



God's Goal In Me My Part

Last Sunday we studied Romans 8:29-30. We learned God's part in God's goal in me.

Romans 8:29-30

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

NKJV

- He predestines
- He calls
- He justifies
- He glorifies

This week let's learn our part.

How do I cooperate with what God has done and is doing in me?

When we receive Jesus, our spirit is born again; made new. The essence of who we are has changed. We are a new creation. We have a new nature.

In my mind I know that my sin is forgiven. This has a great impact on how I feel about God, myself, and others.

I am grateful for what Jesus has done for me. Because of my new nature, I want to live in a way that glorifies Jesus. I want others to see Jesus in me. But I am at war with the world, the flesh, and the devil.

To win this war, some things still need to change. My mind needs a lot of work. There are many things that I still believe about God, myself, and the way I should live that are wrong.

Because I have a new nature and the Holy Spirit lives within me, I do have spiritual discernment that I did not have before.

When I hear people talking about what they believe, I can sense when what they are saying is wrong, but I could not tell you why.

My mind has been programmed to think a certain way from my past experiences.

My emotions are still all over the place.

My behavior is erratic.

I am not sure about a lot of things other than my sins are forgiven.

God calls me a babe in Christ.

Hebrews 5:13

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

NKJV

God wants me to mature or grow up to become like Jesus.

This would be impossible if I was on my own. But I am not. God has given me His church to help me grow. God has promised to finish the work that He has begun in me.

Philippians 1:6

..being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

NKJV

He is going to use His church to complete it.

Matthew 16:18-19

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

NKJV

Matthew 18:15-20

15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

NKJV

Acts 2:41-47

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.
42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.
44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,
45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.
46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,
47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.
NKJV

How does the church help me grow?

The word church means called out ones. God's part is to call. The church is a gathering of those that have responded to the call. Church is not a building we go to or a service we attend.

Church is a gathering of the people that have responded to God's call. It is a gathering of those that have been predestined, called, justified, and glorified.

It is a gathering of two or more called out ones.

Matthew 18:20

20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."
NKJV

Acts 2:46-47

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,
47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.
NKJV

1. With the church I learn what it means to be like Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:1-2

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
NKJV

It is impossible for a painter to reproduce an image that he has never seen. I must learn what the image of Jesus looks like for His image to be reproduced in me. I cannot change into His likeness unless I know what changes I need to make.

God has given me His church to help me learn what it looks like to be like Jesus.

What does the church do that helps me learn what it means to be like Jesus?

[Acts 2:41-47](#)

41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

NKJV

The church provides the apostles doctrine, provides fellowship, provides the breaking of bread, and provides prayer.

My part is stay connected to His church. To stay connected to His Church, I must attend the gatherings.

[Hebrews 10:23-25](#)

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

NKJV

[Hebrews 3:12-14](#)

12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

NKJV

In the early church, there was no way for the people to hear the Word of God without attending church. As the apostles published new Words from God, there was no way for the people to hear those Words unless they gathered with the church.

1 Timothy 4:12-13

12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

NKJV

The primary way God reveals Jesus Christ to me is through His church. The church is where I see the Spirit and His Word at work. It is modeled for me.

As I gather with the church, I learn and I grow.

My part in God's goal in me is to learn through the church.

2. With the church, I live what I learn in the circumstances of my life.

Colossians 3:8-11

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

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

11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

NKJV

Life is a series of tests. There is only one way I can mature and that is through tests. It is during life's tests that I must put on what I have learned about the Lord Jesus Christ.

A basketball player can only grow so much in practice and running drills. A basketball player must play in games to take the next steps in his growth. A basketball player discovers a lot about himself in games that he cannot discover in practice. He learns his bad habits. Bad habits are hard to break. They are impossible to break if you do not know you have them. Games expose bad habits.

The best players watch film of their games. They see their errors and they learn what they need to do to correct them. There are not short cuts to being good. It takes perseverance.

Playing the game of life is critical to our growth spiritually. Failure is to be expected. We are all broken people. You cannot learn to walk without first learning to crawl. You cannot learn to walk without falling.

Church is a place to debrief with others about how we are playing the game of life. There is no film, but there is transparency. There is no coach, but God uses His church to coach me. As we hear the Word of God and confess our faults one to another, we live out what we are learning from one another.

My part in God's goal in me is living what I learn in the circumstances of life with the church.

3. With the church I lead others to be like Christ.

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
NKJV

Jesus made disciples. To be like Jesus, we must make disciples. You are deceiving yourself if you believe the lie that you can mature in Christ if you are not leading others to be like Jesus.

Hebrews 5:12-14

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

NKJV

We call leading others to maturity being a spiritual parent. The world calls it being a mentor.

Maturity in Christ=Spiritual Parent

I discovered something about spiritual growth when I took on this responsibility with the church. I discovered that God uses the process of leading others to be like Jesus to speed up the process in me. The more I focus my life on leading others to be like Jesus, the more I learn and grow into the likeness of Jesus.

Examples of this principal of success:

AA-sobriety

Bob Hoffman-basketball player

The devil has deceived the church into believing that members can become mature in Christ without becoming spiritual parents!

The devil has led many believers to divorce God's goal in them from leading others to be like Jesus!

The result is believers get stuck in immaturity. Others fall away. Not leading others to be like Christ is the main reason so many believers relapse into sin. There is great peril in not progressing and becoming a disciple that leads others to be like Jesus.

Not leading others to be like Christ is the main reason the church is not winning.

My part in God's goal in me is leading others to be like Jesus with the church.

4. With the church I must lean on God's power.

Acts 4:23-31

23 And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,

25 who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things?

26 The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.'

27 "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,

30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. NKJV

I cannot become like Jesus with just my new nature and my will power. The world, the flesh, and the devil are too powerful. I need the power of God to put off the old man and put on the new man. When I experience His power, I can walk in the Spirit. Nothing can stop me!

His power is available through prayer with His church. Our part is to surrender to His will and ask for His power with His church. Our part is to be transparent about our fears and pray with the church.

My part in God's goal in me is to lean on His power with the church.

To cooperate with God's goal in me...

- With His church, I must learn what He wants me to change
- With His church, I must live what I learn in the circumstances of life
- With His church, I must lead others to be like Christ
- With His church, I must lean on His power

Jesus has ordained that His church plays the most prominent role in helping me to become like Him.

- I learn with the church
- I live out what I learn with the church
- I lead others with the church
- I lean on God's power with the church

I am just one living stone that God is using to build up a spiritual house that honors Jesus. (1 Peter 2:4-5)

1 Peter 2:4-5

4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

NKJV

God has worked in us and is at work in us to make us like Christ with His church. He wants to transform us!

Wouldn't it be incredible if the church did not have to use gifted communicators and professional praise bands to attract people to its gatherings?

What if those that God was calling to Himself were drawn to our gatherings because they saw Jesus in us and they experienced Jesus when they were with us!

Will you cooperate with God's goal in you?

Will you receive Jesus?

With the church, will you learn what it means to be like Christ?

With the church, will you live out what you learn?

With the church, will you lead others to be like Christ?

With the church, will you lean on His power?