



Inheritance and Promise

Galatians 3:15-18



v15: The Illustration of the
Abrahamic Covenant

Brothers, according to *the standards of man* I will speak:
Even though *it is* only of man,
the having been already
ratified **testament**, no one
annuls it or adds a codicil to it.



v16 Next Point: Focus on the
PROMISE and Pursue the RECIPIENT

So to Abraham were spoken **the promises** and to his seed.

It does not say, “And to seeds,”
as concerning many

But

as concerning one, “And to
your Seed,”

Who is Christ.

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v17: The Law vs. the Promise

Now this I am saying:

The Law,

which came 430 years later,

does not make void a covenant

which had been ratified in
advance by God

such that it invalidates the
promise.

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v18: Strengthening the Argument

For if from the **Law** *comes* the **Inheritance**, *it is* no longer from **Promise!**

But (Advancing the next point) to Abraham through **promise** God has freely given *it (the inheritance)*.

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What is the SOURCE?

**18 εἰ γὰρ ἐκ νόμου ἢ
κληρονομία,
οὐκέτι ἐξ ἐπαγγελίας.
τῷ δὲ Ἀβραάμ δι’
ἐπαγγελίας κεχάρισται ὁ
θεός.**

What is the SOURCE?

18 For if from the source of the Law *comes* the inheritance, then it is no longer from the source of promise.

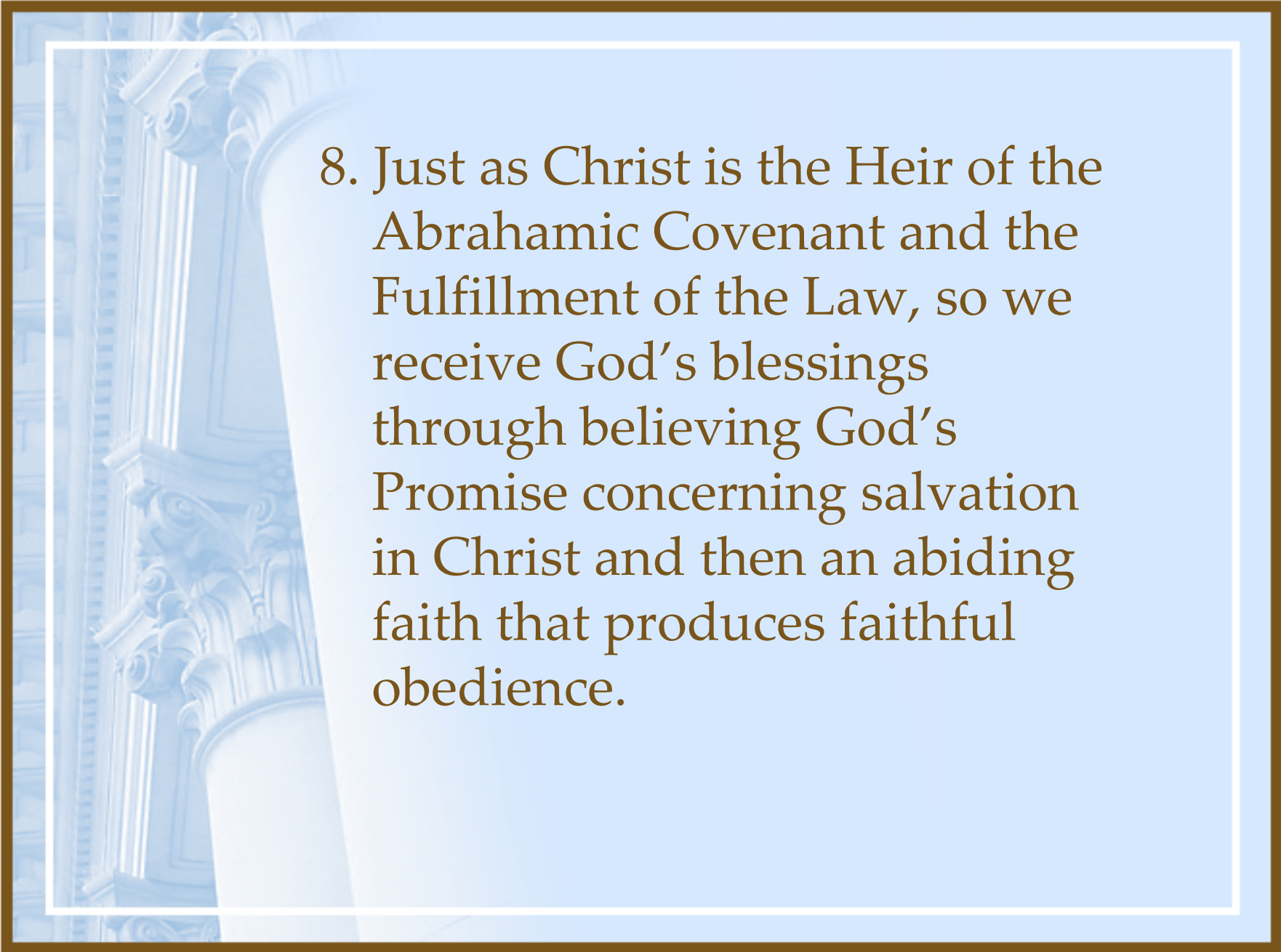
But to Abraham through promise God freely gave *it*.





