

# Colossians 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

## Analysis

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**Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.** The final participle eucharistountes (εὐχαριστοῦντες, "giving thanks") climaxes Paul's description of mature Christian living. Gratitude isn't occasional sentiment but continuous practice, recognizing God as source of every blessing. Thanksgiving to "the Father" emphasizes familial relationship—believers address God as children, not slaves or subjects.

"Hath made us meet" translates hikanōsanti (ἱκανώσαντι, "qualified"), aorist tense indicating completed action. God already qualified believers for heavenly inheritance; this isn't future possibility but accomplished fact. No human merit, mystical experience, or ascetic practice can add to God's complete qualification. "Partakers" (μερίδα, μερίδα, "share/portion") indicates guaranteed participation, not mere potential.

## Historical Context

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Jewish inheritance laws protected land within tribes through divine allocation (Numbers 26:52-56). Paul applies this imagery spiritually: believers receive heavenly inheritance "in light," contrasting the kingdom of darkness (v. 13). Gnostics claimed secret knowledge enabled progression from darkness to light through stages of enlightenment. Paul declares believers already transferred into light through Christ, requiring no additional qualification.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does knowing God already qualified you for heavenly inheritance affect your pursuit of spiritual growth?
2. What role does thanksgiving play in your spiritual life—central practice or occasional addition?
3. Do you live with confidence in your secured inheritance, or constantly strive to qualify yourself?

## Interlinear Text

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εὐχαριστοῦντες	τῷ	πατρὶ	τῷ	ἱκανώσαντι	ἡμᾶς		
<b>Giving thanks</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>unto the Father</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>hath made</b>	<b>us</b>		
G2168	G3588	G3962	G3588	G2427	G2248		
εἰς	τῷ	μερίδα	τῷ	κλήρου	τῷ	ἁγίων	ἐν
<b>to</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>be partakers</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>of the inheritance</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>of the saints</b>	<b>in</b>
G1519	G3588	G3310	G3588	G2819	G3588	G40	G1722
τῷ	φωτί·						
<b>which</b>	<b>light</b>						
G3588	G5457						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 20:32** (Holy): And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

**Ephesians 1:11** (Parallel theme): In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

**Acts 26:18** (Holy): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

**Ephesians 1:18** (Holy): The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

**Ephesians 3:6** (Parallel theme): That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

**2 Corinthians 5:5** (Parallel theme): Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

**Hebrews 3:14** (Creation): For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

**Romans 8:17** (Parallel theme): And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

**John 14:6** (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**Revelation 21:23** (Light): And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.