

# Adoption as sons

What do you think of when you hear the word 'adoption'? You might imagine an orphan child being embraced into a new family. The orphan would be received into that family with love, and be accepted for who they are; and, if adopted, would receive the same rights and privileges that a naturally born child would expect. They would appear as though they had always been a member of that family. However, one thing is different. An adopted child is not genetically the same as the family that embraced them. Their hair, skin, shape and size might even reveal this difference. Adoption gives them the same rights and privileges that a natural born child would inherit. However, it does not make them an 'authentic son', because they were not born into that family.

The Bible tells us that Adam was created in the image and likeness of God. He lived in close relationship with Him, but he was not a member of His family. Before God created man, He planned that, through a process of adoption, Adam and his descendants would become His sons. The adoption proposed by God would give to men the right to inherit everything that belongs to Him. The most precious of all His possessions is the divine nature because it is His own life. We receive the divine nature when we receive the Spirit of Christ. To inherit the divine nature, and become an authentic son of God, we need to be born of God. This is the summary of God's purpose. He planned to give mankind the rights of sonship by adopting them, and further to this, to give them the divine nature by being born of God. In the last pages of the Bible, we read the conclusion of God's purpose, when He says, 'He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son'.

## References:

Gal 3:18      Gen 1:26  
Eph 1:5      Act 26:18  
2Pe 1:4      Joh 3:3-5  
Rev 21:7 NKJV

## Further Study

Eph 1

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 31

# The right to be sons of God

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he said that God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world. In love, He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself. This meant that all of mankind was chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. Men were given the right by adoption to become sons of God, and then to share in the divine nature that belonged to Christ, through the new birth.

God planned to create mankind and adopt them as His sons through Jesus Christ. It is by adoption that men are made joint heirs with Christ, and then are able to receive the divine nature that comes from the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In order to possess sonship, mankind would need to proceed through hope and faith by participating in Christ's offering. Through this process, mankind would be given the divine nature when they were born of God.

In the New Testament era, Paul said that all those who are of the same faith as Abraham are blessed with him. He tells us that, since the death and resurrection of Christ, mankind now has the right to share the adoption with Abraham. Because of this, mankind gains the right to inherit the divine nature from Christ.

The first man, Adam, was created in the image of God. He was created a natural man. His body was made from the dust of the ground and transformed by the breath of God into a biological body. God had planned further steps of appropriation for mankind that were necessary if they were to inherit sonship. Mankind would need to become 'spiritual'. The apostle Paul said that man was first made natural and then, in Christ, was made spiritual. 'There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterwards the spiritual.'

## References:

Eph 1:3-5  
2Pe 1:4  
1Pe 1:21  
Rom 5:2  
1Co 15:44, 46

## Further Study

Rom 4

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 1

# The Covenant with Abraham

It is incredible to consider that Abraham's suffering was joined to the suffering of God the Father who gave up His only Son for us. Abraham joined the faith of God the Father and gave, by offering, all the way through to Christ. He offered so that he could arrive at sonship himself. But much more than this, he gave his son to guarantee the adoption for a great multitude of sons in his 'one Seed', Christ. The blessing of sonship is the Everlasting Covenant that God made with Abraham throughout the course of his pilgrimage and then confirmed by oath on Mount Moriah.

In the book of Romans, it is said of the Father that 'He did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all'. And again we read, 'God sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin'. John has exhorted us to behold and to understand the kind of suffering love that the Father has bestowed on us, enabling us to become sons of God.

As true sons in the faith, we must offer ourselves to do the works of righteousness which the Father has ordained and predetermined for us. When we do so, fathers in the faith are suffering with us, in travail, so that we will be redefined by offering, according to the 'covenant' as a 'living sacrifice'. This is what makes us true sons of the covenant. As the psalmist said, 'Gather My godly ones to Me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice'. We belong to Christ as we receive from Him and join His offering. We become His possession. As the prophet Malachi said, 'You shall be Mine in the day that I make up My jewels'.

## References:

Rom 9:4      Rom 4:16  
Neh 9:7-8    Gal 3:6-9, 14  
Isa 51:2      Rev 21:7

## Further Study

Heb 6

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 2

# Abraham was blessed by Melchizedek

Abram became a king of kings after God delivered his enemies into his hand. After the battle in the King's Valley, Abram met and had communion with Melchizedek, the king-priest of God Most High. It was there that Melchizedek affirmed the blessing of God to Abram. Melchizedek blessed Abram and called him, 'Possessor of heaven and earth'. Abram responded by giving a tenth, or a tithe, of all he owned to Melchizedek. The writer of the book of Hebrews tells us that this Melchizedek was the Lord Jesus Christ.