Theology in Inheritance

1. God requires Righteous obedience.
2. Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, has obeyed fully.
3. Therefore all the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant will be received only in relationship to Him.
4. This is HOW God promised the blessings of inheritance to Abraham without there being a Law.
5. Correlation: Inheritance of the blessings already set up in your portfolio depends upon obedience.
6. **Yet we still do not deserve the inheritance even if we obey!**
7. The inheritance is laid up for us in Christ.



8. Just as Christ is the Heir of the Abrahamic Covenant and the Fulfillment of the Law, so we receive God's blessings through believing God's Promise concerning salvation in Christ and then an abiding faith that produces faithful obedience.

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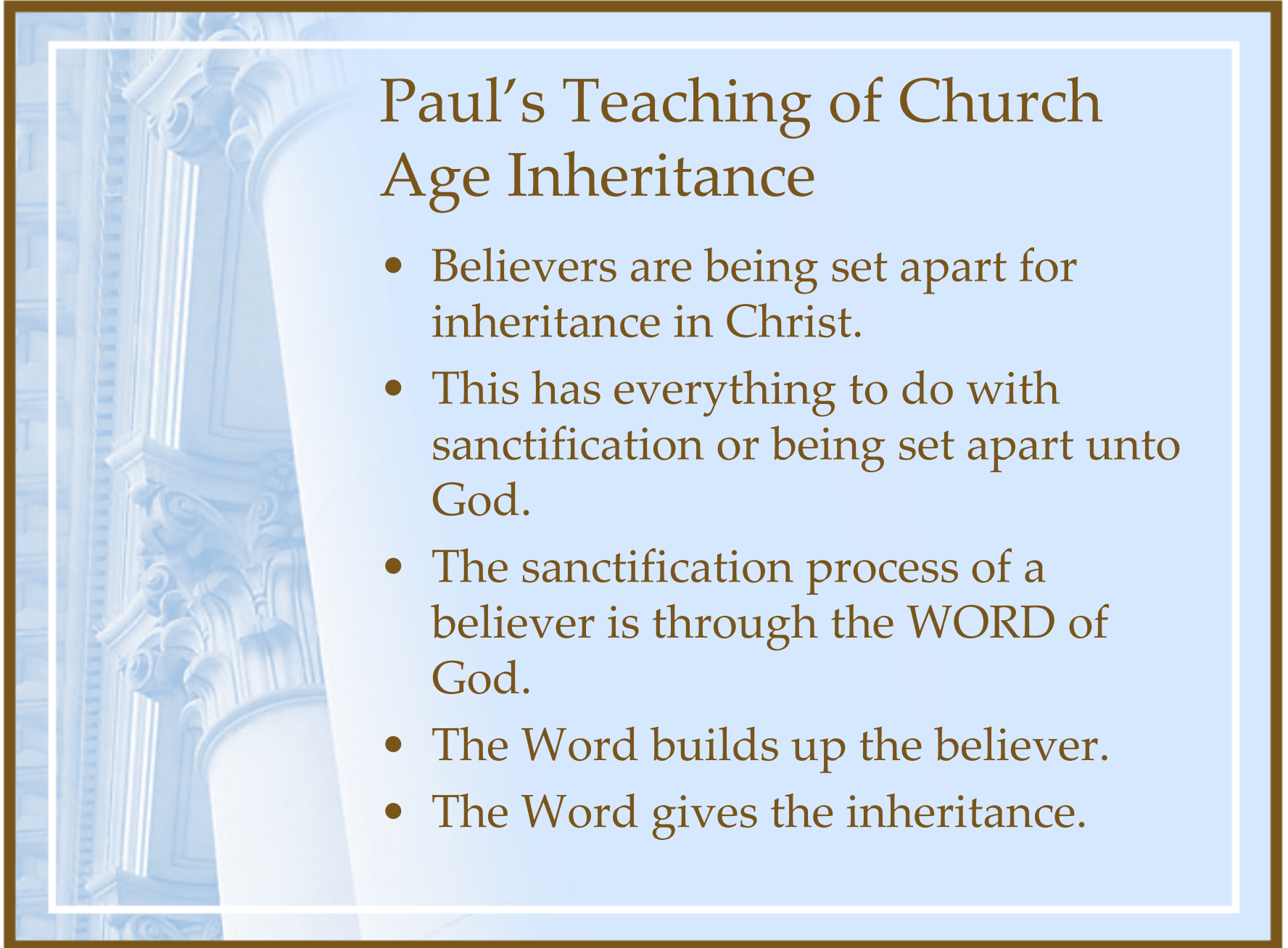
Biblical Theology of Inheritance

