

Romans 8:29

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son”

The Call to Sonship

Unravelling the gem of predestination – God’s grand plan for you
5-day devotional

The Call to Sonship

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The Call to Sonship

UNRAVELLING THE GEM OF
PREDESTINATION - GOD'S GRAND PLAN
FOR YOU



The call to Sonship

Davies K. Bamigboye

Chapter One

Called to conform to the image of the eternal Son of God

God's eternal and unfailing purpose through the Gospel is the call to sonship. Rom 8:28-30 in TPT says ***So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together to fit into God's perfect plan of bringing good into our lives, for we are his lovers who have been called to fulfill his designed purpose. 29 For he knew all about us before we were born and he destined us from the beginning to share the likeness of his Son. This means the Son is the oldest among a vast family of brothers and sisters who will become just like him. 30 Having determined our destiny ahead of time, he called us to himself and transferred his perfect righteousness to everyone he called. And those who possess his perfect righteousness he glorified with his Son!***

Several things we learn from these verses:

1. From this verse, we notice that God uses every detail of our lives is woven together to bring good into our lives. God is the author of "good" and He uses every event to bring good into your life. Remember the story of Joseph? He was sold into slavery by his own brothers, but he eventually became the prime minister of Egypt. In Gen 50:20, the bible records: ***But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.*** No matter what the devil throws at you, child of God, I want you to know God is not the author of the evil, but

He will use that evil situation and bring good out of it. God is actively working to bring good into your life.

2. You are God's lover, and you have one primary call in this life: **to fulfil God's design purpose for your life**. What is that purpose? V29 reveals it clearly: ***he destined us from the beginning to share the likeness of his Son***. Your pre-ordained destiny is to share the image of His Son or to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ – and that is the call to sonship. You are called to conform to the image of Jesus Christ. The word “conform” in the Greek is the word “**summorfoj**” which means to have the same form as another or to be jointly formed or fashioned like unto.

3. God wants you to be jointly formed into the image of Jesus Christ. But what is the image of Jesus Christ we are to conform to? Is it physical, moral, or spiritual? To answer the question, let's use the law of first mention where the word “image” is first used. In Gen 1:27 says ***So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them***. The word “image” in that scripture is the word “**tseh'-lem**” and it means to be a representative figure, a model or resemblance. Since God is Spirit (John 4:24 says “**For God is a Spirit, and he longs to have sincere worshipers who worship and adore him in the realm of the Spirit and in truth.**”), then it goes without saying that those created in His image will be created in His Spiritual image first. Also, in Gen 1:27-28, God created the spiritual nature of humans first – in His spiritual image. The reason being that the physical body of Adam was not created until Gen 2:7 (***And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul***). So, when the word image is used, it is referring to the spiritual nature first and foremost.

4. So, Rom 8:29 is saying God destined us from the beginning to share the likeness or the image of His son. To share in or conform to the spiritual image of Jesus requires us to be born again. Rom 8:9 KJV says ***But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.***

Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. This means in order to claim that you are Christ's you must have His Spirit in you. You must have a new spirit in you. The moment you are born again, the Spirit of Christ comes into you. His spiritual image became yours. So, now you are conformed to the spiritual image of Jesus Christ. This is the reason why the scripture says in 1 John 4:17 that because as He is, so are we in this world.

Right now, you are 100% like Jesus in your spirit. This is the beginning of your conformity to the image of Jesus Christ.

Study:

Romans 8:29, Gen 1:27, Gen 2:7, John 4:24, Rom 8:9

Ponderings

- What must happen to you before you can claim that you are conformed to the image of Jesus Christ?
- If you know that you already conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. How would that change the way you live?
- What is the full meaning to you of "As He is, so are you, in this world?" Journal your thoughts.

Affirmation

I am thankful Father that I am already conformed to the image of Jesus Christ the very moment I became born again. I choose by your grace to allow this reality to make me an effective witness of the Lord, dispensing the fragrance of His grace everywhere I go. So, help me God.

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DAVIES K. BAMIGBOYE

on the call to sonship reality

Chapter Two

Pre-destined unto adoption

God's eternal and perfect plan and purpose is to gain many divine sons and daughters for the satisfaction of His heart's desire. Who are these many sons and daughters? They are the redeemed, regenerated, transformed and glorified humanity. Eph 1:2-5 TPT says *Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm has already been lavished upon us as a love gift from our wonderful heavenly Father, the Father of our Lord Jesus—all because he sees us wrapped into Christ. This is why we celebrate him with all our hearts! 4 And he chose us to be his very own, joining us to himself even before he laid the foundation of the universe! Because of his great love, he ordained us, so that we would be seen as holy in his eyes with an unstained innocence. 5–6 For it was always in his perfect plan to adopt us as his delightful children, through our union with Jesus, the Anointed One, so that his tremendous love that cascades over us would glorify his grace—for the same love he has for his Beloved One, Jesus, he has for us. And this unfolding plan brings him great pleasure!*

