



God's Goal In Me
God's Part!

God's goal is to conform His people into the image of Jesus Christ. We read nine texts last Sunday to confirm this truth. Here is one of the nine.

Romans 8:29

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.

Reaching this goal is a process. That process is called spiritual growth; maturing in Christ; adding to our faith; sanctification.

This process would be impossible without God doing His part.

A basketball player cannot score unless someone first passes him the ball.

A football player cannot catch a pass unless a quarterback first throws him the pass.

A soldier cannot fight a battle unless someone provides him with weapons.

A farmer cannot grow a crop without rain.

A plant cannot grow without the light of the sun.

To conform us into the image of Christ, God must do His part!

What is God's part?

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

1. He called

After the fall of mankind, mankind was totally depraved. The intent of his thoughts was on evil continually.

There was only one way for mankind to change His purpose. God would have to call them. God did.

God called mankind to His purpose through angels and prophets.

- This was true of Abraham.
- This was true of Moses.
- This was true of Samuel.

Through Jesus God has called mankind to His highest purpose.

Mankind could never experience God's goal in them unless God called them.

2. He justified

God's judgment for sin is death. Death is the loss of life. It includes the loss of both physical and spiritual life.

God's goal in mankind could not be fulfilled unless He satisfied His judgment.

To accomplish His goal, God would have to make people who are guilty, innocent. God would have to make people who were not worthy of life, worthy of life. The word justify means to render innocent.

There was only one way to accomplish this. It is called substitutionary atonement. Substitutionary atonement occurs when someone who is innocent bears the sentence of someone who is guilty. Because the sentence has been satisfied, those who are guilty are no longer condemned.

God was the only one who could provide a worthy substitute for the sin of mankind. Jesus is the Son of God and Son of Man. He bore the sentence of death.

Mankind could never experience God's goal in them unless God justified them.

3. He glorified

The word glorify means to render glorious. Glorious is a word that means worthy of honor; worthy of praise.

Being declared innocent does not make a man glorious.

God had to do something else to fulfill His goal in mankind. There was only one way to accomplish this.

He sent His Spirit to live in mankind.

[Acts 1:8](#)

[8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." NKJV](#)

He united His Spirit with the spirit of man.

Jesus called this a new birth or being born again.(John 3:3-7)

John 3:3-7

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

NKJV

Paul said this new birth makes a man a new creation.(2 Cor. 5:17)

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

NKJV

Peter said this new creation shares the nature of God.(2 Peter 1:4)

2 Peter 1:2-4

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,
3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

NKJV

The word nature means your inherent character or basic constitution; the essence of who you are.

What separates mankind from all other living creatures is that we are a tri-part being.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NKJV

Our being has three parts; spirit, soul, and body.

Our soul is our personality; our mind, will, and emotions. Our body is the material part of us through which we live. Our nature is found in our spirit, not in our soul or our body.

Before God sends the Holy Spirit to live in our spirit, our spirit is dead in transgressions and sins.

Ephesians 2:1-3

2 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

NKJV

It is our nature to sin. It is our nature to reject God. It is our nature to be selfish. It is our nature to use other people to satisfy our personal desires.

Being dead in our transgressions and sins, we can do to change our nature. We can modify our behavior for various reasons but we cannot change our nature.

When God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, our spirit is united with God's spirit and our nature is changed.

Ephesians 2:4-6

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
NKJV

We instantly share His nature.

Since God is holy, our nature is holy; since God is righteous, our nature is righteous; since God is love, our nature is to love God and others.

This is who we are. This is our basic constitution. This is what God sees!

This sharing of natures...

- Creates a fellowship between us and God.(1 Cor. 1:9)
 - Creates a fellowship between us and others that share His nature.(2 Cor. 8:4)
1. We know that we are a different species of human being.
 2. We know we are citizens of another kingdom.
 3. We know that this world and the people of this world are not our home.
 4. We want to be with God and with one another.

Becoming a Christian is not just adopting a new set of rules to live by.

Becoming a Christian is receiving God's Spirit and a new nature. This results in a change in who we are and the way we live.

It occurs because God glorifies us! He makes us worthy of honor and praise!

God's part to fulfill His goal in us is He calls us; He justifies us; He glorifies us!

He does this because He loves us!

For those of us that have received Jesus, I think these truths call for a celebration of God!

For those who have not, it calls for a decision. Will you receive Jesus?