- KLERONOMIA (klhronomia)
- The Parable of the Landowner:
Mt 21:38, Mk 12:7, Lk 20:14
- Lk 12:13: Inheritance in English
- Acts 7:5: Abraham and the inheritance
- Acts 20:32: Inheritance and the Believer in Jesus Christ

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Acts 20:32

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build and give the klhronomia among all who are being sanctified."

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Paul's Teaching of Church Age Inheritance

- Believers are being set apart for inheritance in Christ.
- This has everything to do with sanctification or being set apart unto God.
- The sanctification process of a believer is through the WORD of God.
- The Word builds up the believer.
- The Word gives the inheritance.

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Inheritance in Paul's Epistles

- Gal 3:18—teaching concerning Abraham's inheritance.
- Eph 1:14 The Holy Spirit
- Eph 1:18 To Be Gained Through Epignosis
- Eph 5:5: The Warning
- Col 3:24 Motivates all work

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Inheritance in Paul's Epistles

- Gal 3:18—teaching concerning Abraham's inheritance.

εἰ γὰρ ἐκ νόμου ἡ κληρονομία, οὐκέτι ἐξ ἐπαγγελίας· τῷ δὲ Ἀβραὰμ δι' ἐπαγγελίας κεχάρισται ὁ θεός.

For if from the source of the Law *comes* the inheritance, no longer from the source of promise; but God to Abraham through promise has graciously given *it*.



Principle: 1

- God's blessing of inheritance for Abraham, which sets the pattern for all inheritance, is not based on human obedience but Divine faithfulness.
- Yet as we observe the life of Abraham, individual receipt of inheritance blessings does depend on individual obedience.
- Why? Obedience demonstrates the capacity to glorify God with our decisions.



Eph 1:14: The Holy Spirit

**ὁ ἔστιν ἀρραβὼν τῆς κληρονομίας
ἡμῶν, εἰς ἀπολύτρωσιν τῆς
περιποιήσεως, εἰς ἔπαινον τῆς
δόξης αὐτοῦ.**

Who is a pledge/downpayment of our inheritance,
towards the redemption of the possession (God's),
unto the praise of His glory.

