

PERSONAL NOTES

The appointed hour has dawned for the manifest presence of God to move from hidden reality to visible expression, as His indwelling life rises within a prepared people and His glory begins to be revealed not merely in word, but in living embodiment.

Lecture 8: Sonship as a Divine Work of Grace

The Nature of Sonship

Sonship is not an achievement of human effort, nor a reward for spiritual ambition. It is as much a **creative act of God** as the new birth itself. Just as salvation is wrought by grace alone, so the manifestation of sons is accomplished by God according to His sovereign wisdom and appointed time.

Jesus saves us; **Christ empowers us**. The Lord does not merely forgive sin, He establishes His reign within. Where Christ rules without rival, the glory of God is inevitably revealed. Reign always precedes glory. The Kingdom is not earned by striving, **but revealed through yielded lives**.

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” 2 Cor. 3:17

Spirit, Soul, and Body

Scripture reveals man as a triune being: Every human being is a spirit, with a soul, living in a body.

- **The Spirit**

The spirit is the part of man that relates directly to the spiritual realm. At the new birth, the believer is joined to the Lord and becomes **one spirit with Him** (1 Cor. 6:17). Through regeneration, the spirit is made alive to God and receives Christ as the incorruptible Seed (John 1:12-13; 1 Peter 1:23).

The spirit contains three primary dimensions:

- **Intuition** – the inner knowing
- **Conscience** – the moral awareness
- **Fellowship** – the capacity for intimacy with God

This fellowship dimension lies dormant until awakened by grace and sustained by a hunger to know God above all else (Phil. 3:8-10).

- **The Soul**

The soul governs the mental and emotional life of man. It includes intellect, will, emotions, desires, talents, and personality. Though the spirit is instantly restored at regeneration, the soul undergoes **progressive renewal** through sanctification.

“Christ is being formed in you.” Gal. 4:19

This work requires submission to truth, discipline, and the transforming power of God’s Word (Heb. 4:12; James 1:21-25).

- **The Body**

The body is the vessel through which spiritual life is expressed in the natural realm. Scripture declares it to be **the temple of the Holy Spirit** (1 Cor. 6:19-20). It is not discarded, but redeemed.

Glorification is the unveiling of Christ through the body; when what has been formed inwardly becomes visibly expressed outwardly (Rom. 8:18-25; 1 Thess. 5:23).

The Old Way Must Go

Paul speaks with uncompromising clarity: *“Everything connected with the old way of life has to go.” Eph. 4:22-24, MSG.*

The life of Christ cannot be layered over the old nature. Self-rule must yield to Christ’s lordship. Sonship cannot be attained through self-effort, religious discipline, or moral striving. It is a **divine replacement**: His life for ours.

Righteousness is never achieved by the effort of faith, as though faith were a currency by which we purchase divine approval. Faith does not manufacture righteousness; **it receives** what God has already accomplished in and through Christ.

He alone stands as the Mediator between God and man, the Way by which reconciliation is secured and every promise finds its fulfillment. In Him, God has spoken an irrevocable “Yes” to all His eternal purposes. And just as righteousness cannot be earned, neither can sonship be produced by striving. It is not the reward of human exertion, but the outworking of divine grace in lives yielded to Christ.

Sonship and Divine Adoption

Paul writes: *“May blessing (praise, laudation, and eulogy) be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual (given by the Holy Spirit) blessing in the heavenly realm! Even as, in His love, He chose us, actually picked us out for Himself as His own, in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love. For He foreordained us (destined us, planned in love for us) to be adopted (revealed) as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will, because it pleased Him and was His kind intent.” Eph. 1:3-5, AMP.*

Adoption here does not imply distance or formality, but **public recognition of maturity**. The sons are those in whom Christ’s life has come to expression, not merely possession.

Even Paul, nearing the end of his ministry, spoke with humility: *“I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own,*

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I have come to understand that we were never designed to relate to a distant, abstract God, One known only in theory but not in encounter. We were created for communion, for a living fellowship that touches every faculty of our being.

The human heart was fashioned to behold, to perceive, to experience, so that what it truly encounters, it may love; and what it loves, it treasures; and what it treasures, it desires above all else.

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"One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. When You said, 'Seek My face,' my heart said to You, 'Your face, Lord, I will seek.'" Ps. 27:4, 8, NKJV.

Christ is alive in your spirit. Turn to Him and seek His face.

"As the deer longs for."

There is within me a longing that language can scarcely contain, a deep and unrelenting thirst for the manifest Presence of God to rest not only upon me, but to move through me and surround me. It is not a desire for experience alone, but for nearness, His nearness. As the psalmist confessed, so does my heart echo:

"My soul thirsts for the living God." Ps. 42:2a, NKJV.

yet; but one thing I do, it is my one aspiration: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the supreme and heavenly prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward. So let those of us who are spiritually mature and fullgrown have this mind and hold these convictions; and if in any respect you have a different attitude of mind, God will make that clear to you also. Only let us hold true to what we have already attained and walk and order our lives by that." Phil. 3:13-16, AMP.

