

*2 Peter 1:3-4 KJV*

*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: [4] Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

We began this meditation considering the great hope and the great and precious promises given to us. The call to divinity is a unique call given to all and administered by Christ Himself. The Christ office makes Jesus Divine and so He is the only one that can administer this call to the Divine life. The call to the divine life is the highest form of life, higher than the angelic, human, animal or plant life. We also established that Divine Nature involves both Divine life and Divine body. It is important to note that the call is to Divinity, not Deity. God alone will always be Deity and we will always be His children, now and forever.

## SONSHIP

This call is for Sons! The sonship message is something we must understand if we are to partake of this promise. A son minds the business of His Father. In *John 5:16*, Jesus called God Father. This was strange during His time, since no one else dared call God Father, not even Moses. The implication of this statement was that He was equal with God. This made the Jews angry. Israel knew that God is a Great King, *Deuteronomy 33:5*, and that a King ruled with His princes. They also knew that a prince has power with God, *Genesis 32:28*. A son has a right to sit with God on the throne, to rule.

However, there is an error noticed by the preacher in *Ecclesiastes 10:7*, where servants are on horses and Princes walk as servants. The reason for this is seen in *Galatians 4:1-3*. A son who is a child is no different from a servant, though he be lord of all. One characteristic of children is that they are easily carried away by rudiments and trends of the World. Sons think about the Kingdom and the throne they will inherit. They put this first over everything else. Servants will also have their place in the Kingdom, they are not condemned. However, they will not attain to the highest form of life. Jesus has given us His Spirit and so we can cry Abba Father. His job is bringing Many Sons to glory. Just as the Hope that was set before Jesus was His Joy, this Hope should become Joy within us.

We, however, cannot consider these things without speaking of resurrection of the dead, which is also our hope. There is no resurrection without death. Death is not limited to an event, but it is a process and

also a person, *Revelations 20:14*. So also resurrection is a person and a process, *John 11:25*. There are 2 kinds of death. In *Genesis 3:3*, God said the day Adam ate the fruit, He would die. In *Genesis 3:19*, God said “By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat **until** you return to the ground from which you were made.” Notice the Word “until”. The first death was when they were separate from God. The second death was when Adam died physically. Adam diminished every day till he became weak like a Spiritual Babe and He died physically. A child is born and as he identifies with Adam, he starts to die, until He receives Christ. The resurrection is happening now to all in Christ. *John 5:25-28* shows that resurrection happens to both those alive and dead (sinners) and those in the grave.

### THE RESURRECTION PROCESS

The terminal end of resurrection is life, likewise the terminal end of sin is death. There are three stages of Resurrection:

1. The Resurrection of the Spirit man at the New Birth (*Ephesians 2:5*): Right now, all who are in Christ have their Spirit revived and the divine nature is being worked into them. Your Spirit man was created in righteousness and true Holiness, *Ephesians 4:24*. However, it is still a baby. *1 Peter 2:2-4* says as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow. God has a program for the new man. A man that will come into the Divine nature will experience a Spiritual and Moral resurrection. Our Spirit will continue to grow, forever, into the endless dimensions of God. However, there is a program for the Spirit man. The Spiritual gifts seen in *1 Corinthians 12* are not attributes of the soul. They are gifts given to the Spirit man. However, these gifts are distributed across the body and not just to one individual.

In *Isaiah 11*, however, we see the Lord imparting Himself upon the Spirit man by Himself. This is the same Spirit of God that Jesus spoke of when He said in *Isaiah 61* and *Luke 4:18*, that the Spirit of the Lord is upon Him and has annointed Him. These expressions of the Spirit are the seven lamps of fire before the throne in *Revelations 4:3*. These are not selective like the Spiritual gifts. In *Acts 2:3*, this Spirit came upon the disciples, causing them to walk in Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might, Knowledge and the fear of the Lord. Divine Life is given to a Spirit that has gone through these dealings. A mature spirit is the difference between a believer who can see the brightest light in a vision and discern that it is an evil spirit and another that would think it is an angel of God. The growth of our Spirit is something we must take heed to and look up to God for.

2. **The resurrection of the Soul:** This deals with Character transformation and moral resurrection. The end of this is the resurrection of the soul. These are the things that need to be worked into the soul, as *2 Peter 1:4-6* shows: Virtue, knowledge, patience, brotherly kindness, etc. *Romans 12:2* instructs us to renew our minds, but to what truth? The truth in *Ephesians 4:22-24*, that we are recreated in righteousness and true holiness. *Romans 6* advises us to reckon ourselves dead. How do we do this? By minding the things of the Spirit. This is where the death to self message comes in. If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is alive because of righteousness. We need to, however, work out our salvation with fear and trembling. *Deuteronomy 34:21* says “Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in eaving time and in harvest thou shalt rest.” This means we rely on God throughout the entire process of our salvation, during the sowing and in the time of harvest. However, we work for six days. This is not dead works, but faith-based works. This means denying ungodliness and giving ourselves to prayers and the study of the Word. We would need to allow the fellowship (intimacy) of our Souls with our Spirit which produces the fruit of the Spirit.

## THE FIRST FRUITS.

There will be a raising up of all humanity. However, there are two branches of that raising up: the resurrection of the just and the resurrection of the unjust.

*1 Corinthians 15:22-24 KJV*

*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. [23] But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. [24] Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power*

These verses are noteworthy. Christ was not in Adam and so He did not die in Adam. So also, those who will be raised in Christ does not include Christ Himself, but the sort who died in Adam. The order of this “in-Christ” resurrection is first, Christ the first fruits and then those who are Christ’s at His Coming. *Jude 1:14* shows that Christ is coming with ten thousands of His saints. *Revelations 1:7* describes these saints as clouds. Paul shows the saints as well as clouds of witnesses in *Hebrew 12:1*.

In the popular story of the 10 virgins in *Matthew 25:1-5*, we see three categories of believers and not two. There are the Wise Virgins, the foolish and those who made the cry at midnight, the watchmen (those who heeded to Jesus’s call to watch in *Luke 12:35-37*). We are children of the day and should not be found asleep. Anyone who sleeps should be prepared to join the class of those who are Christ’s at His coming.

However, the first dominion is to the first fruits. This first fruits believers will harvest the rest of the bride. We see the glory of these first fruits again in *Revelations 14:1-5*. They are people who had a virgin heart towards the Lord. They followed the lamb wherever He went. They will be taught also, a song, that no man else can learn or sing.

*Luke 12:32 KJV*

*Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*

*The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your Spirit. Amen*