

The Children of God: Fantasy or Reality?

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“But as it is written,
eye hath not seen, nor
ear heard, neither have
entered into the heart
of man, the things
which God hath
prepared for them that
love Him, but God hath
revealed them unto us
by His Spirit; for the
Spirit searcheth all
things, yea the deep
things of God.”

(1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

minds of them which believe not,” but he also strives to blind the minds of them that do believe (2 Corinthians 4:4). The devil knows that if the faith and spiritual understanding of a Christian is shallow and restrained, then it is more likely that he will not endure until the end (read Matthew 24:13).

It is common to see many Christians proceeding through life with a defeatist attitude. This type of Christianity is not only loathsome and undesirable; it is also very dangerous. Any Christian who maintains a defeatist attitude is a powerful weapon in the hands of the enemy. When the unbelievers witness their defeatist lifestyles, they become discouraged to serve the Lord. On many occasions I have personally heard the unbelievers say, “If being a Christian means living a miserable life like Brother Vanquished or Sister Drudgery, then I would rather stay the way I am.”

Contrariwise, when the child of God understands and values the privilege of his calling and recognizes and utilizes the powerful weapons God has given to him, then he will never give the devil the satisfaction to see him defeated, no matter how intense his struggle or trial may be. This divine assurance is what inspired the Apostle Paul to exclaim: *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 8:37-39). Hallelujah!

My dear brethren in Christ, children of the Almighty God, think about the marvelous calling and the tremendous power our Heavenly Father has bestowed upon us. Now, lift up your head and shout the victory! Do not give up! Keep on marching! Keep on fighting! **THE LORD JESUS IS COMING SOON!** •

Introduction

God’s entire plan of creation—both physical and spiritual—is focused on Himself and on His children (read Colossians 1:16). Presently, the children of God appear as two separate people: Israel and the Jewish people, and the Church among the Gentiles. However, God declared that there will come a time when His children will no longer be two people but *“one fold”* (John 10:16). This fold, in its entirety, was identified to Daniel the prophet as *“the people of the saints of the Most High”* (Daniel 7:27).

God created all of humanity. He created each and every human being that has ever existed upon the face of the earth. Within the vastness of all creation and the immensity of humanity, it pleased God to place His children. However, God did not create His children, they were begotten of Him (read John 1:13 and 1 John 5:18).

The children of God were begotten of the Father in *“the beginning”* and were predetermined by Him to *“partake of flesh and blood”* (John 1:1, 1:13 and Hebrews 2:14). It is only through our sojourning here in this world that we can acquire a treasure that is inaccessible to the angels. In fact, the angels are *“ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation”* (Hebrews 1:14); the heirs of salvation are the children of God.

The treasure that solely the children of God can obtain in this world is spiritual maturity. This treasure is of great value to our Heavenly Father. It cannot be acquired by any other means except through the furnace of human trials and afflictions (read Isaiah 48:10 and 1 Peter 1:7). The children of God that obtain this treasure are those who will *“shine [in eternity] as the brightness of the firmament... and as the stars for ever and ever”* (Daniel 12:3).

Not many Christians truly understand the marvelous place that the children of God possess in the plans of the Eternal One. This prevailing ignorance is what has prompted me to write about this subject. The explanations presented in this book are for the benefit of my sincere and humble brethren who desire and seek instruction in order to gain a deeper understanding of God and of His Word.

The believer that comprehends the marvelous significance of being a child of God will be able to discernibly repeat the exclamation made by the Apostle Paul: *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”* (Romans 8:18). The Apostle John confirmed this marvelous truth when he said: *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure”* (1 John 3:2-3).

The Editor

power of the Word of God operate when the child of God verbally declares them. These weapons are altogether spiritual in nature.

The anointing oil is a visible and tangible operation. The Apostle James stated, *“Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him”* (James 5:14-15).

Since the anointing oil is entirely a physical act, it is easy to disregard it as something foolish and insignificant. However, this weapon of the children of God is completely the opposite. The anointing oil terrorizes the devil and his demons, and I am personally aware of this fact. Therefore, I have instructed the children of God to use this weapon in all conceivable circumstances and at all possible times in our all-out war with Satan and his demonic legions.

The power and utilization of the anointing oil is not restricted to the ministry. It is a weapon that applies to everyone *“that believes”* (Mark 16:17-18). In situations where a faithful minister is not accessible, the faithful believer can use this weapon within his family or friends. Does this seem strange? Is this too hard to believe? If you are a child of God, I encourage you to use the anointing oil as a weapon against the devil and his devices. I assure you, the results will amaze you.