Abram had overcome the world and was now a king of kings, but perhaps he was depressed because he had no children. God again spoke to him, telling him not to fear or be in doubt regarding the promises He had made to him. God affirmed to Abram that He was his shield and exceeding great reward. He also said that an heir would come from his own body, and a nation would be brought forth from this heir, innumerable as the stars of heaven. In response, Abram believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.

Abram believed God because it was right for him to do so. This is the meaning of, 'It was credited to him as righteousness'. Abram believed, and proceeded to participate with God in fellowship according to the word of his predestination. Abram's belief was not only that he and Sarai would conceive a son, but also that God's own Son would be his Seed. Abram was illumined to see his inheritance, but could not yet understand how it was that he would inherit the blessing. Therefore, when God made the promise to Abram, Abram asked how he would know that he would inherit the promised blessing. It was then that the LORD taught him that he would inherit the blessing through offering.

## References:

Heb 7:6-7, 14  
Gen 15:1-17 NKJV  
Rom 4:3-4, 18-22  
Jas 2:21-23

## Further Study

Gen 14

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 3

# Inheriting the blessing through offering

When Abram obeyed God's command to make offering, the word of the promise was confirmed to him, and the prophetic detail of how it would unfold was made clear to him. Grace was then multiplied through offering, so that the prophecy could expand itself out and be realised as part of history. Prophecy *becomes* history because it defines the pathway of how history will unfold. For Abram, the content of the prophecy defined the pathway of his predestination, the destiny of the nation of Israel, the coming of Christ, and the blessing of sonship that would come to the nations of the world through Christ. This prophecy, recorded in the Bible, has been confirmed as true because it is now part of history. However, there are some elements of the promises made to Abram still awaiting fulfilment.

The record of the Scripture shows that Abram received the word of the LORD and offered five animals in obedience to that word. Throughout the heat of the day, he needed to work to keep the offering pure, by chasing vultures away from the carcasses. As evening approached, a terror of great darkness descended upon him. Through this prophetic experience, Abram joined the offering of Christ and the darkness He endured on Calvary.

God spoke, and a smoking furnace appeared to ignite the offering, and a flaming torch passed between the pieces, confirming the covenant made to Abram and his descendants. God spoke the word of predestination to Abram from the midst of the offering. In this action, God had begun to confirm and fulfil the covenant. God spoke in prophecy about the nations that inhabited the Middle East. This prophecy included the growing nation of Israel, their going down to Egypt, the judgement of Egypt through Moses, and their return to the land of Israel with many riches, as a multitude of sons. Abram was also assured of a long and peaceful life.

## References:

Rev 5:9      Luk 23:44  
Gen 26:4     Gen 28:4  
Gal 3:15-17

## Further Study

Gen 15

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 4

# The torch and the oven

The Lord instructed Abram to bring a particular and unique offering which was symbolic of the offering of Jesus Christ. Throughout the heat of the day, Abram drove the birds of prey away from the offering. And when the sun went down, a horror of great darkness fell upon him. It was at this point that God spoke from the darkness which enveloped the offering. Abram received illumination when a fiery torch and a smoking oven appeared in the midst of the offering. The torch and the oven show us that God met Abram in offering and actively worked through Abram's offering to accomplish His purpose.

The torch showed the way ahead for mankind and brought prophetic illumination to Abram, giving him the content of the covenant. It illuminated the word of his, and our, predestination; which is the seed-truth of the gospel of sonship. The oven shows us that the fire of the Spirit of God was receiving the offering of Abram by igniting it. From the offering, grace was multiplied to Abram, enabling him to fulfil the word of God and inherit the promise. When God receives our offering with His fire, then grace is multiplied so that we can fulfil the word that has been illuminated to us. This is how God 'cuts,' or confirms, a covenant with man.

The LORD communicated the blessing of sonship to Abram through offering. Abram now understood that the inheritance of all things given to him by the LORD, would be realised as he faithfully participated with God in offering. This same process is given to everyone who receives the word of promise that Abram received. The promise recorded in the end of the book of Revelation was first made to Abram on the day of this offering. 'He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.'

## References:

Joh 8:56      Gal 3:9  
Gen 22:9      Rev 21:7  
Gen 15:9-12, 17

## Further Study

Gen 28

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 7

# Receiving the promise

James wrote a letter to 'the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad', earnestly concerned that they, as sons of Abraham, remember Abraham's faith. He taught them, as he teaches us, that Abraham received the promise of inheriting the blessing that belonged to the adoption when he offered up Isaac. The history of Abraham's life shows that the LORD confirmed this to him when He spoke and said, 'Because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son – blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you'. Abraham called the name of the place, 'God will provide'. He had received Isaac back from the dead as a 'type', or a picture, of how Christ would also be raised from the dead and would then make the divine nature available to sons of God.

