

The Grapevine

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Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15

The Divine Nature

by Jack Northart

Man is born into this world as a two-fold being of body and soul. This man of body and soul is referred to in God's Word as a "natural man." The only avenues for this natural man of body and soul to learn anything are his five senses of seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching.

I Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The natural man of the five senses, no matter how intelligent, has never produced a civilization that he did not ruin, nor has he developed an educational system of philosophy and metaphysics that did not corrupt and destroy. The natural man cannot know God or understand the things of God because the things of the Spirit must be known spiritually.

Metaphysical and philosophical religions do not have and cannot offer eternal life. So the man of the five senses is left with his unworthiness, sin consciousness and an inferiority complex that spawns jealousy, bitterness and hatred. Man was never meant to be this way. God wanted champions. He wanted His own family, His own children. This is why before the foundations of the world, God conceived a new birth.

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

I Peter 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

To be born again is to have the spirit of God in Christ inside. Once born again, he is no longer a natural man of just body and soul, but has body, soul and spirit. He is now a child of God by birth, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible seed born within. How does one get born again and receive eternal life? Simply by doing the following verse.

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Rather than having the sentence of death upon us, we now can partake of all the blessings that has God showered down upon us as His children.

Ephesians 1:3,4

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us 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.**

A person who is born into an affluent family is sometimes referred to a "blue blood." His life is set with wealth and abundance as long as he lives because of his family's name and prestige. His inheritance has him set with everything he could possibly imagine. He is looked upon with great

admiration by many. Yet, if he goes through life simply as a natural man, he misses out on the greatest and largest inheritance that is available in the universe. He misses out on the greatest name and prestige that anyone could obtain.

Ephesians 1:11a

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance...

Galatians 4:6,7

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Romans 8:17

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

This wonderful inheritance is ours to enjoy. The great challenge for those who were once a natural man and are now a child of God by the new birth, is to recognize what it means to be His child and joint-heir with Christ.

II Peter 1:3,4

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

God has called us to glory and virtue. The word glory is the Greek word *doxa*, and it means "dignity and honor." Virtue is the Greek word *areté*, and it means "a superior excellence." This wonderful divine nature that God has placed within us is not something that we can grasp with our five senses, but we can look at these precious promises and gain a greater understanding of what it means to be His child. His very nature is now within us!

I John 3:1,2

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 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.

Colossians 1:12,13

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet [enabled us] to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [transferred] us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

The Word of God gives to every believer a deep sense of affection, love, self-esteem and responsibility, a deep reason for living and doing something satisfying and worthwhile. Just think of what a wonderful walk this can be for us as God's children, knowing that we are partakers of His divine nature.