From these scriptures, what we learn are:

- 1) Every spiritual blessing that you need has already been conferred upon you. You may not feel blessed, but God's word says that God has already lavished upon you His love gift – just because you are wrapped into Christ. This is something that has happened and deemed completed in the eyes of God.
- 2) God chose us to be His very own before He laid the foundation of the world. What this means is that your birth is not a happenstance. God's choice of you as His child was way before He created the world. This means the world is not complete or the reason the world was created, was because of you. God's choice of you is linked to the word "predestination".
- 3) God sees us as holy in his eyes with an unstained innocence. This means that God sees you as innocently unstained. Can you imagine how this builds up your self-esteem when you know that God does not look you over for fault?

- 4) God's plan was to adopt us as His delightful children through our union with Jesus. The purpose of this adoption is so that His tremendous love that cascades over you will glorify His grace. So, we see that love is the basis for this adoption. But what love motivates this? God's love for Jesus. What is this love? The bible says the same love that ***the same love that God has for his Beloved One, Jesus, he has for us. And this unfolding plan brings him great pleasure! So what gives God great pleasure is His predestination of us to be adopted into His family.***

Predestination unto adoption

The word "predestination" used in Eph 1:5 means to "mark out or to determine before-hand". Predestination is a concept suggested by some to mean that God arbitrarily pre-selects people for salvation. There is no Scriptural support for the idea that God has extended grace to a limited number of individuals. In fact, the Scripture is quite clear as to the universal nature of the grace of God and the work of Jesus Christ. It was because He loved the world that He gave Himself for us (John 3: 16).

John the Baptist described Jesus accurately when he said, ***"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world"*** (John 1: 29). Just to make sure we got it right, John went on to say that Jesus' work as the propitiation for sins is not limited to believers but extends to the "whole world" (1 John 2: 2). This is not the language of a limited atonement. What is often overlooked is the fact that Paul's statement concerning predestination is written to the church. Paul had no intention of leading his audience to believe God had selected some but not all of them to be saved. He was simply explaining what God's intention was for all who chose to respond to the invitation of grace. In contemporary language, Paul might have said it like this: ***"If you have chosen to accept the invitation of God's grace to enter into a new life, He has a purpose for you!"***

In fact, that purpose extends to every person who possesses the born-again identity. ***"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son"*** (Romans 8: 29). There it is. In one verse Paul has unveiled God's eternal

purpose for your life. God wants you to be just like Jesus. His plan for you has nothing to do with a new boat, a bigger house, a nicer car, or a fatter bank account.

**Predestination is not about career promotions and exotic vacations.
Predestination is all about separation.**

When we accept His invitation to a supernatural transition, He separates us in two ways. First, He separates us from the world. The reason is obvious. The world is the bridge which connects us to our previous identity. God does not want us to cross that bridge, so He separates us from it. This concept of separation, also called holiness, carries with it the idea of distinction. We are different from the world. Our born-again identity involves a new way of talking, walking, and thinking. But this is only the first type of separation. He also separates us unto Himself. To be separated from the world is not enough. You must be separated unto Him.

The first separation reveals the difference between the old identity and the new. The second separation involves an intimate relationship with God not possible under our old identity. One separation without the other is not possible. You cannot be truly separated from the world without an intimate relationship with God and you cannot have an intimate relationship with God unless you are truly separated from the world. If you want to understand God's plan for your life, submerge yourself in the Gospels. Study the life of Jesus. Look at His values, emotions, actions, and words. God's plan for you is that you become just like Him.

So, now that we understand the word predestination, let's look at the word adoption. Adoption is from the Greek word "huiotesia" meaning **"to be placed as a son"** but what does that mean? It means that in regeneration, you received the nature of God but in adoption, you receive the position of a son of God. So, every Christian obtains the place of a child and the right to be called a son the moment he/she believes. But what does it mean to you to be placed as a son of God? It means you have the right to ALL God has and IS. God is your Father, and His door is NEVER shut against you!

In the natural, you may give birth to a child that you did not plan for, but no one adopts a child out of mistake. This is the reason why your adoption into God's family was not an afterthought but carefully planned before God formed the world and executed with cadence in Christ.

Rom 8:14-16 TPT says: ***The mature children of God are those who are moved by the impulses of the Holy Spirit. And you did not receive the "spirit of religious duty," leading you back into the fear of never being good enough. But you have received the "Spirit of full acceptance," enfolding you into the family of God. And you will never feel orphaned, for as he rises up within us, our spirits join him in saying the words of tender affection, "Beloved Father!" For the Holy Spirit makes God's fatherhood real to us as he whispers into our innermost being, "You are God's beloved child!"***

What can you deduce from these powerful verses? You have not received the "spirit of religious duty" that leads you to the fear of never being good enough but rather you have received the "Spirit of full acceptance" enfolding you into God's family. To be adopted into God's family, means that you are fully accepted and when you feel fully accepted, you will never feel orphaned again.

