

# Inheritance: Unprecedented Opportunity

**The Purpose of This Series:** God wants us working together in His Kingdom, not just independently simultaneously. These four messages are to assist us in aligning us with God's purpose for our lives in His service as well as the mission of our church. Everyone has a purpose and DNA in Christ. To often we are out to reach a “destiny” when God has a “design” that He has for us in relationship with others.

**The Purpose of This Message:** It is my desire to began this series with the understanding of what it means to get in the game, to dream and see what God can do. I want to call everyone to drink from the cup that God has for us, to do it as an individual and as a corporate body of believers. Together we can!

## Introduction

I remember when I was in the eighth grade we were supposed to take a History test before our Thanksgiving break. I studied as well as I could and went to the class. In the first ten minutes all but three of us were finished. It was one of those fill in the blank test where you had an array of words at the top of the page with a letter from the alphabet preceding each word. To bring more confusion to the pot, an instructive sentence at the top said, “You will be able to use some words more than once.” What? I was really counting on the elimination process hoping to get a few right and then hopefully fill the rest in with what was left. But no, my teacher wanted you to have that added confusion of multiple use of one word for more than one answer.

I was sweating bullets with a couple of other people as one by one would mutter, “Oh!” They would give a little laugh and then place the test on the teachers desk as they exited the room. Each time, it became apparent who was going to extend the test to the very last few minutes. Time eventually ran out and we were ushered out of the room with a, “Have a happy Thanksgiving!” from the teacher. Down the hall several guys were laughing about how easy the test was. When I inquired what was going on they said, “Didn't you see it?” “What?” I replied. The letters on the fill-in-the-blank spelled out, “HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING”. I couldn't remember anything that my paper might have said.

On the following Monday I couldn't wait to see what my test read. When I got my paper it was something like, “LIENSOINSKLOEPWTUWWOEI”. I think it means, “YOU ARE AN IDIOT,” in Russian.

It is important to know who we are speaking to when we are ministering. After a time of incredible worship and seeking God, we can get so connected to God that we don't actually connect with others or with the purpose of our gathering point. It is possible that several people who just lifted their hands in worship, lifted their voices in praise, acknowledged Him as Lord, agreed in prayer because they understand the power and purpose of worship, a connection with the Lord almighty and expression recognizing their understanding of the BIG picture.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon decided to purpose in his heart to accumulate all the wealth he could gain, he sought power and attained it and in the end he found that it failed to satisfy. He pursued pleasure, fame and all that was supposed to yield the idea of settledness,

satisfaction and joy, but we are so familiar with his words,

***“Vanity, vanity, all is vanity.”***

Or in another translation it say,

***“All of this is like chasing the wind.”***

The reason that his life was so empty and gaining it all ends up with nothing, is because you and I were created to join God on a mission. Some people see God as some being, hanging around the edge of the universe listening to all the good worship music but disengaged with His people. But the Bible teaches that differently. The Bible teaches that God is at work 24/7, all over the world, finding the hearts of men and women who are turned toward Him so He can fill them with grace and mercy and power, to reclaim this world for His Kingdom.

### **This Past Week**

This past week I was in Dallas. It was actually cold there, rainy with a chill. My truck had plenty of mud on it so I took it to a car wash. There, as I leaned down to spray the mud off my tires the Lord simply spoke to my heart,

***“The future is for those who want it.”***

Not to be disrespectful but I instantly thought, “Where we talking?” Here I am in some pretty miserable conditions, rain, mud, dirt, attempting to clean up my truck so it can look better. Why would I want to clean my truck in the first place...exactly! I believed that no matter the conditions, my truck could come out better and cleaner, not matter the outside conditions. “The future is for those who want it?”

***“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”***

A.W. Tozer, “The Knowledge of the Holy,” pg. 7.

### **Trammell Crow**

Trammell Crow founded his real estate company in 1948 in the Dallas metroplex area where his company acquired some 50 billion dollars in assets. Trammell Crow Company is a real estate development and investment firm dedicated to the fundamental principle of building value. I can tell you that his innovation and tenacity is expressed all over the Dallas, Texas area.