Conclusion

My earnest prayer before God is that the anointing of His Holy Spirit confirms what He has inspired me to share in this book. The Lord knows better than anyone else that many of His children do not value or appreciate their privileged calling. The reason for this is because they ignore or disregard the declarations in His Word that speak of this marvelous subject. Not only does the devil labor tirelessly to *“blind the*

Toward the beginning of the Holy Book, the ancient story relates how the people of Israel were delivered out of bondage in Egypt by the blood of the Passover lamb (read Exodus 12:21-30). Toward the end of the Holy Book, it states that those who have overcome the enemy have done so *“by the blood of the Lamb”*. (Revelation 12:11).

THE WORD OF GOD

The world has received the Word of God by means of God’s chosen people, Israel. God has commanded His children to always honor and obey His Word (read Joshua 1:8). In his adulation of God’s Word, King David said, *“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”* (Psalm 119:105). The Lord Jesus said, *“The Words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life”* (John 6:63).

The Apostle Paul described the authority of the Scripture in this manner: *“For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12). The Word of God is *“the sword of the Spirit”* (Ephesians 6:17). It is *“the sword”* and *“the Spirit”* that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 2:8 and Revelation 2:16).

The Word of God is a powerful and tangible weapon of the children of God. With this weapon we can make battle and prevail in every aspect of our lives. At the conclusion of the Holy Book, it is written that the children of God *“have overcome him [the devil] by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the Word of their testimony”* (Revelation 12:11).

THE ANOINTING OIL

The gift of the Holy Spirit and the redeeming power of the Blood of the Lamb operate in the child of God by the Divine unction. The power in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the

The Ability to Appreciate

In order for us to appreciate something, we must first recognize its value. We cannot appreciate something that has no value in our minds. Therefore, the value of any one object is truly in the eye of the beholder. This is the perceptive worth each individual gives to that object. The proof of this fact is that the particular value an individual gives to a certain person, place or idea may be entirely different to someone else.

The difference in the valuation of an object is caused by various factors. One of the primary factors is ignorance. Someone who does not know the value of an object will have little or no esteem for it. Many times ignorance could be in a sincere person who unintentionally and without malice depreciates the worth of a valuable object.

No one can wrongly blame a three-year old child who is yet to distinguish the difference between a one-dollar bill and a one hundred-dollar bill. Obviously, the child cannot appreciate the value of the larger bill simply because the child does not yet have the mental maturity to do so. The same can be said concerning an individual who does not know the distinctive worth of precious metals in order to ascertain the value of a certain piece of jewelry.

By the sovereign will of the Creator, the marvelous human mind is the only “machine” capable of fully exercising the ability

of appreciation. This ability also exists in certain animals, albeit in moderate capacity. This capacity is greater in some animals than in others, and some are without it completely. For instance, a dog can demonstrate its appreciation for its master's care; however, a chicken cannot demonstrate this same appreciation.

As illustrative example, God uses the attachment of certain animals toward their masters when He grieves over the disobedience of His children: ***“Hear, O heavens, and give ear O earth; for the Lord hath spoken. I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me. The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib, but Israel doth not know, My people doth not consider”*** (Isaiah 1:2-3).

God gave the ox and the ass a limited ability to appreciate. However, man was made in the image of his Creator, and God empowered man with a mental capacity much more advanced than any other creature. This ability allows us to appreciate in the likeness of our Creator. This ability includes the limitless faculty to mentally process the numerous thoughts and ideas that come to us daily. Also, it allows us to distinguish the valued difference in objects or individuals that we encounter every day.

Neglecting the Greatest Privilege

There are many instances when our lack of appreciation for something or someone causes us no real harm. For example, it is unlikely that fatal consequences would result if the owner of an automobile does not properly appreciate the value of his vehicle. The worst that could happen is that he will end up spending more money to repair the vehicle or ultimately replace it sooner than he had anticipated. The same thing applies to a pair of shoes, a job and many other things. Although each of these items has their corresponding value, they would not cause us great harm if their worth were neglected. This could also apply to individual relationships in which close attachments are nonexistent.

However, the aforementioned does not apply to persons or

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The precious gift of the Holy Spirit is a promise of God to all of His children (John 14:26). The Lord confirmed this promise to His disciples before He ascended into heaven (Acts 1:8). He fulfilled this promise on the Jewish Festival of Pentecost. On this day, the Church was manifested in Jerusalem. The Lord poured out of His Holy Spirit upon His disciples during that day, and they spoke in other tongues as outward evidence of the power they had received (read Acts 2:1-4).

The supernatural power with which the Lord anointed His apostles and the early believers is the same power operating today among God's people. The Apostle Peter confirmed this truth when he said, ***“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call”*** (Acts 2:39). The Holy Spirit is a marvelous gift of power that each child of God needs to have in his arsenal of spiritual weapons. It is ***“the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory”*** (Ephesians 1:14).

THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

The cleansing and redeeming power of the Blood of Christ is yet another powerful weapon of the children of God. The Divine Blood that was shed by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary is the ***“one offering [by which] He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified”*** (Hebrews 10:14).

God Himself had established that ***“without shedding of blood there is no remission [of sins]”*** (Hebrews 9:22). Only the Blood of the Lamb of God is able to cleanse us from our sins (read John 1:29). The Blood of the Lamb which cleansed us when we first believed and were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ is the same Blood which every day ***“cleanseth us from all sin”*** (1 John 1:7).

weapons at his disposal with this defeatist attitude. And even when he does use these weapons, they are ineffective because the devil has managed to make him doubt in their power.

This is why it is critically important for the believer to thoroughly understand the marvelous significance of being a child of God. In order for the child of God to prevail in this conflict, it is vital for him to understand ***“the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.”*** If God has already revealed these ***“things”*** to us by His Spirit, then we have a sacred responsibility to share them with our brethren.

“The Weapons of our Warfare”

Only by knowing and understanding our calling as children of God will we be able to believe in the power our heavenly Father has given to us. Only then will we be able to effectively use the mighty spiritual weapons at our disposal. These supernatural weapons are the following:

THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS

The marvelous and exalted Name of the Lord Jesus is the Supreme Name of God. The Name of the Lord Jesus is ***“the Name which is above every name”*** (Philippians 2:9). God purposed that at the Name of the Lord Jesus ***“every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth”*** (Philippians 2:10). ***“Neither is their salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”*** (Acts 4:12).

Only by the exalted and marvelous Name of the Lord Jesus can we obtain the forgiveness of our sins (read Acts 2:38). Only by the Name of the Lord Jesus can we make our requests known to God (read John 14:12-14). By the Lord’s Name we can effect miracles, healing and wondrous works. Furthermore, by the Name of the Lord Jesus we have power over ***“the god of this world”*** and all the demons of hell (read Mark 16:17-20). The Holy Name of the Lord is the most powerful weapon of the children of God.

objects that have direct bearing in our lives, particularly our relationship with our loved ones. No husband could deny the serious harm he would bring to his marriage if he failed to appreciate the blessing of a loving and faithful wife. The same applies to a wife that does not appreciate her loving and faithful husband. This also includes children who do not appreciate the love and care of their parents and parents who take the love and obedience of their children for granted. The more meaningful the relationship is to us, the greater harm we cause ourselves when we do not properly appreciate it.

Now, if this applies to our human relationships where our strongest emotions are involved, how much more harm do we cause ourselves when we neglect our relationship with God. Concerning such careless appreciation, the Apostle Paul warningly exclaimed: ***“How shall we escape if we neglect such great salvation?”*** (Hebrews 2:3). It is quite easy to read the apostle’s admonition without realizing its profound implication. There have always been Christians who have taken the supreme privilege of being children of God for granted. In their carelessness, they do not realize the great danger in which they reside.

Many Christians do not properly appreciate their salvation because their love for the things of this world surpasses their love for God. However, there are many sincere Christians who do not properly appreciate what they have received from God simply because they do not truly understand the magnificence of their calling. And, the reason they do not understand this is because they have never received the proper instruction concerning this subject.

Naturally, it makes no sense for an unbeliever to obtain understanding of God’s promises for His elect and not to participate of them. In such a case this would be the greatest reproach an individual could suffer. Yet, it is even more severe for a Christian to lose his privilege as a child of God because he chose to neglect its value. The Word of God is filled with warnings concerning this type of negligence. Nevertheless, there are still many who do

not heed these warnings, and they will regretfully realize the severity of their error when it is too late (read Psalm 50:16-23).

The Children of God: The Greatest of all Callings

God made everything that is glorious for His children. The promises that God has conferred to His children are so marvelous and fantastic that it is impossible to understand them with the natural mind. These promises begin here in this world and continue on into eternity. The comprehension of these promises can only be obtained by God's revelation through His Holy Spirit. This is why the Apostle Paul stated: *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God"* (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).

The Apostle Peter referred to the promises God bestowed upon His children as *"exceeding great and precious promises"* (2 Peter 1:4). These promises are so incredibly marvelous that it is understandable why someone would question their validity as fantasy or reality. Even as the faithful believer increases in the understanding of these marvelous promises, it is still difficult to fully absorb their magnitude. With all the more reason, the understanding of these promises is unattainable for the careless believer who maintains a shallow Christian life.

As previously mentioned, to properly appreciate something it is necessary to understand its value. Our ability to designate the value of an object comes from the mind. In order for us to truly appreciate God's marvelous promises to His children, it is essential to understand them as clearly as possible. It is God's will for us to obtain this understanding through His Word and by His Holy Spirit.