Your sonship is by adoption by God and it means you are fully accepted by God. He is never looking you over for faults! What a glorious revelation!

Study:

Ephesians 1:5-6, Rom 8:14-17

Ponderings

- Do you walk about knowing God fully accepts you or do you think like an orphan who has no parents?

Affirmation

Adoption by God is a privilege, an honour, a mighty gift. It comes from being in Christ, not from being human. God is my Father and He always will be. He will always love me as His dearly beloved child. And this love of God for me never fails.

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DAVIES K. BAMIGBOYE

on the call to sonship reality

Chapter 3

Of Sons, Daughters, and Slaves

The Spirit of God in the believer confirms the believer's sonship/daughtership. How does He do this? He cries "Abba Father". Gal 4:6 TPT says it this way: ***And so that we would know for sure that we are his true children, God released the Spirit of Sonship into our hearts—moving us to cry out intimately, "My Father! You're our true Father!"***

The word "Abba" is not a Greek word, but an Aramaic word transliterated into Greek letters. Abba is the Aramaic word for "father." It is also found in Mark 14:36 when Jesus used the same word to describe God when He was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is amazing that in the middle of the greatest temptations and challenges, Jesus continued to call God, "Abba". This is so profound. Jesus did not change His views of God or consider that God has forsaken Him whilst He was so close to being offered up as our sin sacrifice, but He remained resolute in His endearment of the Father. Abba is also a word used for devotion, a term of endearment for someone we are so fond of. This is the reason why some have concluded that Abba could be translated as "Daddy" or "Papa."

It is hard to imagine a closer relationship to have with God than to call him "Abba, our Beloved Father."

The Spirit of God in you shouts in you that God is your father – not in a predatorial manner, no! but in a loving filial relationship. Gal 4:7 TPT went on to say ***"Now we're no longer living like slaves under the law, but we enjoy being God's very own sons and daughters! And because we're his, we can access everything our Father has—for we are heirs of God through Jesus, the Messiah!*** Did you catch that? We are not to live like slaves under the law but we are to enjoy being God's very own sons and daughters. The implication of this is that we have access to EVERYTHING our Father has. We become heirs/heirss of God through Christ Jesus.

Son/Daughter Vs Slave

So, what is the difference between a son/daughter and a slave? Let's explore this text in Romans 8:14-17 TPT says ***The mature children of God are those who are moved by the impulses of the Holy Spirit. And you did not receive the "spirit of religious duty," leading you back into the fear of never being good enough. But you have received the "Spirit of full acceptance," enfolding you into the family of God. And you will never feel orphaned, for as he rises up within us, our spirits join him in saying the words of tender affection, "Beloved Father!" For the Holy Spirit makes God's fatherhood real to us as he whispers into our innermost being, "You are God's beloved child!"***

And since we are his true children, we qualify to share all his treasures, for indeed, we are heirs of God himself. And since we are joined to Christ, we also inherit all that he is and all that he has. We will experience being co-glorified with him provided that we accept his sufferings as our own.

So here we deduce that those who are sons and daughters of God are led by the spirit of God. In the TPT, the words ***"sons of God"*** are translated ***matured children of God***. What brings this maturity? A son of God is a matured child of God who is led by the Holy Spirit. This person is not into religious duty, is not led by fear and does not feel unworthy before God. A son or daughter of God feels fully accepted and knows that ALL that God is and all that God has belongs to him/her. Such a person shares in the glory of God. The major outstanding revelation to the sons and daughters of God is that they know that they are heirs/heiresses of God – not as a head knowledge but a heart awareness that permeates everything they do. These people are the ones referred to in Romans 8:19 TPT ***The entire universe is standing on tiptoe, yearning to see the unveiling of God's glorious sons and daughters!*** To embrace the mindset of sonship is God's greatest plan for you.

Rom 8:19KJV says ***"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God"***. The entire universe is waiting or groaning for the

manifestation of the sons and daughters of God who know their rights and privileges and who can demonstrate the glory of God. ***Your unveiling comes from knowing fully well your sonship/daughtership in Christ in God.***

Interestingly, the Greek word used for “unveiling” in Rom 8:19 is the word ***apokalypsis*** and it is the same word for the full title of the last book of the Bible, “The Revelation [Unveiling] of Jesus Christ.” The created universe is but the backdrop for the dramatic appearing of God’s sons and daughters unveiled with the glory of Jesus Christ upon them. The verb tense in the Greek text is clear that this “unveiling” is imminent, soon to happen, and destined to take place. Christ’s glory will come to us, enter us, fill us, envelop us, and then be revealed through us as partakers of the glory.