The reason that I mention this is because one day in 1988, about forty years after his business had been established, he was 74 years old still blowing and going. Southwest Airlines did an article on him and asked him the question,

***“Of all you have done and succeeded at, you are now in your seventies, most men would have retired by now. What keeps you in the game?”***

I'll never forget his response as long as I live. He said,

***“I'm still doing this because no one else will dream.”***

The article struck my heart that day as I a 50 minute flight from Dallas to Amarillo. He felt almost obligated to continue because no one else could see the future. They could realize the possibilities. They couldn't see over the next horizon. Everything looked like a possibility

to him, it was so obvious, the future was to those who wanted it. He felt like he had to take it for those who couldn't see it!

### **God's At Work**

It's as if God is at work and he is calling us to roll up our sleeves and join him. "The future is for those who want it!" God is asking us to believe with Him by yielding our talents, our money, our time, and our passion to a greater cause, an eternal cause! He wants his mission to become our mission. God tells us, "If you are into chasing the wind, you can keep right on doing that. Or you can hook up with Me, and together we'll transform this hurting, dirty planet, and we'll make a difference!"

### **Red Oak**

I remember God engaging me very specifically when I was twenty years old. There was a church about eight miles down the road from my college. I wasn't ready to be "nice" about church. The Dixie Chicks wrote a song, "*Not Ready To Make Nice*." Though all the controversy that surrounds them and this song is a frustration to me, it in some way tells the story of own hurt and disappointment with the church and maybe even God,

I'm not ready to make nice  
I'm not ready to back down  
I'm still mad as hell and  
I don't have time to go round and round and round  
It's too late to make it right  
I probably wouldn't if I could  
'Cause I'm mad as hell  
Can't bring myself to do what it is you think I should

Those words is the story of many people who want God, but somehow can't make the cross over. Many people suggest that it is the churches fault, and in truth, it never is, but it is the people in the church who can be at fault. It's interesting that when you talk about building a church people quickly say, "It's not a church building, it's people." But when they are disgruntled, it ends up about the "church," not the people in it. But, that's beside the point. The point is, there are many people who are not opposed to God, but somehow they have lost confidence in the church or are so unfamiliar with the church or maybe with what has happened in their life that they might be afraid to get close to God. They are upset, frustrated, disillusion, painfully hurt, and now their fist are up, they are in a defensive position...not very nice.

I wasn't ready to make nice when I traveled the eight miles to that little church I had been invited to. I was still as mad as the Dixie Chicks. There were many painful memories of my past that still lingered in my head about God and church.

But there was a pastor, Brother Logan. His messages struck right at the heart. The people there were loving and kind. Little by little, Sunday after Sunday, we began to crowd into rooms that were too small and pews that were not long enough. The warmth of that body of believers began to burn off years of bad experiences. Each week it was like the pastor pulled me in a little closer, closer with a gentle hand.

The question came up, "What are we going to do with all the people?" To build and expand

was the only solution. We started talking about where to build, how to build, what will we do in the process. I remember that I was officially “part of the crowd,” though I doubt that five people really knew my name. I was connected not only in a safe environment, but to a vision. If the healing that was taking place in my heart could take place in someone else's heart, why wouldn't I want that for them? Why wouldn't I do something about it?

It was December and all the students were packing up to go home. My last Sunday that year in that church before I went home, the pastor talked about kicking off the building campaign in January. He was excited about it and so were we.

After a month away, I quickly returned to my new adopted family, but things were different. The liveliness of the church seemed to have turned into a chill. The excitement was almost mournful. What I didn't know and soon found out that Pastor Logan and his wife was hit head on by a drunk driver over the holidays, they were both killed instantly, but their three children who was sleeping in the back seat survived.

They all three graduated from college just a few years back. Their life has probably has it's own challenges. But the church? It still sits on it's same corner, hardly enough land to park sixty cars. There are faithful people there. They love God, but somehow they stopped believing, “The future is for those who want it.” Very few people in that church will ever know that it had a destiny to reach out in a greater way into their community. They will never know that their church used to be on the verge, it used to be at a boiling point of God's hand in a powerful way.

Whenever you and I stop enough to question the eight-to-five grind or our round-the-clock parenting tasks and wonder, “Is this all there is to life?” The divine love of God nudges us, He gently whispers in our soul that we are meant for more.

