

Abundant Life: Identity: Partakers of the Divine Nature

Faith gives us access to receive God's promises in Christ

Loved & Chosen in Christ

Ephesians 1:4-5 New Living Translation

4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

- Before Jesus performed any miracles, He was already a beloved Son.
- Before you came into the world and out of sin, you were already loved and chosen to share in God's divine nature in Christ.

5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

- "Knowing how bad I'd mess up in life, God still chose to adopt me and bring me to Himself."

Access to God's Power through Faith

1 Peter 1 New Living Translation

1 This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.[a] 2 God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace.

- "As a partaker of God's nature, I have been made holy by His Spirit."
- Because this was predetermined by Him, I obeyed the desire He put within me to receive the adoption, and by putting my faith in Him, I've been cleansed of all sin by the blood of Jesus!
- Is that good news? Something worth praising God about?

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation,

- What then is the great expectation we hold on to, forsaking everything else?

4 and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.

- How do we hold on to it?

5 And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

- How is God protecting you by His power until you receive your inheritance? Through faith!

6 So be truly glad.[b] There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.

- We must stay focused on our joy with the Lord so that we can endure many trials, for a little while.
- What are the trials for?

7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

- Why do we need trials? To show that our faith is genuine.
- Why does our faith need to be genuine? Because through our faith, God is protecting us by His power until we receive our salvation.
- The more faith = The more access to God's protecting power.
- Disciples on the boat = Don't you trust my power to protect you and deliver you to the other side! Jesus takes us to the other side!

8 You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. 9 The

reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls. 10 This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. 11 They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward. 12 They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.

A Call to Holy Living

13 So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.

- Just like there's a righteous self-love, there's a righteous self control.
- Righteous self-love = Surrendering yourself to the love of God
- Righteous self-control = Surrendering yourself to the control of God
- Romans 8:14 King James Version
For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

14 So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then.

- Unrighteous self-control= living to satisfy your own desires.
- Instead of being under the control of the Holy Spirit to please God alone.

15 But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. 16 For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." [c]

- We're partakers of His divine nature, because He is holy, we are holy.
- If we are surrendered to a Spirit who is Holy, our lives will be holy.
- 1 Corinthians 6:17 New Living Translation
But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

17 And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as "temporary residents." 18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from

your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. 20 God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.

- **Revelation 13:8 New Living Translation**

And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered before the world was made.[a]

21 Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory. 22 You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters.[d] Love each other deeply with all your heart.[e] 23 For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. 24 As the Scriptures say,

“People are like grass;

their beauty is like a flower in the field.

The grass withers and the flower fades.

25 But the word of the Lord remains forever.”[f]

And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.

Galatians 3:26-28 New Living Translation

26 For you are all children[a] of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.[b] 28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile,[c] slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-28 The Passion Translation

26 You have all become true children of God by faith in Jesus Christ!

27 Faith immersed you into Christ, and now you are covered and clothed with his life.

28 And we no longer see each other in our former state—Jew or non-Jew, rich or poor, male or female—because we're all one through our union with Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:3-10 New Living Translation

3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share (partake of) his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

10 So, dear brothers and sisters,[a] work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away.