After Abraham obeyed God and received Isaac back, God spoke again to him a second time, blessing him by giving Christ to him as his Seed (singular), in whom all nations of the earth would be blessed. He also confirmed that He had given the land of promise to Abraham's seed (plural). God said that, because Abraham did not withhold Isaac his son, He would give to him the completed promise. Thus, God completed the promise by giving Christ to him to be his Son. In Christ, the divine nature would be made available to all the nations of men who dwell on earth. So the Scripture is fulfilled that Abraham believed God. He believed God for Christ, and he believed God for resurrection life in his own and Sarah's mortal bodies, and for immortality on the day of resurrection.

As an adopted son, Abraham looked forward in faith towards Christ's day. He believed that the promise of sonship would be his if he continued with God in the fellowship of offering. Abraham was not born of God, but lived and offered in the faith that he would personally inherit the divine nature.

## References:

Jas 1:1  
Gen 22:16-18  
Heb 11:19  
Joh 8:56

## Further Study

Jas 2:21-23  
Gen 15:6  
Rom 4:19-24  
Eze 33:24

## Daily Proverb

Gal 3  
Proverbs 8

# Abraham saw My day

As Abraham made offering, he was illuminated to see the lineage of Christ. He understood this lineage in two prophetic aspects. Firstly, Abraham saw the unfolding of his own family line down through history, past Judah and King David, to perceive Christ as his Seed or Son after the flesh. Secondly, he saw the lineage that came from Christ, which is all who would be born of God, the body of Christ.

Abraham foresaw and understood Christ's offering as the Father's provision to see many sons come to glory. He also knew that his sins would be passed over, and righteousness would be imputed to him because of faith and forgiveness, which was made available to him through offering. How was this so? When he believed God, he received all of the benefits made available through Christ. We know that the blood of Christ had not yet been shed on the cross, but He is the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world. Abraham believed this and joined the fellowship of His offering. Righteousness was imputed to him and his sins were 'passed over'. Because of faith, righteousness was imputed to all who were of Abraham's culture of faithful offering.

When Christ came, He opened the pathway by which many sons would come to glory. Until then, it was not possible for anyone to possess the divine nature and be born of God. Abraham knew that Christ would come and offer Himself to bear the sins of many. His provision would make it possible for mankind to be born of God by receiving the Spirit of Christ. The Scriptures tell us it was necessary for Christ to die, so that the covenant that gave us the promise of eternal inheritance would come into force. This promise was *made* in Abraham to the whole nation of Israel, but *given* in Christ to 'whosoever believes' in Him.

## References:

Heb 2:10      Rom 3:28  
Heb 9:15-17      Joh 3:16  
Gen 22:18      Gal 3:16  
Luk 2:28-30

## Further Study

1Pe 1

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 9



# Born of God

What does it mean to be born of God? When Jesus spoke with Nicodemus, He identified three elements essential to being born of God. Jesus described this threefold package as being 'born from the first' or 'from above', 'born of water' and 'born of the Spirit'. Jesus said to Nicodemus that 'unless one is born *from the first* he cannot see the kingdom of God'. To Nicodemus, this seemed incomprehensible and impossible. Jesus further said, 'Unless one is *born of water and the Spirit* he cannot enter into the kingdom of God'. If 'born from the first' was amazing to the Jews (Israel), who had the adoption, how much more amazing would it be to be 'born of water and the Spirit'?

Being born from the first and of water and Spirit was something new in the unfolding journey of sonship for mankind. It had not been available before. Those who believed with the faith of Abraham, before Christ's resurrection, looked forward to this in hope. They knew that it would herald the culmination of the adoption, which would also give believers the right to resurrection and eternal reward. If he would receive this word from Christ, Nicodemus would receive the key understanding of what it means to be born of God.

Jesus was bringing an illumination to Nicodemus about his need to become a son of God by birth. We might even imagine that Nicodemus became excited over the prospect of being a son of God. He may even have pressed forward to inherit the divine nature. Remember, that at this point in history for Nicodemus, the divine nature was not yet available for him, since Christ had not yet died and been raised from the dead. Perhaps when his eyes were opened in this discussion to see the nature of the inheritance that God was opening up for his generation at that point in history, he may have caught the spirit of what Jesus was talking about.

## References:

Rom 9:4      Rom 8:23  
Rom 8:15-16  
Php 3:20-21  
Joh 3:3,5, 7-8

## Further Study

1Jn 5

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 10

# A spirit of adoption

When we hear the message of the gospel preached to us, and begin to see and believe the message that we can be sons of God, we also receive 'a spirit of adoption' that causes us to desire to become sons of God. When we use the term 'a spirit of adoption', we do not mean it in the sense of 'God' or 'a spirit of man', who are spirit beings. The term, 'a spirit of adoption', describes an *attitude* that burns within us and motivates us. This attitude of faith comes from God, and helps us to see our predestination, and it motivates our desire to be a son of God. It moves us, so that we are filled with the desire to run to Christ to receive the adoption. Those adopted by God have the right to receive the divine nature as their inheritance.