## Jesus

Jesus made it pretty clear what God's idea of a transformed world would look like, first within the community of believers called the “church” and then as the values of that community spread out into the world:

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”*

Mark 12:30-31

Jesus is asking us to trade a traditional, religious relationship with God into a genuine, love relationship with God that influences our relationships with other people, to offer compassion and care to them. When Jesus was asking us to buy into His new system of the church, He wasn't complicating it, He was simplifying it. It's simple, love God and love other people.

**In this, it transforms everything: our marriages, families, friendships, economic and political systems. It lifts up the humble, humbles the proud and draws people together across racial, social, cultural and economical divides.**

*“And David...served the purpose of God in his own generation.”*

Acts 13:36

David didn't waste time chasing after the wind. He devoted himself, focused on the mission

God had for his life, and he died knowing that his one and only life he had, he lived it in service for the highest purpose!

### **Participant or Spectator?**

I've learned through out the years that it is far more playing the sport than watching it. I remember taking my son-in-law to a Dallas Cowboy game, which many Kansans seem to have a hard time understanding the great value in that. As we sat there, all the excitement, all the joy of being in this huge stadium, my mind kept flashing back to the cool nights in Amarillo where we would turn on the lights on the Christian School's football field and get some college guys out there and play one-below. I love participating, not just watching.

Spectating never compares with the thrills and challenges of being in the middle of the action. I'd much rather get a little beat up and sore participating than sipping lemonade from a safe and comfortable spot on my couch. I believe I'm not the only one who believes this way.

Every local churchgoer has a choice to make. He can park in his usual spot in the church parking lot, find their familiar seat with their familiar friends who say all the familiar things. Sing familiar song, shake familiar hands and then go home. That kind of a choice makes it safe, a predictable Sunday morning experience. Or, you can be thrown into the middle of a life-giving fellowship of believers. You can throw yourself into the adventure by rolling up your sleeves, joining with the team of like-minded servants, and help build this local church God has called you to be a part of.

Not everyone finds their perfect place to serve over night. Many people often fall into an place to serve, maybe a less-than-ideal spot before discovering what they are really good at. Most of us have no clue where to start, but they start anyways. They experiment even though they are scared and thought they had little to offer, they decided to take the first small step and respond to the voice of God. A voice calling them from self-absorption into servanthood. God continues to call us, to entice us to a greater cause and purpose in this life.

So many people hesitate to get involved because they are afraid of failing or they are so clouded with questions of "What if..." that they never take a stance on anything. I was that way too. But when we let God lead us to where He wants us to serve, we find an incredible sense of satisfaction and joy. I wouldn't exchange being a part of His great work for anything in the world.

See, I don't feel guilty asking you to be a part of the local church. Because I know that people who let God lead them to where he wants them to serve find "an incredible sense of satisfaction and joy." It's time for us to get off the grandstands, crawl over the fence and get on the field. I promise you it is more exciting to participate than to spectate! **Why watch others change the world when you can join them?**

### **My Awakening**

Over a year ago, in my devotions, God spoke to my heart as I was reading this specific passage in the Bible,

*"LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance."*

Psalms 16:5-6

It struck me so hard that I underlined it twice. At that moment, it didn't seem to be more than an outstanding scripture, a wonderful promise of God. But for days later I began to hear God's tugging on my heart that this scripture was more than a promise of God, it was a promise for Cornerstone Church. It lodged deep in my heart and I couldn't resist it's passion for us to believe on it and receive it for our own.

**Assigned-** 4490 *manah*: part, portion

- A portion, especially of food, Exodus 29:26, Leviticus 7:33; I Samuel 1:4, to send portions of food (from feast), Nehemiah 8:10,12.
- The Lord portioned me my portion. He parted my portion and cup.

**Portion-** 2506 *cheleq*: portion, share, part, territory

- The Lord portioned my share or part and cup.

**Cup-** 3563 *kowc*: cup

***“Give us this day our daily bread.”***

Matthew 6:11

We have a meal to partake of, something that God have provided for us, something God is “cooking” up for us.