This pressing is not anxious striving, but focused alignment with God's purpose.

The Longing for Fullness

Many believers labor faithfully in the **Pentecostal realm**, yet carry a deep inward longing for something more, the fullness of Tabernacles, where Christ is no longer merely experienced, but revealed. *"As He is, so are we in this world."* 1 John 4:17. This revelation cannot be forced. God's timetable is not altered by zeal or knowledge. Sonship will be manifested **according to His predetermined will**, and when it appears, the world will recognize it as divine intervention, not human achievement.

Beholding His Beauty

The pathway into maturity is not ambition, but adoration.

"One thing I have desired of the Lord... to behold the beauty of the Lord." Ps. 27:4

Sonship flows from intimacy. As the deer pants for water, so the soul that thirsts for God is drawn into deeper union (Ps. 42:2; 63:1-8).

Christ already lives in the believer's spirit. The call is not to attain Him, but to **turn toward Him**, to seek His face until His life governs every part of our being.

In the final reckoning, the manifestation of sonship will be no less a sovereign work of divine grace than the new birth itself. Just as we could not will ourselves into salvation, neither can we strive ourselves into revealed maturity. Sonship rests upon the finished accomplishment of Christ and unfolds according to the Father's appointed time. It is not accelerated by zeal, intensified by desire, nor secured by determination, even when the truth has been unveiled to us.

God moves according to His eternal counsel, and when He acts, the world will not mistake it for human achievement. It will be recognized as divine intervention, carrying eternal consequence and unmistakable authority. Until that hour, our posture is not impatience but longing.

Joy in the Fellowship of God

“O God, you are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You; in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.” Ps. 63:1-8, NKJV.

Summary

Lecture 8 reveals that sonship is not the product of human striving, but the sovereign work of God’s grace. Just as the new birth is entirely a divine act, so too is the manifestation of mature sons. Salvation restores us to relationship; sonship brings us into representation. Christ does not merely save us from sin, He establishes His reign within us. Where His Lordship is fully embraced, His glory is eventually revealed. Reign precedes manifestation; surrender precedes splendor.

The lecture further unfolds the triune nature of man, spirit, soul, and body, and God’s redemptive work in each dimension. The spirit is justified and made alive through union with Christ. The soul undergoes sanctification, a progressive renewal in which Christ is formed within us. The body awaits glorification, when the inward life of Christ becomes outwardly expressed. Thus, redemption is not partial but comprehensive, restoring the whole man to God’s original intention.

Central to this transformation is the putting away of the old life. The life governed by self, flesh, and independent will must give way to the life governed by Christ. This is not achieved through moral effort or religious discipline, but through yielding to the indwelling Lord. Righteousness is received by faith, not manufactured by performance. Sonship cannot be acquired through ambition; it unfolds as Christ settles fully into the heart and governs every faculty of our being.

The lecture also emphasizes that adoption as sons speaks not merely of belonging, but of revealed maturity. Though we are children of God by new birth, the public unveiling of sons awaits the completion of God’s work within us. Even Paul pressed forward toward this high calling, recognizing that maturity is progressive. The longing for fullness, the Feast of Tabernacles reality, marks those who understand that Pentecost experience, though glorious, is not the end of God’s purpose.

Finally, the path into manifest sonship is not frantic striving but intimate beholding. As we seek His face and thirst for His Presence, Christ is formed quietly yet powerfully within us.

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The manifestation of the sons of God will occur according to God’s appointed time, unmistakably divine and eternally consequential.

Until then, our posture is hunger, surrender, and faithful obedience, crying with the psalmist, *“My soul thirsts for the living God.”*

Study Questions

1. What is sonship according to Scripture?

2. Can sonship be achieved through effort?

3. What happens at the new birth?

4. What is sanctification concerned with?

5. What is glorification?

6. Why must the old nature be put off?

7. What does adoption as sons signify?

8. Why does Paul say he still presses on?

9. What role does intimacy play in sonship?

10. How will the sons of God be revealed?

Study Answers

1. A divine work of grace in which Christ is fully formed and revealed.
2. No, sonship is accomplished by God, not self-effort.
3. The spirit is restored and united with Christ.
4. The progressive restoration of the soul.
5. The manifestation of Christ through the body.
6. Because Christ's life cannot coexist with self-rule.
7. Public recognition of spiritual maturity.
8. Because maturity is progressive and purposeful.
9. It is the environment in which Christ is formed.
10. By divine intervention at God's appointed time.