God's promises are not for everyone. The Holy Scripture emphatically declares that God's promises are solely *"for them that*

have as children of God and utilize the tremendous power given to us by God, then we can never be defeated. Our victory is assured, because our trust is in our Supreme Leader who has made us *"partakers of the Divine Nature."*

Satan's Objective

Naturally, the devil—*"the father of lies"* (John 8:44)—will not cease in trying to deceive the children of God. He will use everything possible to tempt us to think negatively and defeated. Yet, this should not surprise us, because we know that this is specifically the function of *"the tempter"* (1 Thessalonians 3:5). If the devil attempted to do this with the Lord, with all the more reason he will attempt to do it with us (read Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 23:31).

The enemy's assault against God's children is incessant. His objective is to diminish in the mind of the believer the value of the supreme calling of the children of God. Because of this, the Lord has moved me to write about this subject so that I can help my brethren in Christ to properly recognize the marvelousness of our calling and the tremendous power connected with it.

The primary tactic of the devil is to deceive the child of God into believing that he is powerless. He floods his mind with every form of negativity. He pulls out all of his disadvantages, limitations, faults, weaknesses, temptations, so on and so forth. Once the devil has disabled the Christian with all these negative details, he then deceives him to act with a defeatist attitude. Thereupon, the enemy has succeeded in making the believer forget that as a child of God he cannot be defeated. As a result, the child of God does not use the power he holds as a child of God nor the spiritual

dren of God are and recognizes the power conferred to them by God, it is the devil. The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle John, stated: ***“In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother”*** (1 John 3:10). Precisely, it is in these fundamental and immutable conditions—love and righteousness—wherein resides the tremendous power of the children of God. It is these Godly virtues in us that cause Satan and his demons to tremble with fear.

To support this truth, I briefly describe an experience that occurred to me some time ago. In this unforgettable occurrence, the Lord delivered Satan into my hands. In the process of contending with the enemy as he had taken possession of a certain sister in Christ, among many witnesses, Satan directed these words to me: “Efraim Valverde, I hate all of you, but I fear a man who loves his brother and does righteousness.”

Love and righteousness are the fundamental conditions in the life of the true child of God. They correspond with the Apostle Paul’s figurative description of the Christian warrior. ***“Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”*** (Ephesians 6:13-18).

Being equipped with ***“all the armor of God,”*** the child of God cannot be defeated. Certainly, we are weakened on occasions and it might appear that the enemy is about to defeat us. However, as long as we properly appreciate the supreme privilege we

love Him.” Who are those that love God? Those who love God are His children. It is the greatest of all privileges is to be counted among the children of God. It is the privilege of all privileges! There is nothing in heaven, earth, in time, or eternity that can equal or surpass the calling of the children of God. There is nothing equivalent to the supreme honor and power granted to the special beings recognized as ***“the people of the saints of the Most High”*** (Daniel 7:27).

The Devil’s Devices

The devil has utilized many devices to cause the Christian to minimize the value of his calling. Religion is one of the devil’s most effective devices. Regardless of how strange this statement may seem, it is a fact that many Christians have removed their eyes from the Lord and placed them on their religion. These unwary Christians have placed their affection on what is visible, and consequently they have ceased in ***“seeing Him who is invisible”*** (Hebrew 11:27).

The aforementioned deception is prevalent in the Christian environment that surrounds us. On one hand we have a type of Christianity immersed in idolatry as a profound ignorance of God’s truths holds millions upon millions enslaved in deception and doctrines of error. By defending “their religion,” many of these ignorant so-called Christians feel justified to proceed in their sinful lifestyles. They do this because they disregard ***“the Scriptures and the power of God”*** (Matthew 22:29). On the other hand, and more particularly, we have Christians who claim to understand the Word of God, who claim to have been ***“born again,”*** and who claim to have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. From among these believers, there are even those who have received the revelation concerning the Oneness of God and have been baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. However, many of these same Christians continue placing their eyes on “their religion.” In doing so, they copy exactly what they denounce of an

idolatrous Christianity.

Numerous Christians give more importance to “their religion” and the exterior rules of their religious groups than to being a child of God. These unwary Christians deliberately ignore the following declaration from God’s Word: **“For the kingdom of God is not meat nor drink; but righteousness, peace and joy through the Holy Spirit”** (Romans 14:17). By placing greater importance on their religious systems, ceremonies, rituals, and traditions than to their spiritual values, they jeopardize losing the supreme privilege of being children of God.

Many Christians ignore the fact that religion is nothing more than an individual’s personal behavior as a result of his personal convictions. The Apostle James expressed this truth, when he said, **“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world”** (James 1:26-27). This Scripture clearly emphasizes that “religion” is an individual act. The apostle does not say “this group’s religion,” he says **“this man’s religion.”** The declaration is singular, not plural. Religion is not the conduct of a group; it is the conduct of the individual.