It is the Holy Spirit who brings this to us and leads us in the pathway of our sonship. As we hear the gospel message, the Holy Spirit is our Helper. He is helping us to see what the Father and Son have done, and how we can enter into the fullness of the sonship They want to give to us. So, a spirit of adoption is activated by the Holy Spirit; and this excites our spirit, giving us energy and capacity to inherit our sonship.

Unless we are born of the word to see the kingdom, we will not be able to see how to enter the kingdom. When we are born to see, we see our name and calling to be a son of God. We are also able to see the spiritual land of our inheritance. Our eyes are now opened to spiritual understanding. This excites us. A spirit of adoption is motivating us to press into Christ and inherit all that God has promised to give to us.

## References:

Rom 8:15-16    Isa 11:2  
1Co 2:12        Joh 3:3  
Eph 1:11-14    Act 26:18  
Luk 24:45

## Further Study

Gal 4

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 11

# Born from the first

When we are born from the first, we are given the *capacity for spiritual sight*. How do we receive spiritual sight? It is by the word of God's love towards us. The love of God the Father, when poured into our hearts, is causing us to be born from the first. What is God's love causing us to see? We see and understand that He has called us to be His sons. We also see the offering of Christ. The offering of Christ is the means by which we can inherit this sonship. Furthermore, we see that God desires relationship with us. Being born from the first enables us to have fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The capacity for spiritual sight is given to us as we are born from the first. We are able to see our *name* and *calling* as sons of God. We are also able to see the *kingdom of God* and the *inheritance* of our sonship. We are able to see the necessary steps we must take in order to *enter* the kingdom and *possess* our sonship. Nicodemus had not yet been born from the first. This is why he did not understand what Christ was saying. He was limited by the blindness of his *natural mind*. Jesus made it clear that the only way we can see things that are spiritual is to be *born from the first*.

Nicodemus needed a spiritual transformation in order to understand God's purpose for his life. It is the same for us. We all need to be born from the first, and should not be amazed that we need such a transformation. God causes us to be born through His word. James stated that it was by the sovereign exercise of God's will that He 'brought us forth by the word of truth'. To be born from the first, our heart must be *illuminated* by the word of God.

## References:

Joh 3:3-6, 31    Jas 1:18  
1Co 2:9,13-15    Rom 12:2  
Rom 8:5-8      1Pe 1:23  
Joh 6:63

## Further Study

Joh 1

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 14

# Understanding the love of the Father

The process of being born from the first begins when we hear the word of the gospel. Jesus sends His messengers to bring the word of the gospel to every person. This means that all can hear the word, receive it and believe what it says. It is by the word of God that we can receive understanding and begin the process of being born of God.

The word of God reveals to us the immeasurable love of our heavenly Father. When this word of His love breaks in on us, our hearts begin to burn within us. 'See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be *called* children of God.' We are illuminated with the knowledge of His love and His kind intention towards us. The word of His love causes our hearts to be enlightened, so that we understand the hope of His calling. He is calling us to be His sons. This has been His intention from before the foundation of the world.

We are seeing the purpose that God has had for us from the *beginning* – from the 'first'. When we are illuminated to see this reality, we are being 'born from the first'. The word of His love is causing us to be born! We can now see who *He* is, and who *we* are in relation to Him. He is showing us the love that He has for us. The love of God accomplishes two things. Firstly, it illuminates our hearts to see our *calling* to be sons of God. The love of God enables us to believe the word that is preached to us concerning our sonship. Secondly, it compels us to *become* sons of God. The love of God, poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, *compels* us to live according to the name He has given us.

## References:

Rom 10:14-15    2Co 5:14  
1Jn 4:18        1Jn 3:1  
Eph 1:5, 18     1Jn 2:24  
Jas 1:18         Rom 5:5

## Further Study

Psa 31

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 15

# The Light of life

The apostle John testified concerning Jesus Christ, 'In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men'. Jesus Himself said, 'I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life'. When He was lifted up on the cross, this 'Light of life' shone forth, giving illumination to mankind. We recall the words of Jesus, 'When you lift up the Son of Man, *then* you will *know* that I am'. Whenever the offering of Christ is being proclaimed to us, Christ is being lifted up. Paul expressed this sentiment when he wrote, 'For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but *we preach Christ crucified*'. When Christ is lifted up in the message preached, it is then that we can *know* Him. As we believe the word that is preached to us, we are connected to the offering of Christ. Our faith joins us to Christ's offering and it becomes effective in our lives.

