

Morning Nourishment

Rom. And we know that all things work together for good 8:28-29 to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers.

We have [divinity] by being regenerated in our spirit by the Spirit of Christ. Through incarnation Christ put humanity upon Himself and thereafter had two natures, the divine nature and the human nature. Through His resurrection and through coming into us as the Spirit, Christ has brought divinity into us. Therefore, we also have two natures, the human nature and the divine nature. By being born of the Spirit we have become partakers of the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4). We can say, "Lord, just as You have two natures, so we have two natures also. You are divine and human, and we are human and divine. Hallelujah, we are the same as You! Lord, You have our nature, and we have Yours.... You are the Head of the Body, and we are the members of the Body. Lord, You are the Son of God, and we are sons of God also." The Lord...enjoys it when we declare the fact that God no longer has just one Son...but many sons, Christ as the Firstborn and us as the many sons of God. Christ has already been designated the Son of God, but we are still in the process of designation. One day this process will be completed, and for eternity we shall be the same as Christ, God's firstborn Son. Romans 1:3 and 4 contain many key words. Verse 3 has the phrase "according to the flesh," and verse 4, the phrase "according to the Spirit." In 8:4 Paul speaks about walking "according to the spirit" and not "according to the flesh." This is one example of how the key words in 1:3 and 4 are used again by Paul later in this book. (*Life-study of Romans*, pp. 551-552)

Today's Reading

In the same principle, we are designated the sons of God by a change in life through the process of resurrection. The day is coming when we shall reach the stage of "full blossom." That will be the

time of the redemption, the glorification, of our body, which is the full sonship (Rom. 8:23). The life of the Son of God has been implanted into our spirit. Now we, like the carnation seed that is sown into the earth, must pass through the process of death and resurrection. This causes the outward man to be consumed, but it enables the inner life to grow, to develop, and, ultimately, to blossom. This is resurrection. Praise the Lord that we are daily being put to death so that we may share Christ's resurrection in a practical way. Hallelujah, we shall be designated sons of God by resurrection!

We are on the way of resurrection. Not only have we been grafted into Christ that we may have a vital union with Him in His death, but we also enjoy His resurrection. We all are presently in the process of being designated sons of God by means of resurrection.

In this process of resurrection there are four aspects: sanctification, transformation, conformation, and glorification. In 6:22 Paul says, "But now, having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life." Sanctification, the process of being made holy, brings us into the enjoyment of eternal life. Thus, the end, the issue, of sanctification is eternal life.

We all have the sense within that today our sonship is not yet full. However, it will get fuller and fuller until it reaches the peak at the time of our glorification, when we shall be fully resurrected and designated the sons of God in nature and in appearance. Both in name and in reality we shall be the sons of God in spirit, in soul, and in body. Just as a carnation seed grows from a seed into a full-grown blossoming plant, so we shall be processed through resurrection until we are fully glorified and designated as the many sons of God. We are now in the process of resurrection so that we may be sanctified, transformed, conformed, and glorified. This process will go on until we are sons of God in full. This is the central aim of the gospel. (*Life-study of Romans*, pp. 553-554, 556)

Further Reading: Life-study of Romans, msg. 52; *Life-study of 1 & 2 Chronicles*, msg. 7

Enlightenment and inspiration: _____