It is a proven fact that for every effect there is a cause. Religion is the effect caused by the personal beliefs and convictions of the individual. Concerning the true Christians, the **“pure religion,”** as described by James, is the effect caused by the indwelling of the Lord Jesus Christ in the life of His children.

Those who love the Lord and are obedient to His Word are they that have **“true religion.”** Every true child of God can make the words of the Apostle Paul his own: **“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me. And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me”** (Galatians 2:20).

lowship, sincerity, cleanliness, etc. (read Galatians 5:22-24).

Utilizing our Power as God’s Children

It is the will of our Heavenly Father for His children to use the power He has given us primarily so that we can overcome in the personal aspects of our lives. Subsequently, our Father wants us to utilize this power to deliver others from the oppressions of the devil. This is accomplished when we serve those who the Lord places in our path by whatever means possible.

The application of God’s power in His children is defined here in a progressive order, because it is possible to have outward “manifestations” and still be wrong in God’s eyes (read Matthew 7:22 and 2 Timothy 3:5). Nevertheless, the hypocrisy of those who live deceptively cannot annul God’s truth. The Lord Jesus Christ established this truth when He said: **“And these signs shall follow them that believe: In My Name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover”** (Mark 16:17-18).

From the beginning, it was God’s plan to place His children in this world where Satan—**“the god of this world”**—rules (2 Corinthians 4:4). However, God has equipped us with spiritual weapons to fight and overcome in the war against our enemy (read Revelation 12:11). God did not place us on the battlefield to fight with weak and limited human weapons. He has outfitted His army with tremendously powerful weapons. If we use these spiritual weapons, then our victory is guaranteed over all the powers of hell that assemble against us. The Lord Jesus Christ confirmed this victory when He said, **“And upon this Rock [the Lord Himself] I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”** (Matthew 16:18). And, **“In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”** (John 16:33).

If there is someone who definitely knows who the true chil-

thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

There are numerous portions of Scriptures that identify the spiritual authority God has given to His children. One of these is tremendously remarkable. In this Scripture, the Lord Himself says of His children: *“Is it not written in your Law, I said, ye are gods? If He called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken”* (John 10:34-35 and Psalm 82:6).

Through the understanding of the aforementioned declaration made by the Lord Jesus Christ, we discover a mystery that is humanly impossible to believe. This is the most marvelous truth in all of God’s creation. In illustration of this, we know that when an earthly king begets a son he forthwith becomes a prince. By inheritance, the prince acquires a unique and special position of authority. This also applies to the son of a wealthy man who inherits his father’s riches. In the spiritual realm, the inheritance of the children of the Most High is without comparison. This inheritance is not only measured in spiritual riches and treasures, but also authority and power.

Yet, despite the greatness of our calling as children of God, a common problem exists in the lives of many Christians. This problem consists of knowing and even speaking of the power given to us by God as only a theoretical assumption. In the same manner that many Christians sing about God’s love and despise their brethren, profess sincerity while persisting in hypocrisy, or preach humility but maintain arrogance, it is also easy to speak about the power of God and yet be empty of that power. Simply by living a life of appearance is sufficient proof that the power of God does not reside in that Christian.

The power of God is primarily given to us so that we can overcome the sinful desires of our flesh. This power then serves us to defeat the devil and all of his temptations. God’s power also enables us to remain steadfast in love, joy, peace, brotherly fel-

“Partakers of the Divine Nature”

By understanding the true meaning of religion, we can recognize that being a child of God implies something much more profound than what is commonly taught and believed. Certainly, the outward and visible aspects of this divine and mysterious operation in God’s children have their valid place and importance. For example, humility and repentance are indispensable attributes in the new believer. The external obedience of baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins is essential. Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit with the outward manifestation of speaking in other tongues is both glorious and necessary. Furthermore, a life of holiness and good works in the new believer is vital and precious in the eyes of God.

However, none of the aforementioned external acts could have ever taken place if the new believer had not already been made a *“partaker of the Divine Nature”* (2 Peter 1:4). Solely the mysterious hand of the Almighty can perform this glorious operation. The Apostle John declared this truth when he said, *“But as many as received Him [the Lord Jesus Christ], to them gave He power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on His Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”* (John 1:12-13).

The aforementioned Scripture, together with many others that expound upon this tremendous truth, enlightens us to the marvelous mysteries that relate to the human beings which the Eternal God calls His children. God did not create these human beings; they were *“begotten by God.”* They are superlatively special individuals who God identifies as *“gods”* (read Psalm 82:6 and John 10:34-35). They are extraordinary human beings whom God has commanded His angels to serve (read Hebrews 1:13-14).