When we are illuminated by the Light of life, we receive an understanding of who He is. We understand that He is the Son of God, who came to make a way for us to be *recovered* from the death of sin. We are illuminated that He was afflicted and pierced through because of our transgressions. When we accept that Christ died for our sin, a substantial transaction occurs. His offering becomes effective and we receive forgiveness for our sins. And more than this, when we are connected to the offering of Christ, our hearts are illuminated and we receive the life of *His sonship*. Christ's sonship is becoming ours. God has shone in our hearts to give us the light of Christ's life. It is the Light of life that enables us to be born from the first.

## References:

Joh 8:12, 28  
2Co 3:18  
Act 26:23  
Isa 53:4, 7

1Co 1:22-23  
Joh 1:4-5  
Rom 5:21

## Further Study

2Co 4

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 16

# Understanding the leading of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit *convicts* our hearts and *compels* us to respond to God's call. He is arresting us to the truth of the word proclaimed. The Holy Spirit leads those who are spiritually alive. The capacity for spiritual sight and understanding is given to us when we are born from the first. We are spiritually alive because we have spiritual understanding. Now that we are *spiritually alive*, the Holy Spirit leads and instructs us in all truth.

The Holy Spirit is giving us the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God gives us the capacity to understand the full measure of our inheritance. We are able to *comprehend* the breadth, length, height and depth of all that we are to inherit. 'Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may *know* the things given to us by God.' Having been *filled* with spiritual understanding, we are confident to go and possess our inheritance.

Now that we have become spiritual, we can have *relationship* with God. God is Spirit, and those who relate with God, do so in Spirit and truth. We are able to know Him and understand what He is saying because we are born from the first. God has called us to have fellowship with Him. We are able to come into fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The kingdom of God is the context of our inheritance as sons of God. Having been born from the first, we can now enter the kingdom and inherit our sonship. The body of Christ is the manifestation of the kingdom of God here on earth. God *calls* us into the church, for it is in the church that we receive the blessings of sonship and eternal life. The kingdom of God is eternal; it belongs to the church age and also to the age to come.

## References:

Joh 16:13      Eph 3:18-19  
1Co 2:12      Col 1:9  
Joh 4:24      1Co 1:9  
1Th 2:12      Heb 12:28

## Further Study

Gal 5

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 17

# Steps to inherit

When we are born from the first, we are illuminated to see our *calling* and to see the *kingdom of God*. However, we have not yet entered the kingdom. How then are we to *inherit* what we have seen? There is a pathway for us to walk by which we will inherit these promises. To truly enter the kingdom of God, we must be born of water and born of the Spirit. Having been born from the first, we are convicted of the need to be baptised into the Lord Jesus Christ. This is necessary if we are to enter His body. We will also need to be born of the Spirit, so that we can inherit the promises of our sonship.

This was the experience of the Ethiopian official whom Philip baptised. This man was illuminated to his predestination as a son of God, and thus, he was born from the first. He was compelled to inherit the sonship which he was now seeing. He said, 'Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptised?' He desired to flee to Christ and enter the kingdom of God. This is the fruit of someone who is *born from the first*.

After we have understood and accepted the word of sonship, we will endure a time of affliction and suffering. Suffering and affliction are necessary for us if we are to enter the kingdom. The Bible teaches us that it is through many tribulations that we enter the kingdom of God. If we do not persevere in our newfound spiritual faith, we will fall away because of difficulty. The reason for testing and trial is to deal with any mixed motives within our hearts. Those who are insincere will fall away. It is important to *continue* in the word of the gospel for the whole of our lives.

## References:

Joh 3:5      2Ti 2:3-13  
Act 8:36     Mat 13:21  
Heb 10:32   Act 14:22  
Dan 11:35   2Ti 4:7-8  
Joh 8:31

## Further Study

Act 8

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 18

# The answer of a good conscience

The apostle Peter used the great flood in the days of Noah to illustrate and explain the meaning of 'baptism'. He said, 'Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you - not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience - through the resurrection of Jesus Christ'. When we are baptised and joined to Christ, our conscience is making a good response. Our response is a response of faith. We are alive with Christ, and our conscience has moved from law to faith, for justification. We have become a new creation in Christ. We are not preoccupied with that which is of the old, the way of our flesh. Nor are we focused on washing away the filth of the flesh, because that's all crucified in Christ.

This is so important for us to remember. We are not driven by fear and anxiety in our response to life. We do not strive according to the desires of our flesh, to avoid dying with Him. As we lay down our life to die with Him, our conscience is making a good response. As we die to that which is of the old, we can respond to His life, and we are becoming new in Him. The life that we now live in our mortal bodies, we live by the faith of the Son of God.