***“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart...”***

Acts 2:42

When they started living in the portion that God provided them they were feasting on the goodness of their God. In Acts, this idea permeated everything, pursuing God's portion, daily in the temple, in each others house, breaking bread, eating and communion and ate together with excitement, zeal, fulfilled, focused and singleness of heart!

**Cup**

The Hebrew word “kowc” (kos), is mentioned 34 times in the Old Testament. Six times alone, the cup was stated in Genesis 40 where the chief butler told his dream to Joseph and he saw himself giving the cup to Pharaoh.

**David's Understanding**

***“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.”***

Psalm 23:5

I have recently heard a message preached by Pastor Jimmy Evens at Trinity Fellowship, Amarillo Texas entitled, “*Becoming Friends of God.*” In that message he uses the scripture above to communicate this, until we are willing to address the full extent of what God might do, place our enemies at our table, then we will probably not experience His fulness for us. God wants to be fully, our provider.

If you are entertained in a home during Biblical day, a portion of meat is served out for you which constitutes your mess or portion. To highly esteemed and welcomed guests, a further honor is given—oil is poured upon the head. And not only that, but a certain

cup is placed before you, the favored one containing the portion which he is to drink.

David didn't see himself as a beggar, knocking at the door of mercy, receiving a crust of bread and a sip of whatever was provided, but he saw himself received by the Master of the feast with open arms and permitted to sit down to receive the supply of all his goods, the luxuries of the feast as one who was thoroughly and heartily welcomed to all that was provided.

It wasn't long ago that you and I were among the blind, the lame, the unacceptable, but God's Grace broke through our short-comings and brought us, by faith, to sit down at the feast upon what God has prepared for us.

Notice the extreme experience, in the presence of enemies, a head anointed with oil and a cup that runs over. The two manifestations of being in a difficult, even dangerous position. But that is not the final result of allowing God to position people in your life who are in opposition to you, look at the next verse...

*"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."*

Psalm 23:6

Whatever God is up to, there is a life that follows that is exciting, powerful and moving. To dwell in the house of the Lord forever, no doubts, no questions, no fears, no wondering, I know to whom I belong and where I am heading eternally is complete resolve. But the prerequisites of having this privilege is enemy confrontation, anointing of the head which was the responsibility of the home owners and a cup continually filled and running over.

This cup that we drink of is a cup that we can celebrate from. You and I have a cup and it is a privilege to drink from it. If you can remember, back on your life, do you remember the day when your thirst for something eventually carried you to the foot of the cross? Your soul was a desert, your heart was parched, your spirit dry as a sun bleached bone? So thirsty your soul fainted, you could hold no water because your life's cup was broken?

**Woman At The Well-** John 4:14

Do you remember Jesus' words to the woman at the well in John 4,

*"...but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a **spring of water welling up to eternal life.**"*

John 4:14

*"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he **who believes in me will never be thirsty.**"*

John 6:35

*"Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst** for righteousness, for they will be filled."*

Matthew 5:6

Can you recall how impoverished your soul was until your hunger and thirst turned, your appetite delighted in what God had to offer and this morning you rejoice, you revel in what God has done on your behalf turning you from despair to unending

celebration?

If you don't recall your former life, the sting of a life without God, the shame and confusion then you may not recall the goodness of the cup of God's divine Grace who took the rags we had to offer Him in exchange for the blood shed upon the cross. Because of our transition, responding to the lure of the Holy Spirit we find ourselves sitting at a table provided by the King where a banquet is prepared for His guests. We are no longer cursed but we are redeemed, drinking from the cup of salvation, provided by the King.

The CUP is very significant in the Bible. Though it is not mentioned all that many times, when it is, it is a powerful statement. To mention three key looks at the cup,

## 1. The Cup of Christ

Twice in Matthew 26, on the night Jesus was betrayed, He prayed in the garden,

*"...if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*  
Matthew 26:39

*"...if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."*  
Matthew 26:42

In John 18, I love this passage. We find Christ in the garden, when many who had come to get Him approached Him and asked them, "Who are you guys looking for?" (John 18:4) They responded,

*"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said...When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground."*  
John 18:5-6

Jesus asks again in verse 7 who they were looking for and again they respond, "Jesus." He again tells them that He's the guy. Peter doesn't like what he sees so he pulls out a sword, cuts off the High Priest's servant's ear. Jesus commands Peter,

**"Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"**  
John 18:11

## 2. The Cup of Believers

Jesus pointed out that the scribes and Pharisees were hypocrites, (Matthew 23:25), because they focused on the outside of the cup, making it look spectacular while the inside was full of extortion and excess. But there is a cup that has the same ingredient on the inside as the outside.

