

# FlagNaz

## *Be Healed and Thrive*

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August 7th, 2022

### The Will of the Father

**Colossians 1:12-14** – giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

#### I) **Share in the Inheritance...**

Inheritance, a legacy of resource and prosperity passed on to the next generation. For some, a source of means and security eagerly awaited, often only available after the death of the current generation. For others, a powerless concept due to the poverty of those who went before. For those dwelling in the Kingdom of Heaven, our joyful and immediate hope that is the riches of grace offered by the Living God. Come, enter, share.

♦ **Join the family:** We are born into our earthly families without choice or influence. The fortunate are loved and nurtured, resourced and supported. Many are less fortunate, entering a world of strife and want. Regardless, none are fully satisfied. There are inner longings that cannot be reached by physical touch and substance. By His grace, the Father “has enabled you to share in the inheritance (Col 1:12),” the spiritual bond of family that reaches where the physical cannot. He stirs our spirit into a vague awareness of this otherwise invisible realm, inviting us to join the family and share in its inheritance. That which is “in the Light (ibid).” We are warmly invited to choose our eternal family.

♦ **See the Light:** The family situation into which we are born determines the way of life we inherit. We receive it blindly, without choice, taught how to run on the treadmill of life. As we run to exhaustion, blinded in the darkness we are deceived into believing ourselves successfully progressing to...*something*. Our earthly inheritance is futility in the darkness of this deception. The Father enables us to join His family and “share in the inheritance of the saints in the Light (ibid).” As we accept the invitation, we are reborn in the spirit, His realm in which His Light shines, our eyes open and we see *The Truth*. *The Truth* is He grants access to a rich inheritance

## *Spiritual Practices for Thriving Life*

Thrive with us by following on Instagram @FlagNazChurch, YouTube @FlagNaz, and FlagNaz.org

★Write down one new insight you received today...

#### ★Thinking...

- What is the nature of the inheritance I hope to receive from the Father?
- How do I turn on the Light in my daily life when threatened by the darkness's terrors?
- What does it mean to me that Jesus has paid the utility bill insuring eternal Light?

#### ★Applying...

- List ways you express gratitude to the Father for enabling you to reconnect to the Source of Light.
- Practice at least one of those expressions each day this week.
- Tell someone about your practice of gratitude and how it affects you.

#### ★Praying...

- Pray that the Light illuminate your ways as you seek to follow Jesus.
- Pray thanksgiving to the Father for rescuing you from the power of darkness.

immediately, one that endures eternally. Join the family, enter the Light, share in our Heavenly Father's riches.

## II) Turn On the Light...

Children instinctively fear the dark. They know a *Truth* adults sometime forget – unknown terrors lurk in there. There is a “power of darkness (1:13)” that opposes us. This power seeks to steal, kill, and destroy us. There is a bogeyman. Children know how to be rescued from this evil – turn on the Light. Many a parent has seen the Light sliding out beneath the door of a child's bedroom in the dead of night. Oh, the wisdom of children.

♦ **Accept rescue:** The wisdom of a child is to accept the rescue offered. The inheritance of earthly wisdom, *leave the Light off and sleep*, is foolishness to the child certain of darkness's terror. The wisdom of the child is deeper than they realize...the power of the Light is not to reveal the terror, it is to cause it to flee. Our Heavenly Father invites us into the Kingdom as an heir, offering to “[rescue] us from the power of darkness (ibid),” to turn on the Light, chasing away this terrible power that opposes and oppresses us.

♦ **Come home:** Truly wise children do more than turn on the Light...they go to their parents. They realize their weakness to confront and defeat the darkness's terror. An impersonal Light is a temporary defense. Eventually the child will weary, closing its eyes, creating its own darkness in which the terror lurks. The wisest child seeks the permanent rescue of a Light tended by loving parents who will never let it dim. Our Heavenly Father activates His Light by “transferring us into the kingdom of his beloved Son (ibid).” He brings us Home into His permanent Light where we have access to His inheritance. The Kingdom of Heaven is our home, our refuge, our sanctuary. The place where our Father is vigilant to tend the Light.

## III) Our Source of Light...

The innocent child imagines the source of Light is the switch on the wall. Flip the switch and Light comes on. Some children learn the inadequacy of their earthly inheritance when the power goes out. Without explanation the switch is rendered powerless, the darkness's terror released. The child's parents, sharing their inheritance of earthly wisdom, may explain how the switch works with wires, bulbs, and an electricity source to produce the Light. This wisdom is found lacking by the child because for all that knowledge the *darkness remains*. The child desires a Light source “that comes from [the Father's] glorious power (1:11),” a Light eternal.

♦ **The impoverished suffer darkness:** Our earthly inheritance is attached to a faulty power system. Wires fray, switches corrode, bulbs burn out. There is the cost to purchase power. In our attempt to stretch our limited resources, we may choose to change to a cheaper utility company. As the saying goes, *you get what you pay for*, and often the cheaper company provides an inferior product. Now our power system is wholly unreliable,

proving to the child the failure of earthly inheritance. The darkness's terror is real, its power being the Source of sin and death. Sadly, it is expensive to reconnect to the superior utility company. The impoverished are powerless to disconnect from the Source of the “power of darkness (1:13),” in favor of the Source of Light.

♦ **The bill is paid:** Children often are unaware of these realities. Parents do everything to provide for their children, obscuring scarcity, finding any way to keep the Light on. The child goes to them in moments of terror, trusting them to deliver on their promise to keep the child safe and give it rest. The great inheritance is assurance of *security*, faith that the Light will shine when needed to chase away the darkness's terror. Our Heavenly Father has “transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son (ibid),” the One who has paid the bill for eternity by His obedience to the cross. It is in Jesus that “we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (1:14).” On behalf of Our Heavenly Father, Jesus lovingly offers to share the Source of His Light for which He has paid in full. Forgiveness was not freely obtained but is freely shared when we accept the invitation to enter Jesus's kingdom. Thus, we “share in the inheritance of the saints in the Light (1:12),” a permanent Light that never fails to protect us from the darkness's terror. The *True* hope of every wise child.

## IV) The Light Switch...

Children are fast learners. Watching closely, they perceive that the Way to turn on the Light is to flip the switch. When the darkness's terror creeps in, they do not remain in the bed waiting for the Light...*they flip the switch*. They activate the Source of the Light. The Bible informs those desiring to be Thriving Christians that the switch which activates the Light Source is gratitude. In our gratitude we accept rescue, choose the Ways of the Kingdom, inherit abundance.

♦ **Choose the Light:** The wisdom of children is acting out their faith. When darkness scares them, they turn on the Light. When the darkness's terror encroaches anyway, they go to their parent's room. They engage in the actions they expect will provide security and alleviate fear. Colossians begins by sharing how Thriving Christians “always thank God (1:3),” for others, which activates their eyes to see the Good in them, their hearts to bless them, their mouths to tell them. Likewise, that blessing flows to others in the Thriving Church to give “thanks to the Father (1:12),” for enabling us to share in the inheritance, rescuing us from darkness, transferring us into the kingdom of his beloved Son in whom we have an eternal Source of Light. This is the gateway for us to “be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom (1:9),” to “lead lives worthy of the Lord,” and be “fully pleasing to him (1:10).” Our calling to be the Thriving Church begins with thanking God for paying the price, which opens our heart to receive the inheritance of Light.