicing, but He's been the One Who has ordered

Revelation?

When I first heard Joe and Anne minister about a new position in Christ, it really made no sense to me. Over the years when my wife and I met with them, they would always bring the subject up. It did not really speak to our hearts. I just could not figure it out. Words like revelation, position, etc. made me think they were starting some sort of sect.

Early this year, I felt led to take a trip to Indiana. We were stressed, discouraged and wondering if our days in America had come to an end. We were wondering if an application to change our visas would be approved. Due to a mistake made by the school my wife had applied to, our chances to get an approval were very slim. We surely did not want to get a denial. We do believe God has brought us here for a mission and that this mission is not over yet. We were not ready to go back to Brazil either.

When we left Atlanta to come to Indiana, we agreed we wanted to be ministered to. We opened our hearts to God and anything He might have to talk with us about. We listened to Joe and Anne minister to us one more time about our new position in Christ. The teaching hit home with us this time. It was simple, clear and not a real new thing. But it came into our hearts as a refresh-

ing wind of the Holy Spirit. We felt we did not need to worry about visas, etc. because everything God has belongs to us now. Jesus lives inside of us. I am His temple and we are here to represent Him, to let Him love and minister to people through us. We got convinced He would provide everything we needed to accomplish His goals.

Peace invaded our hearts and hope was not an option anymore, but an assurance He will get things done. There was release, blessing, anointing. We prayed and left Indiana back to Atlanta.

In three months, I became the interim pastor of a church plant with Brazilians in Savannah, GA. We partnered with A New and Living Way Ministry to conduct a New Position in Christ seminar in the Savannah area and got notice our visas had been approved.

According to Ephesians 1:3, God the Father has already “blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” He lives within me, I am in Him. This promise is for me now. The blessings have already been planned, determined and ordered.

All we have to do is abide in Him, love Him, grow in Him, serve Him and wait in Him. The circumstances will change, the provision will come, and His kingdom will be established. We are the means through which He extends His kingdom on earth. We are the Body of Christ. Halleluiah!

~ Everaldo and Eliana Rego

my steps and blessed me beyond measure with opportunities such as performing with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. I have watched stage parents and students turn blue in the face working for the opportunities that God has freely given me throughout my life. I'm going to let you in on a little secret of mine too; I am not really any better than many of the musicians around me, but its not about *my* talents or hard work, it's about **HIS FINISHED WORK!** If that doesn't take the pressure off, I sure don't know what does! I love what I do, and I'm thankful for the talent that He's given me, but I am not investing my life into my occupation/education in the way that my colleagues are because **I do not have to!** I have already been established and so have you! (2 Corinthians 1:20-21) We are called to enjoy an effortless abundance in Christ! It makes me laugh when I think back to earlier this year when I was working anxiously on a business related project for my piano studio, trying the best I could to no avail, when God firmly spoke to me and said, “Alicia, quit trying to create your own inheritance! I've already done it for you.” I was quite speechless to say nothing less, but it's true! Satan will try and steal your time and manipulate you by keeping you in constant activity, keeping you from resting in the finished work and from all the fullness of your inheritance available to you in Christ! We know that the enemy does not want us receiving **anything** good in life, period, let alone anything good effortlessly. But remember that Jesus made an open show of him, and accomplished for us a **finished work** on the cross (Colossians 2:13-15). God wants us ruling and reigning effortlessly in life! Matthew 11:28-30 says that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light! He has not called us to be consumed and overwhelmed by the issues/matters of life; He's called us to sit down and rest in His son Jesus, and to bear fruit, and enjoy His presence in our lives (Colossians 1:10-13). After all, Psalm 50:10 says He owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and He's waiting for us to share in His wealth as joint heirs!

Perfectly Aligned |

Now what this all boils down to is an alignment issue. Yes, God has already taken care of you and finished the work before the foundations of the earth, but you have to sit down in Christ and accept His finished work. Once you've done this, hold fast your position and use your words! (Hebrews 4:14, Isaiah 55:11). 2 Corinthians 1:20 says that all the promises of God are in Him **yes** and amen. As prophets, priests, and kings of our kingdoms, it's time to start speaking and expecting our inheritance now! Do not let the enemy speak to you anymore or give him a voice in any financial (or non-financial) situation in your life. He's had a voice long enough, and it's time for us to say **“NO!”** Satan's main objective is to upset this system that God created for us, and to get us thinking and seeing ourselves back out of our position of authority in Christ. God always sees us there, but if the enemy can't keep you from this revelation, he will try his best to condemn you and keep you from operating in it! Romans 8:1 says that “there is therefore no condemnation to those that are *in* Christ Jesus”, so don't let the father of lies trick you out of what is rightfully and legally yours in Christ anymore! (Ephesians 6:12). God has revealed a great and mighty mystery that He hid from principalities and powers from the foundation of the world so that Christ could fulfill the law for us and complete a finished work on our behalf! (Matthew 5:17, John 19:30) You are royalty, and the manifold wisdom of God has been made known to you, and in Christ you have boldness and access to the throne with confidence by the faith of Him! (Ephesians 3:8-21)

Filled with, and resting in His fullness,
Alicia Pyle