When a child of God considers his privileged vocation as merely “religious,” then he minimizes his appreciation of the most valuable of all treasures. With this mentality, the believer reduces his supreme calling to common expressions such as:

“I’ve accepted Christ;” “I’ve been born again;” “I’ve been baptized;” “I belong to this or that church;” or “I don’t drink, smoke, or curse anymore.” In this manner, he unconsciously denigrates the marvelous treasure he occupies as a child of the Most High. The results of this negligent attitude are critical.

Logically, the Christian who does not properly understand the excellence of his calling will not appreciate it in the manner that he should. As a result, he will not be willing to pay the full price required of the Lord for his calling. This Christian is in constant danger of selling “*his birthright*” (Hebrews 12:16). For this reason, it is imperative for children of God to diligently search the Scriptures in order to understand as much as possible the special place we occupy before our Heavenly Father, before the celestial beings and before all of humanity.

“Born Again”

As I have previously mentioned, we—the children of God—were not created. We were “*begotten.*” As the children of God, we have become “*partakers of the Divine Nature*” (2 Peter 1:4). Naturally, as long as we are in this world partaking of “*flesh and blood*” (Hebrew 2:14), we are no different or better than the rest of humanity. However, “*the son of God*” within each one of us is the “*inner man*” that is not part of our humanity (read Romans 7:22, 2 Corinthians 4:16, Ephesians 3:16 and 1 Peter 3:4).

It is the “*inner man,*” the child of God, that has been “*born again*” (read John 3:3-7). This new birth is “*not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*” As humans, we inherit the genetics and nature of our parents. As children of God, we inherit the spiritual genetics and nature of our Heavenly Father. However, when each of us came into this world to partake of “*flesh and blood,*” we lost our divine nature. This divine nature was restored to us when we were “*born again.*” This tremendously fantastic and undeniable truth is what gives the children of God a unique place in all of creation. Even now, as

ter for them who shall be heirs of salvation” (Hebrews 1:14). It is not the angels but the children of God who will “*judge the angels*” (1 Corinthians 6:3). We will judge the fallen angels: the demons and “*spiritual wickedness in high places*” (Ephesians 6:12).

The Tremendous Power of the Children of God

Our understanding of the glorious things which await the children of God at the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ should fill our hearts with “*joy unspeakable and full of glory*” (1 Peter 1:8). However, let us not overlook that even “*now are we the sons of God.*” If we believe the marvelous things which await us in eternity, even without seeing them, then with all the more reason we should believe the marvelous things we already possess as the children of God. In particular manner, our Heavenly Father wants His children to be convinced of the authority He has already given to us over our enemy. This authority is given to us in His Name: the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ (read Mark 16:17).

To properly value the privilege of being a child of God, it is indispensable first to recognize the significance of this supreme calling. In like manner, it is essential to recognize the tremendous power we have as the children of God in order to effectively use it. Only then will we be able to victoriously fight against “*principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*” (Ephesians 6:12). “*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God for the pulling down of strongholds. Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every*

Then at the conclusion of these one thousand years, *“the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth and all the works that are therein shall be burned up... Nevertheless we [the children of God], according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness”* (2 Peter 3:10-13). Thereupon, *“there should be time no longer”* (Revelation 10:6). After *“those things that are shaken”* are removed, the children of God will fully occupy our special place in *“the kingdom that cannot be moved”* (read Hebrews 12:26-28). Presently, as God’s children, we are already a part of this *“Everlasting Kingdom”* (2 Peter 1:11).

In eternity, the children of God will be *“like Him.”* We will be *“clothed upon with our house which is from heaven”* (2 Corinthians 5:2). This is our glorified body that is fashioned in the likeness of God’s Glorious Body (read Isaiah 6:1, Daniel 7:9, Matthew 17:2 and Philippians 3:20-21).

In these marvelous *“spiritual bodies”* (1 Corinthians 15:44), we will function in perfect harmony with our already eternal minds. There is no obstacle that will impede these glorious bodies. They will not be subject to the laws of gravity, time, or distance. In these glorious bodies, we will be able to travel throughout eternity and endless space. Presently, this marvelous faculty is restricted only to our thoughts.

Upon obtaining this supreme state of glory, the children of God will assume their most excellent place in eternity: *“the bride, the Lamb’s wife”* (Revelation 21:9). This position is above everything else in the new creation, in *“the third heaven,”* and in *“paradise”* (read 2 Corinthians 12:2-4). It is a place secondary only to the Almighty God.

In eternity, the function of the children of God will be greater than that of the angels and all the other celestial beings. In fact, the angels are presently *“ministering spirits, sent forth to minis-*

“the people of the saints of the Most High,” we already sit *“in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”* (Ephesians 2:6).