For those who are baptised into Christ, everything that is old is passing away; behold, all things are becoming new! This means that the natural creation - our universe and all that is sinful - is passing away in Christ. As Christ journeyed from the last supper until His resurrection, He abolished death, brought new creation life, and was revealed in immortality. When we join Christ in baptism, sin is being dealt with in us, and we are continuing our process of moving from natural to spiritual. All things are becoming new!

## References:

1Pe 3:21  
Act 2:38  
2Ti 1:9-10  
Mat 16:25

## Further Study

Tit 3

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 21



# The name of the Lord Jesus Christ

If we want to be sons of God, we must clothe ourselves with the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is helpful to remember that His name is not just a title, but who He is. Therefore, those who are baptised have Christ, His life, and His capacity. We are now found in Him and clothed with Him.

In the waters of baptism, we are calling out to Him, calling upon His name and asking to be called 'by His name'. Not only are we calling out, but those who baptise us are invoking His name upon us. The name of the Lord Jesus Christ is 'the name which is above every other name'. His name describes the fullness of Deity and expresses God fully revealed and glorified in the body of the Son. The apostle Paul says, 'For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell'. What is this fullness? It is 'the fullness of the Godhead'. This means that the name of the Lord Jesus Christ is the full treasure that belongs to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

When we are immersed at the point of baptism into His name, we are included in Him because we have called upon His name and we are now joined to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There is no other way to be included in fellowship with God. When we receive His name, we receive His life, given to Him by the Father, and we become members of the family of God; although, of course, we never become God. To be baptised into the name is to have a personal place in Him. Furthermore, His name is the context for our participation in the body of Christ. In this way, we who are baptised in the name, have a common name and destiny as members of His body. However, within this body, we become members in particular.

## References:

Php 3:9      Php 2:9  
1Ki 8:20     Col 2:9  
Gal 3:27     Isa 61:10  
1Ki 18:24    Zep 3:9  
Rom 10:13    1Jn 5:11-12

## Further Study

Psa 116

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 22

# Clothed with Christ

When we are baptised into Christ, we receive His name as our possession, and we are clothed with Him. The apostle Paul wrote, 'For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptised into Christ have *clothed yourselves with Christ*.' Now, clothed with Christ's name, we live in the faith of our baptism every day. This means that we express our life as a son of God by participating in the ongoing daily activity of clothing ourselves with Christ's sonship. Each person who is baptised into Christ has become a son of God, and is daily putting on everything that Christ is.

For example, we live by His obedience, not our own. What a wonderful relief this is to us. We are not just trying harder in our own strength to achieve His righteousness. We now confess, 'It is no longer I who live, but Christ' as we walk out the expression of our baptism each day. We actively put on Christ the new Man every day, as an initiative of identity and accountability. Every capacity given to Christ by the Father is made available to us as we clothe ourselves with Him to achieve our sonship, just like Christ achieved His.

Once clothed with His name, and continuing in the faith of our baptism throughout our life, we will not be found unclothed when we die. When we die as a Christian believer, we are guaranteed that we do not become disembodied spirits as those who are unsaved. Rather, Christ is our house, or clothing. His immortal body contains the substance from which our resurrection bodies will be formed. Because we have put on Christ in this life daily, we will be clothed with Him in heaven until we receive our resurrection body at His second coming.

## References:

Gal 3:26-27  
Isa 61:10  
2Co 10:5  
Heb 5:8-9

## Further Study

Gal 2:20  
Rom 13:14  
Rom 1:5  
1Pe 1:22

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 23

# Participating in the offering of Christ

When we clothe ourselves with Christ, we also join Him corporately. Together, those who are clothed with Christ, participate as members of His living body, the body of Christ, which is His church. We are planted in a local church with other believers, where Christ's messengers proclaim the word of our sonship. In this fellowship where we live, we give ourselves in service and worship. This is His fellowship where we dwell for the whole of our life. This is where sin can be dealt with as we endure suffering, and where each of us can fulfil our sonship as members of His body. Now, clothed with Him as a member of His body, we join the *fellowship* of Christ's offering.

It is through our participation in the offering of Christ that we receive the life of Christ; 'the life of the flesh is in the blood'. The apostle Paul tells us that Christ's life was in His blood and it was given to us upon the altar at Calvary. We have access to Christ's life while we live here on earth in our mortal body. His life is now coming to us, and continues to come to us, while we keep joining ourselves to His offering.

As the Gospels show, Christ's offering extended from the last supper until His cry upon the cross, 'It is finished!' This whole journey explains to us the full breadth of what Christ's offering means. Jesus explained to His disciples that His offering was His baptism when He said, 'You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptised with you will be baptised'. When we join His offering, we receive the capacity of sonship that He alone possesses. We can now obey the will of the Father for our life, as Christ did, obediently achieving our name and works.