Although God will not share his glory with any other, but we are no longer “another,” for we are one with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through faith in Christ.

John 17:22 further buttresses this when Jesus said the glory He had, He has given to the believer. ***For the very glory you have given to me I have given them, so that they will be joined together as one and experience the same unity that we enjoy.*** In order to be joined with the Lord and be united with Him, you must share His glory. This glory He gave to you when you became born-again. As a son/daughter of God, you are the glory of God on earth. This statement has radical implications. It means that wherever you go, you should carry the consciousness of being God-like. Of victory. Of love. Of light. Of power. Of dominion. Of mercy. Of justice. Of righteousness. You are God’s Son/Daughter right now.

What is the predominant feature of the slavish mentality? Fear and performance-based sense of self-worth. It is the opposite of what a son/daughter feels. A believer with a servant mentality perceives God as tyrannical and judgemental. Such a person is led by fear and creates a mental gulf between himself and the love of God. They seek to perform in order to feel accepted by God. Listen - a servant has no access to the throne, but a child has a seat near the Father’s throne.

A slave has no sense of worth, but a child knows he/she is beloved. If you grow up with the “slave of God” mentality, you will feel unworthy before God. If you grow up with a Sonship mentality, you will know you have free access to God. God loves and delights in you as His child.

As a believer, you are not a servant of God but a child of God. Gal 3:26 AMP says it better: ***For you [who are born-again have been reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified and] are all children of God [set apart for His purpose with full rights and privileges] through faith in Christ Jesus.*** 1 John 3:1 TPT echoes the same thing: ***Look with wonder at the depth of the Father’s marvelous love that he has lavished on us! He has called us and made us his very own beloved children. The reason the world doesn’t recognize who we are is that they didn’t recognize him.***

God’s will and God’s plan is for you to be adopted as His child in Christ Jesus. This adoption was not a product of happenstance but a pleasurable intention, carefully planned by God from before He created the world. His intention is that such an adopted child (that is you as a born again Christian), will be seen as holy, loved, chosen and blameless before Him in love. This is what Eph 1:4-5 is trying to communicate.

When God looks at you, He sees the image of His dear Son through whom you have obtained your adoption into God’s family. The depth of what God has done for us in Jesus is so great and mind-blowing that if we deeply think about it, the only thing left is for us to throw up our hands in rapturous praise to God, the Father.

You are blameless and holy before God.

To practicalise this truth, here is an exercise you can do. When you wake up in the morning, use your imagination to see yourself in the throne room of God. Now, imagine God is sitting on His throne, smiling at you, as you say “Good Morning, Dad”. This exercise alone can change your paradigm if you dare to do it.

John 1:12-13 TPT says: ***But those who embraced him and took hold of his name were given authority to become the children of God! He was not born by the joining of human parents or from natural means, or by a man’s desire, but he was born of God.*** This is a powerful scripture and allow me to unpack it for you. To take hold of the name of Jesus really means ***to believe all that He represents and put into practice what He taught in the power of His name.*** So, once you believe in Jesus, you

are given the rights and privileges of being a child of God. Your birth into God's family is not on the basis of natural conception. This is the reason why you can believe God that your lineage changed the day you gave your life to Jesus. In the natural, Jones may be your family name but in God's eyes, your family name changed. In the realm of the spirit, you are now to be addressed as Prince/Princess "so-and-so" of God. With this truth permeating your heart, you can trust God that no hereditary sickness, generational curse etc can ever operate in your life because you no longer belong to the natural lineage of things and you should from the time of your rebirth in Christ, perceives life from a spiritual standpoint.

Here are some salient truths that will change your life if you dare believe it:

- God didn't create you to be a slave. He had angels to do His bidding.
- God didn't create you to be an army. He had angels to fight His battles.
- God created you to be family.
- You are a son or daughter of God and you are not a servant.

(Gal 4:6) ***And so that we would know for sure that we are his true children, God released the Spirit of Sonship into our hearts—moving us to cry out intimately, "My Father! You're our true Father!"***

A person who thinks like a slave is never sure of his/her standing with Him. In Christ, you are God's child. Fully accepted and adopted into the family.

Study:

Ephesians Gal 4:6-7

Ponderings

- **If you truly believe that the God of the universe is your Abba, how would that change the way you relate to the world around you? How might that help overcome fear and anxiety about what tomorrow holds?**

Affirmation

I am God's son/daughter and not a slave. I am God's child and not a servant. I am in Him and not outside of Him. I am accepted by Him and never rejected. I am favoured by Him and never despised. I am eternally loved and never tolerated. I belong in my Father's family – the God of all universes. This is who I am

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on the call to sonship reality

Chapter 4

What can we learn from Jesus about sonship?