I reiterate that God created the angels and all the other celestial beings. He also created the souls of all the rest of humanity who are not counted among His children. However, God did not make or create His children; they were *“begotten”* by Him.

The Lord Jesus Christ told Nicodemus that in order to see the Kingdom of God we must be *“born again,”* but *“not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”*. (John 3:3-7). The Lord did not mean that Nicodemus had to be born again in the process of human reproduction. He referred to the new birth as being made a *“partaker of the Divine Nature.”*

Nicodemus asked the Lord, *“How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”* Naturally, in order to do something “the second time” it requires that it be done “the first time.” Inasmuch as he had already been born of “flesh and blood” the “first time,” Nicodemus based his question on this rationale. However, the Lord told him that it was necessary to be *“born again,”* yet not of the flesh, but *“of the Spirit.”*

Based on the aforementioned observation, the Lord uses the term *“born again”* regarding the restoration of the *“Divine Nature”* in His children. This implies that we were begotten by God a “first time.” We were born of the Spirit “the first time” in the beginning of time.

The Apostle Paul confirms the aforementioned truth in the following Scriptures: *“For whom He [God] did foreknow [God’s children], He also did predestinate to be conformed to the Image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren”* (Romans 8:29). *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us [His children] with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that*

we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” (Ephesians 1:3-4).

As children of God, we recognize that the age of our human life is separate from the age of our “new life” in Christ. The age of our “new life” began when we were *“born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever”* (1 Peter 1:23). However, the Holy Scriptures declare that our age as children of God dates back to when we were “born of God the first time.”

Concerning the initial birth of the children of God, the Apostle Paul declared: *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself (the Lord Jesus Christ) likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil”* (Hebrews 2:14). This Scripture clearly points out that the children of God came to this world to partake of *“flesh and blood.”* This means that the children of God already existed before we came to this world.

Begotten in the Beginning

The Scripture says that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God, He is *“the Image of the Invisible God, the Firstborn of all creatures”* (Colossians 1:15). Of His Glorious Image, the Invisible Spirit says, *“Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee”* (Hebrews 1:5). This Divine Personage who is called the Son of God, is Himself *“the mystery of the Godliness”* (1 Timothy 3:16). He is the Visible Body of God in which *“dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily”* (Colossians 2:9). The Lord Jesus Christ is the *“Firstborn among many brethren,”* yet He is also *“the Everlasting Father”* (Isaiah 9:6).

This Marvelous Personage, identified by the Scriptures as the Son of God, is God Himself in His Glorious Body. This Glorious Body was the only manner by which God—the Invisible Spirit—could be seen by His children and all of His creation. This is why

is exactly what Martha alluded to when she spoke to the Lord concerning the death of her brother Lazarus (read John 11:20-26). It is the day in which *“the dead in Christ shall first rise”* (1 Thessalonians 4:16). They will resurrect first with incorruptible bodies. Then the children of God who remain alive until that day will also *“be changed”* into incorruptible bodies (1 Corinthians 15:52). What follows after this is the glorification of our incorruptible bodies into the likeness of the Lord’s Glorious Body. And, *“we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”* This marvelous promise for the children of God is something seemingly impossible to fathom with our limited human understanding.

On the *“day of the Lord,”* a glorious transformation will occur in the children of God. This divine metamorphosis is so marvelous that it is quite possible to read and even preach about it without fully grasping its magnitude. This marvelous occurrence will take place on *“that day”* (2 Timothy 4:8) when every faithful child of God will be glorified. Moreover, on that same day, all of creation *“will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God”* (Romans 8:19-22). On this day, our Lord Jesus Christ—the Almighty God (Matthew 28:18)—will be *“glorified in His saints.”*

The Children of God in Eternity

On the glorious day of the Lord, *“the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him”* (Daniel 7:27). On that day, the children of God will be made *“kings and priests, and we shall reign on the earth... with Christ a thousand years”* (Revelation 5:10 and 20:4).

This is the literal fulfillment of God’s promise to His people depicted in Psalm 47: *“He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet, He shall choose our inheritance for us.”* This promise is for both Israel and the Church, who will no longer be two people on that day but *“one fold”* (John 10:16).

“We Shall be Like Him”

The Apostle John emphatically tells the faithful children of God: ***“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is”*** (1 John 3:2). This declaration in itself is more than sufficient for us to understand and confirm the marvelousness of our calling.

Two separate realms are depicted in the aforementioned Scripture: time and eternity. The term ***“now”*** is used to indicate our present condition as children of God in this temporary world. The Scripture then states, ***“but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him.”*** The glorious appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ is the marvelous event that will usher the children of God into the realm of eternity. This marvelous day is ***“the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ”***. (Titus 2:13). It is the day in which the Lord ***“shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in them that believe”***. (2 Thessalonians 1:10).