But in Matthew 26:27, he encourages His disciples to drink from the cup, to drink all that was in the cup and to drink proportionately from the cup,

**"After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you."**  
Luke 22:17

Paul makes a very clear distinguishing point,

**"You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a**

*part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons."*

I Corinthians 10:21

Paul is saying, there is a distinguishing difference that is made when you drink from the cup of the Lord. You can't have both. So we have a responsibility and there is a reality,

- **Have Communion**

*"In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"*

I Corinthians 11:25

- **Proclaim Christ's Death**

*"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*

I Corinthians 11:26

When we do this, it is a proclamation that Christ has the power to redeem our souls and to glorify Himself in us. It is loud because there is no greater proclamation! It celebrates Christ's death, not just His sufferings, His painful death on the cross, but the sufficiency of what Christ did,

*"...having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross."*

Colossians 2:14

- **Drink It In A Worthy Manner**

*"Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord."*

I Corinthians 11:27

1. Recognize what it is
2. Recognize what to do
3. Recognize what it isn't
4. Recognize where your heart is

- **Review Your Own Heart**

*"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For if you eat the bread or drink the cup unworthily, not honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself."*

I Corinthians 11:28-29

Many people believe that you are not to drink from the cup unworthily because of sin in your heart, but it is more than that, it is because of unbelief in the Blood of Jesus. Listen, the time of communion is the ultimate altar call. It is what the message of the Word of God is calling our hearts to convict us in review of the cup we are or are not drinking from. If we are resistant to the cup of the Lord, we are resistant to Him. Communion is an altar call, a call to be quickly moved from a heart that

may not be very submitted or running away. The purpose of communion is to assist us in quick reconciliation with our maker without the assistance of gifted speakers and great messages...even though those are highly useful and powerful. Listen, if we get a true understanding of communion, do you realize how many messages will not have to be preached to renew the heart to empower the believer? Communion can survive a poor communicator, a terrible speaker and horrible leadership. Communion is the most powerful restorer of souls.

What is this judgement? It is not saying, "Don't partake in this if you have sin in your life." It is saying, "Realize that this cup represents the forgiveness of your sins, fall on it for your forgiveness, recognize what it is and proclaim it for your restoration and redemption." There is no other remedy. It is not honoring God's provision for you if you take of the cup and refuse by FEAR OR UNWORTHINESS what God has provided for you and I.

One of the false teachings in the last days would be "false humility," that is thinking you are humble but you are actually deceived. Those that come to the communion and feel unworthy and abstain don't realize their humility is false, it is based on wrong assumptions. You take it recognizing the four things,

1. Recognize what it is
2. Recognize what to do
3. Recognize what it isn't
4. Recognize where your heart is

You don't abstain because of being unworthy of it, you partake because Christ is worthy! You "proclaim" what He has done for you, you proclaim His "death" until He returns, that it is enough, that it is sufficient. It isn't my worthiness to partake in it and I don't partake of it negligently. I never want to go through the motions. I will review my heart, allow the Holy Spirit to work on me and deal with the issues of my heart.

### 3. The Cup of God

*"The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates."*

Psalm 11:4-5 (NKJ)

*"Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind Shall be the portion of their cup."*

Psalm 11:6

Revelation 14:10 tells us of the cup of the Lord that will be poured out where many will drink of the cup of the Lord, a cup of wrath that will be poured out on mankind.

God's desire is not that there will be a destruction of the wicked, but a resolve by the provision made on the cross for us all, Jesus was made a curse for us. He is our

Divine Redeemer! He has drained the cup on our behalf.

Conclusion:

**"We are called to an everlasting preoccupation with God."**

A.W. Tozer-That Incredible Christian, 46.