When man violated his relationship with God, he became sinful in nature. He lost the sense of family. He was no longer sustained by the sense of dignity and worth. Instead, he became driven by fear and lack. In his own religious mind, he could be no more than a slave to a holy and perfect God.

How was the relationship violated in the first place? Well, we take a journey back to the book of beginning in the book of Genesis. In Genesis Chapter 3 verse 1, Satan approached Eve in the Garden with a question engineered to create doubt in her mind – and it goes this way - ***“Can it really be that God has said, ‘You shall not eat from every tree of the garden’?”*** This question may appear harmless but allow me to unpack the ramifications. What Satan alluded to was this: **Is it really true that God said you shall not eat from the tree of the garden?** This gossipy conversation was created to dissociate Eve from the infallibility of the word of God and once Eve faltered in her assurance of what God has said and promised, then Satan was able to leverage on the situation to cause her to depart from the assurance inherent in the word of God.

Gen 3:2-5 explains how this scenario unfolded: ***The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit from the trees of the orchard; but concerning the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the orchard God said, ‘You must not eat from it, and you must not touch it, or else you will die.’” The serpent said to the woman, “Surely you will not die, for God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will open and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”***

Did you notice that the angle the devil used was the angle on sonship? In essence, he said – ***Look, God is lying to you. You won’t die. In fact, God knew you will be like Him, hence why He commanded you not to eat the fruit from the tree of life*** but the

irony of this sentence is that Adam and Eve were already like God since He (God) created them in His image and likeness according to Gen 1:26-27. They don't need to do anything more to become like God. By deceiving Adam and Eve to buy into the narrative of lack, Satan was able to overcome them.

If you are not resolute in your identity in Jesus and hold on to the same firmly, then you will be susceptible to manipulation and control. When Satan came to Jesus to tempt Him in Matthew chapter 4, it was His sonship with God that he attacked. When he came to Jesus asking questions, he was asking the wrong questions, just like he did for Eve, questions designed to lead Him to the wrong conclusions. He asked the same strategic questions that would cause people who are not firmly established in their sense of identity to reach the false feeling of lack.

“Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread’ ” (Matthew 4: 3). Satan did not refute the fact that Jesus was the Son of God. The CEB translation reads, ***“Since you are God’s Son.”...*** Then, what is so wrong with this question? Why didn't Jesus simply work a miracle to prove who He was? Satan, in his subtle mind game, was asking Jesus to prove His identity by His performance.

The need to perform to prove our identity in Jesus always comes from the sense of lack and when we yield to such a temptation, we are further driven into lack.

Had Jesus wavered in His sense of identity through relationship with God, had He followed the logic of the question, had He started asking Himself the wrong questions, He would have started down a path of works righteousness that would have led to His fall. **His life would have become consumed with proving His identity instead of living His identity.**

The main message the devil has for you—the message of all codependent teaching, the message of religion, the message that lies at the core of everything that has robbed the church of victory—is the charge, **“You are not who God says you are. Therefore you do not have what God says you have.”** It is this very idea that leads

us into desperate codependent behavior. It is this belief that alienates us, in our mind, from the life and promises of God that have been freely given to us in Jesus.

Going back to the temptation of Jesus, it is doubtful to think that there was a “physical devil” tempting Jesus. The temptations were probably thoughts in Jesus’ mind, seeking for Him to be reckless with His sonship. In your life too, temptations will come to you from your thoughts. This is the reason why the Bible admonishes us to take every thought captive to obey Christ. Of course, the question may not come to you in the same manner that it came to Jesus. For you, it may be presented in the form of what qualifies you for the blessings of God. For example, you may have thoughts like: “What is it that actually qualifies me for the promises of God? What qualifies me to go to heaven? What qualifies me to receive a miracle in my time of need? Why should God answer my prayers? Or, most importantly, why should God love me?”

After all, we reason, God could surely find fault with me! However, focusing on your faults automatically connects you to the sense of lack but focussing on the Gospel and its promises does the opposite by leading us away from the sense of lack. Colossians 1:21-22 remains one of my favourite scriptures: ***Even though you were once distant from him, living in the shadows of your evil thoughts and actions, he reconnected you back to himself. He released his supernatural peace to you through the sacrifice of his own body as the sin-payment on your behalf so that you would dwell in his presence. And now there is nothing between you and Father God, for he sees you as holy, flawless, and restored***

That scriptures says “you were once distant from Him” – that is statement of the past! Prior to being born again, you were distant from Him and when you were in that state, you lived (past tense) in the shadows of your evil thoughts and actions. In the old adamic nature of the unregenerated person, he/she thinks and acts evil because he/she is distant from God. That is the state you were, but you are no longer distant from God. Ephesians 2:13 TPT makes this very clear: ***Yet look at you now! Everything is new! Although you were once distant and far away from God, now you have been brought delightfully close to him through the sacred blood of Jesus—you have actually been united to Christ!*** Did you see that? You were once distant and far away from God, but NOW, you are delightfully close to Him. For me, this is just incredible!