Upon entering the realm of eternity, the first things the children of God will experience are the marvelous events connected with the promise of the resurrection. This is the awesome operation that was first promised by God to His people Israel. The Almighty declared through Ezekiel the prophet: ***“Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O My people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up out of your graves, and shall put My Spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land. Then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord”***. (Ezekiel 37:12-13).

The glorious operation of the resurrection of God’s children

the Lord Jesus stated, ***“No man hath seen God at any time; the Only Begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him”*** (John 1:18). The Lord then confirmed this marvelous truth when He told Philip, ***“He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father”*** (John 14:9).

The Son of God—the Visible Image of God—is the ***“Firstborn of all creation”*** and ***“the Beginning of the creation of God”*** (Revelation 3:14). In the same manner as God begat His Image in the beginning (read John 1:1), we—the children of God—were also begotten in the beginning and predestined to be ***“conformed to the Image of His Son”*** (Romans 8:29). Our divine origin did not begin with our earthly life.

As the children of God, we came into this world to be tried and afflicted in order to obtain the spiritual maturity required of us by our Father. However, in our participation of ***“flesh and blood,”*** our divine nature was defiled by sin and our original inheritance was lost. This is the reason why we must ***“be born again.”*** But in order that this new birth might occur, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Father Himself, ***“likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”*** (Hebrews 2:14-15).

The marvelous truth is that the origin of the children of God can be traced back to ***“the beginning.”*** Although our divine nature was lost in our participation of ***“flesh and blood,”*** it was redeemed to us when we were ***“born again.”*** We were transformed by God’s power and empowered to walk with Him. Only until then did each of us realize that we were the children of God. Notwithstanding, God already knew who we were before we accepted Him into our lives. He knew us ever since ***“the foundation of the world”*** (Matthew 25:34). This is why the Scripture says that, ***“the Lord added to the Church daily [and until the present] such as should be saved”*** (Acts 2:47).

Once the child of God properly understands the magnificent privilege of his calling, then he will be provoked to properly value and appreciate it. Contrariwise, if the child of God negligently disregards this privilege, he is in danger of losing it. The warning of the Holy Spirit is sufficiently clear: ***“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?”***

The choice is ours. There are two consequences whether we properly appreciate the privilege of being a child of God or not. The child of God that appreciates and values who he is after being tested here on earth and overcoming will return victoriously to his Father’s house. The child of God that loses his privileged calling because he neglected it will not return to the Father’s house.

“The Things Which God hath Prepared for Them that Love Him”

“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name; which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).

The aforementioned Scripture is well known to many Christians. However, a great majority of Christians do not truly understand the significance of this marvelous declaration as it speaks of the tremendous power God has given to His children. Inasmuch as many Christians do not properly value or appreciate the marvelous privilege of being children of God, they also disregard the tremendous power that our Heavenly Father has bestowed upon us. In spite of this negligence, the Word of God stands firm and immutable. The Lord Jesus Christ confirmed this when He said, ***“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away”*** (Matthew 24:35).

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul proclaimed, ***“But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath***

prepared for them that love Him.” These incredibly marvelous ***“things”*** that God has bestowed to ***“them that love Him”*** are what generate the question entitling this book: ***“Children of God: Fantasy or Reality?”*** These marvelous ***“things”*** are not for all of humanity, God has prepared them exclusively ***“for them that love Him”*** with all of their heart, with all their soul, and with all their mind (read Matthew 22:37). These ***“things”*** belong to them who obediently serve the Lord and ***“worship Him in spirit and in truth”*** (John 4:24). These marvelous promises are solely for God’s true and faithful children.

To understand, believe, and experience the awesome ***“things”*** which God has prepared for His children is not a privilege entitled to everyone. It is a privilege extended solely to those God has chosen to give this revelation. This privilege is not obtained by human ability or intellect. It is received only by divine revelation.

God’s promises to His children are so incredibly amazing that whosoever receives revelation to understand, believe, and experience them is liable to be perceived as insane, fanatic, or a dreamer who lives in a make-believe world. This derisive perception is expected from the unbelievers who do not know God and reject His Word. However, the greatest irony in this case is that the faithful child of God is also branded as a fanatic by Christians whose spiritual eyes remain closed to the marvelous truths explained in this book.

In one particular Biblical account, the Syrian army attempted to capture Elisha the prophet and managed to surround him in the city of Dothan. Elisha received revelation to see the glory of God, however, the spiritual eyes of his servant remained closed and great fear fell upon him. Elisha then told him, ***“Fear not, for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.”*** Then Elisha prayed, and said, ***“Lord, I pray Thee, open his eyes that he may see.”*** The Lord opened the eyes of the servant and he saw ***“the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha”*** (read 2 Kings 6:8-17).