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Principle #2

- The **beginning** of inheritance blessings for the Church Age Believer is the indwelling ministry of God the Holy Spirit.
- He is in you to produce the change of character that corresponds to your redemption in Christ and to enable you to glorify God.
- Why? Inheritance is about glorifying God with our decisions



Eph 1:18: To be gained through Epignosis

πεφωτισμένους τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς τῆς
καρδίας [ὑμῶν] εἰς τὸ εἰδέναί ὑμᾶς τίς
ἐστὶν ἡ ἐλπίς τῆς κλήσεως αὐτοῦ, τίς ὁ
πλοῦτος τῆς δόξης τῆς κληρονομίας
αὐτοῦ ἐν τοῖς ἀγίοις,

Because the eyes of your heart have been
enlightened

unto the goal of you **knowing**

what is the Hope of your calling,
what are the glorious riches of His
inheritance in the saints...

NET Bible Eph 1:17-19

I pray that:

the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you spiritual wisdom and revelation

in (through) your growing knowledge (epignosis) of him,

– since the eyes of your heart have been enlightened –

so that you may know ⁽¹⁾what is the hope of his calling, ⁽²⁾what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and ⁽³⁾what is the incomparable greatness of his power toward us who believe, as displayed in the exercise of his immense strength.

What

How

**On What
Basis**

Why

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Principle #3

- The blessing Paul prays for the Ephesian believers is spiritual wisdom and revelation.
- This comes through useable knowledge of God, to which believers have access.
- Spiritual wisdom and revelation produce knowledge in three categories: hope, inheritance, and God's ability to bring both to completion
- Why? Your spiritual life of faith and obedience depends on your motivation.



Eph 5:5: The Warning

οὗτο γὰρ ἴστε γινώσκοντες, ὅτι πᾶς
πόρνος ἢ ἀκάθαρτος ἢ πλεονέκτης,
ὃ ἐστὶν εἰδωλόλατρης, οὐκ ἔχει
κληρονομίαν ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τοῦ
Χριστοῦ καὶ θεοῦ.

For this you must know for certain:
that no fornicator or unclean
person or covetous person, who
is an idolater has inheritance in
the Kingdom of Christ and God.

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Principle #4

- It is possible to forfeit one's inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God.
- This is through the selection of a lifestyle that identifies you with sin rather than your new life in Christ.
- The warning is to believers, who are supposed to be maturing in their spiritual lives.
- Why? No capacity to rule in +R

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Col 3:24: Motivation to work

εἰδότες ὅτι ἀπὸ κυρίου ἀπολήμψεσθε
τὴν ἀνταπόδοσιν τῆς κληρονομίας. τῷ
κυρίῳ Χριστῷ δουλεύετε·

Whatever you do, *do it* from the soul
as unto the Lord and not as unto
man,

Because you know that from the
Lord you will receive the reward of
the Inheritance. The Lord Christ
you serve.