The view of you now is that everything is new and you are actually united with Jesus Himself. You are woven into God and He is woven into your life. You have become inseparable from God. Christ, by His blood has reconnected you back to Himself! Why and how did He do this? Let's go back to Colossians 1:21-22: ... ***through the sacrifice of his own body as the sin-payment on your behalf so that you would dwell in his presence.*** Jesus became the sin sacrifice on your behalf. He died the death you ought to die. He paid the price for all your personal faults. He paid the price for all your inherited faults. He paid the price for your mistakes, your sins and the nature of sin you inherited from Adam. He paid it all – and the outcome? So that you will dwell in His presence.

As a believer, you dwell in the presence of God – all the time.

The Gospel always leads us away from the sense of lack that comes from personal fault. Since God is Holy, the only people that can dwell permanently in His presence are holy people, like Him – and that is precisely who you are. This is the reason why Colossians 1:22 says ***And now there is nothing between you and Father God, for he sees you as holy, flawless, and restored.*** Did you catch that? There is nothing between you and Father God. This means, there is no enmity between you and your Abba Father. Why is this possible you say? Well, because ***he sees you as holy, flawless, and restored.*** The Amplified Bible says you stand “faultless and irreproachable.” The New Living Translation says, “blameless... without a single fault.” The Young’s Literal Translation says, “holy, and unblemished, and unblameable before Himself”.

God’s view of us, in Christ, is drastically different than our view of ourselves.

God’s view connects us to wholeness and confidence. Our view connects us to fear and lack! Because we don’t see ourselves the way God sees us, our way of thinking and perception makes us to look at our faults and then juxtapose to that to the conditions of acceptance under the Old Covenant and we conclude that, “our faults have separated us from God.” If you look at this quote from the viewpoint of the New

Covenant, you hear a radical statement from God in Romans 8:38-39 which says **“nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus”**.

So now I live with the confidence that there is nothing in the universe with the power to separate us from God’s love. I’m convinced that his love will triumph over death, life’s troubles, fallen angels, or dark rulers in the heavens. There is nothing in our present or future circumstances that can weaken his love. There is no power above us or beneath us—no power that could ever be found in the universe that can distance us from God’s passionate love, which is lavished upon us through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One! (Romans 8: 38–39).

Let’s look at another scripture to hang this view on in the Old Covenant and then juxtapose that view against God’s view under the New Covenant. By doing this, we should be able to see the radical difference between the ways of the Old versus that of the New.

Isaiah 59:1-3 (TPT) reads: ***Truly Yahweh’s arm is not too powerless to save you nor his ear too deaf to hear. Rather, your sinful deeds have built a barrier between you and your God. Your sins have made God turn his face from you so that he does not hear your prayers. For your hands are stained with blood and your fingers are dripping with the guilt of sin. Lies spill from your lips and your tongue mutters treachery.***

This scripture is saying that sins create a barrier between the people and God and such sins made God to turn His face away from them. The outcome of God’s stance against sin is that ***he does not hear their prayers!*** These people had the guilt of sin on their conscience. This scripture is saying that even though God is not powerless to save neither is His ears deaf to hear but they can’t get the best of God because their sinful deeds create barriers between them and God.

Now, consider with me God’s view under the New Covenant. Romans 8:38-39 TPT says: ***So now I live with the confidence that there is nothing in the universe with the power to separate us from God’s love. I’m convinced that his love will triumph over***

death, life's troubles, fallen angels, or dark rulers in the heavens. There is nothing in our present or future circumstances that can weaken his love. 39 There is no power above us or beneath us—no power that could ever be found in the universe that can distance us from God's passionate love, which is lavished upon us through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One! Did you see that? No THING in the universe has the power to be able to separate us from the love of God because God's love triumph over the power of death!

Allow the beauty unravelled by the following words to permeate and soothe your heart: **No power that could ever be found in the universe that can distance us from God's passionate love, which is lavished upon us through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One!** Whether that power is the power of sin or death or the grave. No, nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Hebrews 13:5 TPT says: **Don't be obsessed with money but live content with what you have, for you always have God's presence. For hasn't he promised you, "I will never leave you alone, never! And I will not loosen my grip[a] on your life!"**. This scripture is emphasizing a truth that is worthy of putting on a plaque to hang in your home and that truth is this: *you always have God's presence.*

You always have God's presence.

