



Scripture nugget - We are predestined to share God's glory

All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord Who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).

God confers on us the highest dignity as His sons and daughters through adoption in Christ. *But to those who did accept Him He gave power to become children of God (John 1:12).* Sonship of God is a free gift, made possible through the merits of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. It is impossible to earn this privilege. God did not confer this privilege on Adam and Eve, our first parents, when they were first created. However, many wonderful things happened to us when Jesus came to earth. It was Jesus Who teaches us to call God "Father" (cf. Matthew 6:9). Even when we are still sinners, Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters. *The Spirit Itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him (Romans 8:16-17).* The status of being children of God brings great dignity that we will only fully appreciate when we finally reach heaven when we will have perfect knowledge. This tremendous calling of God to be His beloved sons and daughters carries with it the responsibility of our appropriate response to such uplifting love. What is our response to God's great generosity? How should we behave and live lives that are reflective of the eternal truth that we are God's children? Are our lives radically different from that of non-believers or not much different?

From the very beginning even before we are born, God has good plans for us. *For we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them (Ephesians 2:10).* Besides the primary mission of our redemption, Christ's life on earth sets a good example of how we should live as children of the Most High. Christ shows us that the good works God planned for us to do (cf. Ephesians 2:10) is through the fulfillment of God's will. Like Christ, we must live to do God's will. *Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the One Who sent Me and to finish His work (John 4:34).* In the garden of Gethsemane before He was arrested, Jesus while sweating blood in agony, prayed three times to God the Father for strength to do His holy will. St Paul tells us that we must decide how to live our lives: either building up God's kingdom or our own agenda. He reminds us we are God's co-workers, God's building, God's field. What do we use to build on the foundation that is Jesus Christ? Do we use gold, silver and precious stones so that our work can glorify God or do we use wood, hay or straw so that our work will not withstand God's rigorous testing? (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:9-15).

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, open my eyes to the greatness of the hope to which I am called. Through Your merits and grace, I am of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own so that I may announce the praises of Him Who called me out of darkness into His wonderful light (cf. 1 Peter 2:9). Give me Your great, consuming love for God's will so that I strive not to be admired and esteemed by people but only to please You, my Lord and only Master. Thus, may I do everything for the glory of God, in union with You. Like You, may I live only to do God's will. Give me a fullness of Your Spirit so that I am given all the graces needed to live as a child of God would live in this passing world on pilgrimage to the eternal glory that You will share with me. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.