## References:

Lev 17:11      Col 1:18, 20  
Joh 19:30      1Co 12:27  
Eph 1:7        Mat 12:50  
Mat 26:42  
Mar 10:38-39

## Further Study

1Pe 4

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 24

# Suffering with Christ

Suffering with Christ is part of the pathway for every son of God. We need to be careful that we do not resent, or continually fight against, suffering. It is possible to feel guilty about suffering, and think that we are 'out of faith' when our life circumstances seem to be difficult. We can even think that we are failing in our Christian walk when suffering comes upon us.

If this continues to be our mindset, we will miss the 'fruit' of participating in Christ's sufferings. We need to fellowship in His sufferings by faith. They belong to Him, and we receive a portion of suffering back from Him. 'We fill up in our flesh that which is lacking in the afflictions of Christ.' In other words, we fill up the portion that is shared to us, so that there is no lack in Christ's witness to the world. As we suffer, we reveal Christ. It becomes obvious to all that this would not be possible in our own strength. Since we are joined to Christ, we now manifest Him – His life and His obedience – as we suffer with Him. In joining with Him, we are also ceasing from sin.

How do we cease from sin? In water baptism, we are able to die with Him to sin. This is because the power of sin is broken as His life is given to us. We can now properly deal with sin and send it away as we participate in the offering of Christ. The apostle Peter reminds us that he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. As we join the fellowship of Christ's suffering, we 'arm' ourselves with this mindset and hold fast to His plan for our lives. We know that as we suffer in our flesh in Christ, with His capacity to endure, we are ceasing from sin and being made new in Him.

## References:

Col 1:24      1Pe 4:1  
Act 3:18      Rom 8:17  
Php 3:10      Php 2:5  
Rom 6:3-7, 11

## Further Study

Php 1

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 25

# Born of flesh and born of Spirit

We understand the necessity of being born of the Spirit of Christ as soon as we behold the difference between the natural and the spiritual. In his letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul explained this difference by comparing Adam with Jesus Christ. The first Adam was a living soul; the second Adam is Christ, and He is a life-giving Spirit.

The critical point is that Adam was not complete in the day of his creation. He was created to be a responsible and accountable human being with eternal identity, but not eternal life. He was not yet born of God. He did not possess the divine nature. There was always going to be a journey from the natural to the spiritual. Paul was very clear that it would be 'first the natural, then the spiritual'. When we were conceived in our mother's womb, we received, from Adam, the seed of our eternal identity. Being born of the flesh gives us eternal existence, but we must choose to be born of the Spirit to receive eternal life.

We had no choice regarding our birth in the flesh. No-one had the opportunity to choose the family, the time, or the place where they were born. In the same way, we have no say over the identity that the Father has predetermined for us, and the works of our sonship that He has prepared for us from before the foundation of the world. However, when we were born of the flesh, we were given the responsibility to choose whether or not we would proceed to be born of the Spirit. We don't receive a new identity when we are born of the Spirit. We receive new life as the Spirit of Christ comes into our heart, enabling us to be the person the Lord predestined us to be before the foundation of the world.

## References:

Joh 3:6      Gen 2:7  
Eph 1:4-5    Eph 2:10  
Gal 6:8      Col 3:9-10  
1Co 15:45-46, 50

## Further Study

1Co 6

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 28

# The divine Seed

The Bible uses the word 'seed' in two ways, and both are important in understanding how we receive the life of God. In the first case, the word 'seed' simply means 'son'. Jesus Christ is called Abraham's 'Seed' because He was born in his lineage. However, we also need to consider the second usage of the word 'seed', which is the seed of a plant. We become sons of the Father because Jesus Christ became the Father's Seed (Son) and then multiplied the life of the Father, by offering, like the seed of a plant going into the ground to die. Jesus Himself said, 'Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain'.

It is important to understand this great metaphor. Germination is the process by which seeds begin to grow. An individual seed contains all the capacity to germinate, grow, multiply and bring forth seed after its own kind. However, we also know that for a seed to germinate, it must go into the ground and die. The key to germination is the *power* that is inherent in a seed. The seed doesn't cease to exist when it dies; rather, it springs up (or germinates) in another form as a young plant. The plant is something *new*; it's not a seed anymore. This is the way of the seed which reveals to us how the life of God multiplies by offering.

Jesus Christ is the divine Seed and, through divine power, He made offering and multiplied the 'divine nature'. We partake of the divine nature when we are born of God's incorruptible seed. To be a partaker of the divine nature, we must partake of God's life and nature through the process of germination. The power that is in the word of God causes the seed of God's life to germinate in us, enabling us to become His sons.