Even though you may not feel like you have His presence but Jesus is telling you that you do. He made a promise thus: **"I will never leave you alone, never! And I will not loosen my grip on your life!"**. The word "never" in this text is from the Greek word "ou-me", which is a double negative to show the strength of the promise made. Jesus in essence saying, **"I will certainly not leave you alone"**. There is no proof of conditional commitment here from our Lord. The Amplified Translation was more emphatic and it says, **"I will never [under any circumstances] desert you [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], nor will I forsake or let you down or relax My hold on you [assuredly not]!"**

You may feel like God has left you perhaps because of your past mistakes or challenges but God is saying the opposite to what your feelings are suggesting. In

Colossians 1:21, Apostle Paul said that wicked works had the power to make you feel alienated from God but that alienation is not real. It is only a feeling, even though it feels real! It is that sense of lack, although completely false, that drives an imaginary, emotional wedge between you and God.

Let's go back and revisit Jesus' temptation to draw some lessons. Jesus was hungry from fasting and He was tempted to give in to Satan's ploy. However, instead of creating a doctrine based on His circumstance, guess what He did? He went back to what the Word of God says. He did not assume that because He was hungry, God has abandoned Him. He did not give in to the Tempter's suggestion for Him to prove His Sonship by satisfying His hunger. Jesus rested in who He was as the Son of God.

The need to prove our sonship before God is a proof that we never believed we had it in the first place. When the sense of lack prevails in our lives, we feel like slaves and call God "Master." However, when the spirit of sonship prevails, we feel like sons and call God "Father." When we are connected to completeness, we have the sense of all our needs being met. When we are connected to a sense of slavery, we try to earn from God. However, a son/daughter does not need to earn his/her father's love and acceptance. They are his/hers by inheritance. We are sons and daughters and not slaves.

Gal 4:6 TPT says: ***And so that we would know for sure that we are his true children, God released the Spirit of Sonship into our hearts—moving us to cry out intimately, "My Father! You're our true Father!"*** Sonship is your blood-bought right. I encourage you to live it and exercise it. Remember that a son/daughter doesn't wonder about his/her standing in the family, it is the slave that has to prove his/her worth every day. A son/daughter doesn't have to earn the inheritance. It will become his/hers through the love and generosity of the father. A son/daughter knows that all the father has is his/hers, but a slave never owns anything and has no sense of security.

Under the new covenant, we are not slaves but children of God. Let's get rid of the slavish mentality and come and play with our Dearest Daddy. If we think like slaves, we can never be intimate with God.

Study:

Matthew 4:1-11, Genesis 3: 1-7

Ponderings

- When you compare the encounter of Jesus with Satan and the encounter of Eve with Satan, what primary lesson did you learn from the texts? How would the experiences help shape our paradigms going forward.

Affirmation

"I am a son, not a slave. I am free-born, not a servant. I have access to my Father's throne room. I have been adopted, accepted and I have confidence before my Father. No one can snatch me out of His hands. I am loved eternally, I am redeemed and set free from condemnation and guilt. I am in God, He is in me. My life is not controlled by the elements of life. I am victorious because My Father leads me in a perpetual parade of victory"

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DAVIES K. BAMIGBOYE

on the call to sonship reality

Chapter 5

Christ in you, the assurance of Sonship

We have discussed previously that sonship/daughtership is God's ultimate plan for the believer. This is what God desired and has achieved for every believer in Christ. We are already conformed to the image of Jesus Christ in our spirit. Let's look at Romans 8:29 TPT again - ***For he knew all about us before we were born and he destined us from the beginning to share the likeness of his Son. This means the Son is the oldest among a vast family of brothers and sisters who will become just like him.*** When you look at this scripture, there is 2-part realities of sonship here. The first is God's ultimate destiny for us to be made into the image of Jesus Christ which was completed at the New Birth, that is, when we gave our lives to Jesus. We are already conformed to His spiritual image because the spirit of Jesus lives in each one of us. That spiritual image is what we will always have for all eternity.

The second part of God's will is that Jesus, today, has become the elder brother of a ***vast family of brothers and sisters who will become just like him.*** This text suggests that there is a time in the future when we will still be like Jesus. If we are already like Him in the spirit, of what time should we still be like Him? 1 John 3:2 sheds more light on this: The Passion Translation reads, ***Beloved, we are God's children right now; however, it is not yet apparent what we will become. But we do know that when it is finally made visible, we will be just like him, for we will see him as he truly is.*** The Amplified Translation says, ***"Beloved, we are [even here and] now God's children; it is not yet disclosed (made clear) what we shall be [hereafter], but we know that when He comes and is manifested, we shall as God's children] resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is".*** The New English Translation reads, ***"Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that whenever it is revealed we will be like him, because we will see him just as he is".***

What this verse in different translation is saying is that even though it is the truth that we are God's children right now but what we shall be in the future has not yet been

revealed. One thing is certain though, that whenever Jesus should be revealed or made manifested at His 2nd coming, we shall be like Him. How can we be certain of this truth? Because the Bible says so! The Bible says that at Jesus' manifestation, we shall see Him, just as He is. This also means that every believer will really become more like God than they are now when this time comes.

