

PARTAKERS IN GOD'S NATURE

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We who are called by his name are called by his grace and therefore we receive one blessing after another. God places in us his divine nature so that we can live a divine life.

In order for us to understand the great promise that God has established, we must first comprehend and experience the cleansing of the Holy Spirit in us from all our sins.

1. GOD PROMISES US THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CLEANSING

A. God not only promises to draw us near to him but also to cleanse us with his clean water, which is his word and his Holy Spirit.

Ezek 36:25-27

25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

B. When God cleanses us by his Spirit he puts a new heart in us, a heart of flesh, and removes the old heart of stone. This is in agreement with what Paul said, "If any man is in Christ he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new".

26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

C. The third thing we see is that the Holy Spirit will guide us and teach us to obey God's holy precepts.

27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. (NKJ)

2. SIX THINGS WE RECEIVE WITH OUR SALVATION

There are six things that we should know pertaining to our salvation, (a) We have obtained adoption, (b) We have obtained glory, (c) We have obtained covenant, (d) We have obtained a law of God (e) We have obtained service unto God (f) We have obtained his promises.

Rom 9:4

who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; (NKJ)

3. THE PROMISES OF GOD ARE SURE

In order for us to remain in service to God, we must stand firm in all the promises of God. All the promises of God are yes and Amen in Christ.

2 Cor 1:20

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. (NKJ)

4. WE ARE HEIRS OF THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

When God spoke to Abraham concerning the promises to him; it was a promise not just to Abraham but also to his seed. We are the seed of Abraham through Christ who adopted us through his blood.

Gal 3:16

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. (NKJ)

5. WHAT WE SOW WE WILL ALSO REAP

God warns us about sowing to our flesh because we will reap destruction. The desires of the sinful man are all contrary to the Spirit of God and will only lead to a life of corruption and impurity

Gal 6:8

For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. (NKJ)

6. THE FIGHT AGAINST THE SINFUL NATURE

The Bible is clear why we fight, why we murder, why we covet, why we lust and why we struggle for pleasure. Although we have God's divine nature in us we struggle yet against sin because of the works of the flesh. Jesus said if you want to be my disciples you must carry your cross daily.

James 4:1-3

1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. (NKJ)

7. LIVING FOR THE WILL OF GOD

The word of God admonishes us to forsake our old life and its practices, and pursue the life of the Spirit. It also admonishes us not to waste our time as we did in days of old, but redeem our time in God's presence.

1 Pet 4:2-3

2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles-- when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. (NKJ)

8. WE MUST KEEP OURSELVES FROM ERROR

We must take heed to the words of Peter not to be lured by words of seduction, which will lead us into error. The doctrines of the enemy may seem like words of truth, but when they are examined under the microscope of the Holy Spirit it will be shown for what it's worth. Only through the knowledge of the Saviour can we escape the corruption of this world.

2 Pet 2:18-20

18 For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error.

19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. (NKJ)

9. LOVE NOT THE WORLD

The Apostle John admonishes us not to fall in love with the things of this world. His guideline is very clear to us in a three-fold outline. (1) The lust of the flesh, (2) The lust of the eye, (3) The pride of life. These are the three areas where Satan will tempt every Christian. Through the Holy Spirit we have received power and authority to have dominion over every sin in our lives.

I Jn 2:15-16

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. (NKJ)

10. WE ARE BORN BY THE WILL OF GOD

Once we receive Christ and believe in his name we have the right to become the children of God. By this divine act of God the nature change begins in us simply by believing in the one the Father sent. *Therefore we are divinely born, divinely related, divinely protected, and divinely empowered.

John 1:12-13

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (NKJ)

11. OUR TRANSFORMATION FROM GLORY TO GLORY

We are constantly being changed into the image of our Creator this process is one that goes from glory to glory, from strength to strength, and from faith to faith

2 Cor 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (NKJ)

12. OUR TRANSFORMATION IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR MIND

Not only are we going to be transformed in the coming of the Lord, but his Holy Spirit is transforming us in the spirit of our minds. The mind that's not submitted to the will of the Lord, will be submitted to the works of the enemy and of the flesh. Here in this passage of Scripture we see the true nature of the first man, Adam in that he was created in true righteousness and holiness.

Eph 4:23-24

23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. (NKJ)

13. RENEWAL IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Col 3:10

and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, (NKJ)

14. WE ARE DISCIPLINED INTO BEING HOLY

Heb 12:10

For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. (NKJ)

15. WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM ON THAT DAY

I Jn 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (NKJ)