## References:

Gen 22:15, 18 Gal 3:16  
 Luk 8:5 Joh 12:24  
 1Pe 1:23 1Jn 3:9  
 1Co 15:36-38 2Pe 1:4

## Further Study

1Jn 3

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 29

# The multiplication of life by offering

Jesus was completely committed to accomplishing the Father's will by bringing many sons to glory. Jesus laid down His life as a 'living sacrifice' from the garden of Gethsemane through to the cry, 'It is finished!' In this way, Jesus fully identified Himself with our death; but death could not hold Him, because He died the death of a seed. He came back from this death by the divine power of God. And more than this, by the 'germinating capacity' of resurrection life, Jesus multiplied the life of new creation, making it available to every believer who joins the fellowship of His offering. He became the minister of an endless supply of life that comes from the Father.

This is the key point. The offering of a seed is the means by which the life of God is multiplied and given to mankind. Jesus committed His Spirit to the Father once His offering was complete. He could do this because the process of divine multiplication had been established. The fact that His physical body saw no corruption in the grave, proved that He had become the incorruptible Seed of God in His mortal body. When the Father raised His physical body from the grave, it was an incorruptible and immortal body of glory. Jesus Christ was raised from the dead as the Firstfruits of a great multitude. His physical resurrection guaranteed a 'spiritual body' for every believer in the resurrection at the last day.

When Jesus was raised from the dead, a sheaf of seeds sprang forth from the ground to be the body of Christ; a body composed of many sons. The life of God has been multiplied by the offering of Jesus, but we cannot receive this life without joining the fellowship of His offering. The fellowship of offering in the body of Christ is the only context in which we become partakers of the divine nature.

## References:

Heb 2:10      Rom 12:1  
Joh 19:30     Act 2:24  
Heb 7:15-17   Luk 23:46  
Act 13:33-37  
1Co 15: 20-23, 44, 52-54

## Further Study

Php 3

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 30

# How are we born of the Spirit?

On the day of His resurrection, the disciples were gathered together in an upper room. Jesus appeared in their midst and did a most peculiar thing. He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'. There are two distinct actions here. Jesus didn't breathe the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. He breathed the gentle breath of *His Spirit* upon them, according to the command of the Father. It was the Father who sent Jesus to breathe new life into these faithful disciples. And when Jesus breathed His Spirit upon them, they were born of the Spirit. The apostle Paul summarised this process of being born of the Spirit by saying, 'God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"' This cry is literally translated as 'Daddy! Daddy!'

When we begin to receive illumination about the will of the Father for our lives, we are gripped by what Paul called 'a spirit of adoption'. It is a spirit of adoption that compels and motivates us to join the offering of Christ. We cry out from our spirit in the faith that we are a son of God as we join Him in the garden of Gethsemane (so to speak), where He cried out, 'Daddy! Daddy!' We plant ourselves in the likeness of His death in the waters of baptism. The Father responds to this faith-filled cry by drawing us out of the waters of judgement with Christ and sending the Spirit of His Son into our hearts. The Spirit of the Son comes into our heart crying, 'Daddy, Daddy!' As the Spirit of Christ is united with our spirit, we are born of the Spirit. In complete unison and harmony with the Spirit of Christ, we then cry out with Him to 'our Father'.

## References:

Joh 20:22    Gal 4:6  
Rom 6:3-5    Luk 12:50  
Mar 10:39    Psa 18:16  
Rom 8:15

## Further Study

Joh 16

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 31



# One Spirit with the Lord

When we are born of the Spirit, we become 'one Spirit' with the Lord. This means that we have a genuine relationship with the Father, with the Son, and with the Holy Spirit. It is the Father who sends forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts; but at the same time, the Father likewise comes and makes His abode with us. Jesus said, 'We will come to him and make Our abode with him'. It is the particular work of the Spirit of the Father to strengthen us in the inner man.

In this same transaction, the Son asks the Father to send us the Holy Spirit as 'another Helper' to be with us forever. This is why Jesus said to the disciples, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'. We must be careful not to confuse this with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Person of the Holy Spirit comes to us when we are born of the Spirit to bear witness with our spirit that we are a son of God. So when we are born of the Spirit, there is one almighty chorus! We are crying out, 'Daddy! Daddy!' The Spirit of the Son within us is crying out, 'Daddy! Daddy!' The Holy Spirit is bearing witness, saying, 'Yes, this is true; you are an authentic son!' And the Father is proclaiming, 'You are My son, today I have begotten you!'

There is no mistaking the 'blessed assurance' of knowing that we have been born of the Spirit. No-one can see the activity that transpires within our heart when we are born of the Spirit, but they can bear witness to the fruit that is brought forth in our lives. For all of us, a sincere love of the brethren is the first and foremost fruit of being born of the Spirit. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren.

## References:

1Co 6:17      Joh 14:16, 23  
 Act 1:5      Rom 8:16  
 3Jn 1:12      1Jn 3:14

## Further Study

1Jn 4

## Daily Proverb

Proverbs 1