The Greek word used to describe the appearing of Jesus is the word **phaneroō** and it means "to make clear, to be made visible," and it comes from the verb *phainō*, which means "to shine." John is saying we are not yet shining as we will one day but we will shine on that day when Jesus will appear or be made visible. Child of God, you are right now the reflection of God and you shall continue to be the reflection of God at Christ's coming. Dan 12:3 says this of that time: ***Those who are [spiritually] wise will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead many to righteousness, [will shine] like the stars forever and ever.***

We are both children of God and reflections of God.

Christ in you – the practicalities of Sonship

Whilst we wait for this future state, how should we live our lives now? Col 1:25-27 NLT says this: ***“God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you. This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God’s people. For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.”***

The Passion Translation says it this way: ***This is the very reason I’ve been made a minister by the authority of God and a servant to his body, so that in his detailed plan I would fully equip you with the Word of God. There is a divine mystery—a secret surprise that has been concealed from the world for generations, but now it’s being revealed, unfolded and manifested for every holy believer to experience. Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory! This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes a heavenly treasure***

chest of hope filled with the riches of glory for his people, and God wants everyone to know it!

There was a mystery that Apostle Paul was hard pressed to deliver. This mystery has been hidden for generations and at the appropriate time, God chose to reveal it but God used Paul as the one to share the message. This mystery was so important that Apostle Paul says it completes the word of God. This means without this mystery being revealed, the word or intention of God is not complete. So, what is this mystery? **Christ living in me is the hope of glory.**

The indwelling Christ in me is my confident expectation of the view, the perception of God. What is the view and perception of God? In Jer 29:11, God says ***“I know the thoughts that I have towards you, to give you a future and an expected end”***. The only way for me to confidently expect goodness as my reality is because of the indwelling Christ in me. In essence, because I am in Jesus or rather because He is in me, I should expect nothing short of glory in my life. I should have a positive attitude towards life. I should expect good to happen to me.

Now, since expectation determines reality, if I constantly expect good because I trust in the immutability of God’s word and His character, then it goes without saying that the outcome in my life will be vastly different. How do you know what you normally expect? Think of the first thought that comes to you when you want to make a business decision. Do you constantly look at how it won’t work instead of how it may work? Do you constantly live in fear or dread of what tomorrow holds? Then you are expecting evil. You are not aligning yourself with God’s views for your life.

Christ in me is the hope of glory and this truth makes me to expect goodness and mercies to follow me all the days of my life. Romans 8:10-11 NLT says ***“And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.”***

The practicalities of sonship is wrapped up in your right standing before God. As a son or daughter of God, God sees you as righteous as Himself. Eph 4:24 AMP says ***“and put on the new self [the regenerated and renewed nature], created in God’s image, [godlike] in the righteousness and holiness of the truth [living in a way that expresses to God your gratitude for your salvation].”*** Gal 6:15-16 says ***“It doesn’t matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a new creation. May God’s peace and mercy be upon all who live by this principle; they are the new people of God.”*** This says God’s peace and mercy are upon those who live by the principle of the new creation – the principle of sonship.

If you embrace sonship it means you have embraced the truth that Christ is now your life. Col 3:3-4, 10-11 sum it up: ***“for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ (who is your life) appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with him. And have been clothed with the new man that is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the one who created it. Here there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and in all.”***

If you believe at the heart level that Christ dwells in you then it will be easier to demonstrate love even to those who don’t deserve it. 1 John 4:12 says ***“No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God resides in us, and his love is perfected in us.”***

Christ in you is the Hope of Glory. This is the treasure that you have. This is the mystery of all mysteries. God wants you to know it. He wants you to appropriate it. He wants you to walk with its consciousness. Listen! God may use different people and things to deliver your good to you but no person or thing is your source.

Christ in you is your source. He is your life.

Study:

Col 1:27

Ponderings

- Now that you know that the Christ who lives in you is the One who gives you the confident expectation or assurance or hope of experiencing the glory of God, how would that help you approach life and God?

Affirmation

I have the right to feel good about myself because God is in me. Jesus lives in me. His Spirit lives in me forever. I expect God's goodness and God's mercies everyday of my life. I am a saint. I dare say it. I dare shout it. I dare claim it. I dare flaunt it. I dare boast about it. Hallelujah. Because the One who lives in me has overcome the evil one, then I can confidently say I am an overcomer too. Christ lives in me

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Davies Bamigboye is an award-winning Organisational Change Agent, trained at the University College London (UCL) and the University of Oxford. An entrepreneur whose impact reaches across India, Canada, UK, the USA and Africa.



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Further resources from Davies K Bamigboye (DKB)

- Fasting Negativity: 40 days to a toxic-free life
- Fasting Negativity Audio Coaching Programme
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