

## BIRTHRIGHTS AND BLESSINGS

BY: Rev. Rachel Williams-Glenn

All birthrights and blessings are not the same. Because there's a limit to what human beings have, there's a limit to what they can offer as a birthright as well as to what they can offering as a blessing. Perhaps, that's why Isaac panics when he realizes that he's given Jacob the blessing he intended to give to Esau. It's definitely why Esau asks if Isaac has another blessing to give. It turns out that Isaac does have another blessing. The problem is that this second blessing isn't comparable to the one he's already given Jacob.

Of course, Isaac didn't have to make his sons birthrights and blessings so lopsided. He could've made sure each of his sons received comparable blessings since both were his children. Unfortunately, he learned this pattern of loading one child up with good stuff and giving the other whatever was left from his own father.

I'd love to say that this sinful pattern ended with Jacob and Esau, but we all know better. By the time Jesus arrived on the scene, Jewish leadership was doing the same thing. They chose to treat some folks in the community better than others. They went so far as to prevent all types of people from fully participating in the worship life of the community.

It's incredibly sad that such practices are alive and well in contemporary Christian fellowship communities, because our very existence proves that God's resources are limitless. We are called Children of God because everyone who accepts the gift of salvation has been given a new birthright. All of us get to be where God is. All of us gain a tight and right relationship with God that comparable to Jesus' relationship with God. So, we ought to be encouraging rather than discouraging folks to claim such birthright. Even though the family grows larger when someone new accepts the gift of salvation, our birthright isn't reduced because God's resources have no limits.

Likewise, the blessings that flow from that birthright don't get reduced either. Our blessing is still 100% ours when God blesses someone else. Moreover, we get another blessing every time someone receives their salvation birthright. We gain yet another reason to break the cycle that the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Bible created. We can begin to let the world know the truth. We can spread the word that the birthright and blessings God gives can't be stolen, manipulated or diminished because God's resources are limitless. ~  
Hallelujah & Amen.