

BECAUSE I AM A CHRISTIAN

(Acts 2:37 – 42)

INTRODUCTION

We've heard the expression: "Membership has its privileges"

"Membership" - a person belonging to a designated organization or group.

"Privilege" - a right; advantage; favor granted to an individual and withheld from another.

Any relationship in this world carries with it certain implications:

Because I am a citizen of the USA, I am granted privileges, freedoms, or legal rights.

Because I am employed at ABC Company, I receive benefits others do not enjoy.

Because I am a card-carrying member of a certain group, I reap the benefits it offers.

In a similar way, because I am a Christian, I say, (Ephesians 1:3) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ."

Here's a partial list of "spiritual blessings" in which I participate because I am a Christian.

1. I HAVE ALL MY SINS FORGIVEN

I needed this: (Romans 3:23) "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

Jesus sheds His blood to bring forgiveness of sins: (Hebrews 10:4, v14; 1 Peter 1:18-19)

I believed the promise: (Acts 2:38) "Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins ..."

Also, because I am a Christian, His blood continues to cleanse me: (1 John 1:7-8)

2. I HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN ME

Again, the promise: (Acts 2:38) "... and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"

This "gift" helps me to realize the importance of living the Christian life.

(Romans 8:9) "... If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His"

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and (Ephesians 1:13-14)

3. I HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FAMILY OF GOD / GOD'S PEOPLE

(Ephesians 3:14-15) "... from whom the whole family ..."

(v21) "To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations"

"Family" - a household; related people; kindred.

(Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 2:19; 1 Peter 1:22-23)

Notice the words to Hymn #744 "God's Family"

4. I HAVE GOD AS A "FATHER" TO WHOM I MAY PRAY

Christians have the privilege of addressing God in prayer: "Our Father in heaven ..."

(Colossians 3:17; Galatians 4:6-7)

5. I HAVE ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE: (1 John 5:11-13; 1 Peter 1:3-4)