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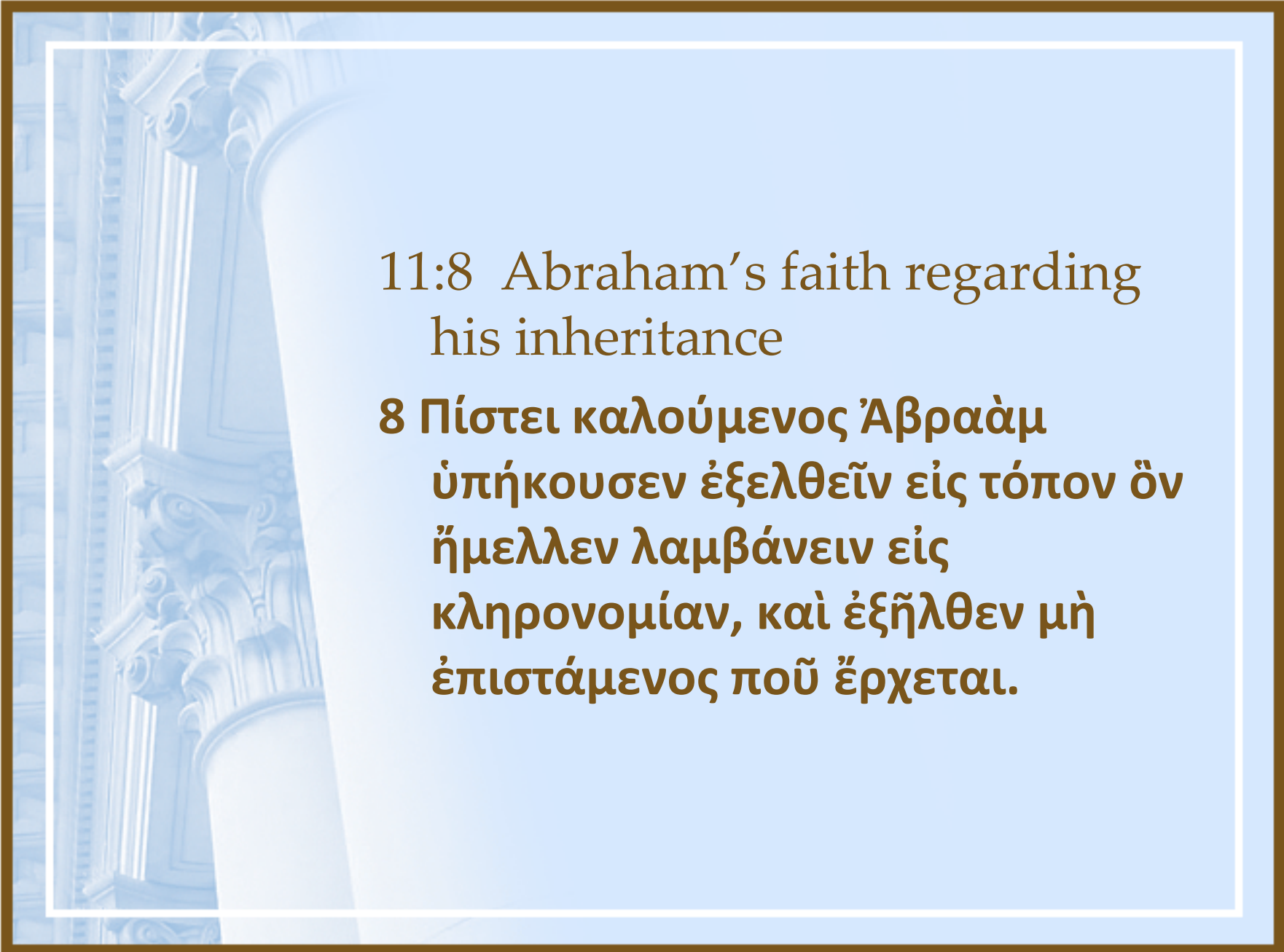
Principle #5

- Do everything in life as unto the Lord.
- This life of worship or faith-producing-faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ will be rewarded from His inheritance.
- We know of these rewards so that we will be motivated by them to do everything as unto the Lord.
- Why? We glorify God by being blessed by Him.

Hebrews

- 9:15 The goal of redemption is your inheritance.

15 Καὶ διὰ τοῦτο διαθήκης καινῆς μεσίτης ἐστίν, ὅπως θανάτου γενομένου εἰς ἀπολύτρωσιν τῶν ἐπὶ τῇ πρώτῃ διαθήκῃ παραβάσεων τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν λάβωσιν οἱ κεκλημένοι τῆς αἰωνίου κληρονομίας.



11:8 Abraham's faith regarding
his inheritance

**8 Πίστει καλούμενος Ἀβραὰμ
ὕπήκουσεν ἐξελθεῖν εἰς τόπον ὃν
ἤμελλεν λαμβάνειν εἰς
κληρονομίαν, καὶ ἐξῆλθεν μὴ
ἐπιστάμενος ποῦ ἔρχεται.**



Peter

1 Peter 1:4: The goal of the believer's sanctification is receiving the inheritance.

4 εἰς κληρονομίαν ἄφθαρτον καὶ ἀμίαντον καὶ ἀμάραντον, τετηρημένην ἐν οὐρανοῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς