

# SONSHIP---WHY?

---Ray Prinzing (Posted with the permission of the author)

**"Wherefore come ye out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord. And touch no unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be to you a Father, and ye shall be to Me sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. With these promises ringing in our ears, dear friends, let us keep clear of anything that smirches body or soul. Let us prove our reverence for God by consecrating ourselves to Him completely." [ 2 Cor. 6:17,18; 7:1, Phillips].**

Through the years the holy Spirit has revealed many precious truths to the out-called concerning their growth and development unto spiritual maturity. The various terms and phrases used, all denote the rich aspects of this calling. To some it has been revealed as "THE PATH OF THE OVERCOMER," while to others it is "RECEIVING HIS FULLNESS," or yet again, "GOING ON TO PERFECTION." There have been revelations on His Headship, His Kingship, His Central Supremacy in our lives, but for a generalized term the teachings have centered in what is called "SONSHIP."

There are a number of basic scriptures which have been used to convey the truth relative to sonship, and from thereon the dimensions have expanded and deepened as the holy Spirit has opened the understanding of the individual, and enriched each heart with increased light. God knows the heart of each person, and so He reveals the truth in a way that we can personally receive it. The terminology and forms of expression vary according to our own comprehension, but the undergirding principle and truth is the same. Thus various groups throughout the nation have received it in the way and language they could understand. There need be no condemnation one of another, if we learn to recognize the SPIRIT OF TRUTH which moves in the heart of the believer, we will find that once we have gone past the surface differences of words, it is the SAME SPIRIT WITHIN, and the real message which He is giving to His called out. In His own precious way the Spirit leads on, unfolding the path before us. For some, the first light on sonship began with a quickening of John 1:12, "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power (the right, or privilege) to become the sons of God." The word "BECOME" was the focal point of interest as the Spirit illuminated a whole new concept which heretofore was veiled from the eyes of the believer. To BECOME signifies the whole process of growth and development, from the time of receiving the Seed of Life, until the time one reaches maturity when our STATE OF BEING will reveal what we truly have become--- a mature son of God. Hence the ever timely admonition, "GROW in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." [2 Peter 3:18].

For others, the challenge of a deeper walk with God came when the Spirit began to quicken the truth of "That we might receive the adoption of sons." [Galatians 4:5]. The word "ADOPTION" actually coming from a Greek word that means "SON-PLACING," which again signifies that whole process of our spiritual development unto maturity.

Taken from the ancient Hebrew practice of "adoption," which was a set time chosen by the father, when his son having reached a responsible age and maturity, the father would take his son before the elders of the community, and there publicly proclaim this boy to now be his "SON," with the full rights and privileges of manhood. For, "I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father." Galatians 4:1,2].

Again, Romans 8:14-19 has become a rich treasure house of truth, revealing some weighty thoughts concerning the path of sonship. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received a spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 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. 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. For the earnest expectation of the creature WAITETH FOR THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD."

Receiving the Spirit of adoption, to be followed by all the training processes, learning obedience by the things we suffer, and yet reckoning that all these present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glories to follow. Ultimately we are to come to the hour when the Father pleases to manifest these "developed ones", placing them in the full position of sons.

Then there is another more symbolic and mystical passage which the Spirit uses to first open up the truth of sonship, this one found in Revelation 12: 5, "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up to God, and to His throne." This term "MAN-CHILD" again signifies the realm of spiritual maturity. It is not a state of "instant arrival," but includes the whole walk, progressing by degrees through the various qualifications. Death to self, with all of its purifying and cleansing process. Separation and discipline, as we are called out to be alone with God. Learning to worship, "in spirit and in truth." The vision holds steady, the goal is set before us, God shall have a people who are wholly yielded to Him, and He shall receive them unto Himself.

There is no need to rehearse all the ways God has spoken, nor could we begin to cover all the scriptures which the Lord has used to open the understanding of His people, as the Spirit revealed His call to a DEEPER LIFE, and a going on to divine fullness. From Genesis to Revelation, in every book there are new glimpses of this glorious message, passages which speak deep to the heart, clarifying the walk, expanding the vision, and, thank God, as the process continues we shall follow on to know Him more.

"Draw me, we will run after Thee. . ." [Song of Solomon 1:4]. We have not yet "arrived," nor would we claim to be something that our own STATE OF BEING cannot verify. We are what we are by the grace of God, and we are continually challenged to "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." [Philippians 3:14]. For,

"Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter former rain unto the earth." [Hosea 6:3].

Amid all the needful teachings of "going on to perfection," however, there is a challenging question which persists in presenting itself, WHY? What is the purpose of "bringing many sons unto glory?" [Hebrews 2:10]. We would receive all the truth which the Spirit would quicken on the subject, and we thrill to the portent of that which shall yet be revealed, and yet we cannot help but wonder if most people even begin to understand WHY God is bringing forth such a people.

We know there are personal benefits to be received, as we come into His fullness. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things: and I will be his God, and he shall be My son." [Revelation 21:7]. The personal inward cry of the heart shall be satisfied, every longing and desire that now burns within shall be met by His boundless grace, and we shall find our contentment in His pure reality.

But, while volumes could be written on the joys to be shared, as we receive of His life and glory, yet the question persists, ---why? Why receive all of this blessing, attaining unto the position and relationship of sonship? Certainly it is not to consume it upon our own lusts. James 3:4 already teaches us against such kind of self-gratification. "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your own lusts." If the believer ever qualifies for spiritual maturity, then certainly this flesh trait will have been purged out, and they will be filled with the love of God, and such love, Paul teaches, "seeketh not her own." [1 Corinthians 13:5].

While we examine some scriptures that help reveal THE PURPOSE OF SONSHIP, let it be briefly stated like this: the purpose of becoming part of that true spiritual remnant making up what is called "the first-fruits," is to help save and bless the rest of creation, being "laborers together with God." [1 Corinthians 3:9].

**"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order." [1 Cor. 15:22-23].**

God is apprehending vessels today, just as He has done in all previous generations, gathering unto Himself a remnant which shall make up HIS BODY, through whom He shall work in the restoration of all creation. As we approach the end of this age, and the time for the OUT-RESURRECTION, we rejoice in the truths which the Spirit has opened to our understanding. "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." [1 Thess. 4:15]. This word "prevent," from the Greek word "phthano" means, TO PRECEDE, or to come or be beforehand. God has gathered HIS HANDFUL from each generation, those whom, while they received not the fulfillment of the promises, yet "having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." [Heb. 11:13]. They walked a separated path, alone with God, in this world, but not of it, "of whom the world was not

worthy" [Heb. 11:38], and because their time of earthly sojourn was before THE APPOINTED TIME OF THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE, "these all died in faith." But, for them is reserved a place in the out-resurrection, and they shall come forth to stand in their lot on that appointed day. Those who are alive today shall not precede those who have thus "died in faith," but together, they and us, we shall form that mystical body through whom God shall work in the ages to come.

"And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided (margin, foreseen) some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." [Heb. 11:39,40]. Or, as Phillips translates this, "God had something better planned for our day, and it was not His plan that they should reach perfection without us."

That it is a privilege to live in "this day," we will not deny, for we shall see in our day some of the fulfillment of those things which God has promised. But it needs to be clearly understood by all, we are not any better than those who have gone on before us. Just because God has planned something better for our day, and just because we are permitted to live during the closing out period of this age, and the beginning of a new age, does not mean that we are better or greater than those who faithfully and diligently served God in their time. The "BETTERS" belong to God! HE is the One who foreknew the entire purpose of the ages, and provided that which shall be executed in each age. May God cleanse our hearts of any taint of "exaltedness" or "sense of superiority" because we are permitted to live in this generation. Indeed, may we humble ourselves before Him, and diligently seek that "God would count us worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of faith with power: that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in us, and we in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." [2 Thess. 1:11,12].

So we have it, God's composite body, made up of His chosen from each generation, climaxing, we trust, with this generation of our times. They shall all be brought into HIS FULLNESS, equipped with all the divine resources necessary for the carrying out of their commission. The many promises to be fulfilled IN THEM, and THROUGH THEM are many, we can only touch upon a few, beginning with Galatians 3:8. "In thee shall all nations be blessed." It was to Abraham and his seed that the promises were given. The remainder of the chapter goes on to explain that THIS SEED IS "CHRIST." Here again it must be pointed out that in the Greek text, where the identifying article "the" is missing, it is not referring to identity, but to quality. Since this is not given as THE Christ, it is not identifying it as the single personage of our Lord Jesus Christ, but speaks of that ANOINTED COMPANY all anointed with that same anointing Spirit as abode on Jesus. This is confirmed by the final verse of the chapter, when Paul says, "IF YE BE CHRIST'S (His anointed ones), then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." [Galatians 3: 29].

It is also significant that Paul immediately follows in his teaching, as noted in the next chapter, dealing with the calling of sonship, of its preparation process, and being born after the Spirit. It is this SEED, this anointed son company, the spiritual remnant of

natural Israel, through whom all nations of the earth shall be blessed. "I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and GIVE THEE for a covenant of the people, for a light of the nations; to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house." [Isaiah 42:6,7].

The purpose of going on to perfection, to be filled with all the fullness of God, is not that we may simply escape this world, take a glorified vacation in heaven, that Beautiful Isle of Somewhere, and twiddle our thumbs throughout the ages to come. Such an idea is utter nonsense, it is a shame to the very call and purpose of God upon our lives. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." [John 3:16,17].

It is unthinkable that God's purpose in sending His Son should fail. "He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till He have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for His law." [Isaiah 42:4].

The victory that was begun at Calvary shall be revealed in greater power and glory in the ages to come. Christ, and the entire body of which He is the Head, shall bring forth the restoration "of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." For so also it is written, "And saviors shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the Lord's." [Obadiah 21]. HE SHALL GIVE THEE FOR A COVENANT OF THE PEOPLE! God is bringing forth a new covenant, this one is not written upon tables of stone, but upon the fleshly tables of our hearts. Yes, and to receive this covenant is to BECOME THE COVENANT. The covenant shall be personified in a people given to the nations for their salvation.

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people: and they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins, and their iniquities will I remember no more." [Hebrews 8:10,12].

**What a covenant---salvation in full, deliverance from all the inherent mystery of iniquity. A cleansing from all unrighteousness, and HE WILL REMEMBER THEIR INIQUITY NO MORE.** That this characteristic is revealed in these who shall be given for a covenant to the people, is seen in 2 Corinthians 5: 18,19, "And hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, NOT IMPUTING THEIR TRESPASSES UNTO THEM: and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." Thank God for those unto whom the Lord is now committing the word of reconciliation! The word "committed" used here is given in the marginal reference to mean, "hath PUT IN US the word . . ." Praise God! He is putting it into the hearts of His sons, a word of reconciliation. NOT A WORD OF CONDEMNATION, not an imputing of sins, for He is remembering their iniquities no more, but He is drawing unto Himself a wayward creation and cleansing them, though it

shall require a "baptism of fire" for their purging. Certainly we have not qualified for the full position of sonship as yet, to become ONE SEED, the anointed body of Christ, if He is not putting into us this word of reconciliation. As long as we insist in moving under the old covenant, which the apostle Paul declared was "a ministration of death" and "a ministration of condemnation," [2 Cor. 3:7,9], we have not yet been made part of the NEW COVENANT which is to be given to the people.

It is easier now to see why it requires such a purging process, for the Lord to deliver us from all the nature of the flesh and the carnal mind. To cleanse us of that sectarian, selfish spirit, such as was in Jonah, who pouted and was displeased when God spared Nineveh; and such as was in the elder brother, who likewise was angry when his father received again the prodigal son. Yes, there is a real need within us to be cleansed thoroughly from every taint and particle of such a spirit--- that with a heart filled with His love we shall beseech men to be reconciled to God.

It is God's plan that His sons shall be "complete and proficient, well-fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work." [2 Timothy 3:17, Amplified]. All of creation is groaning, travailing in pain together until now, anxiously awaiting the hour when the sons of God shall come into their own. Why? Why fullness? "The hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God." [Romans 8:21, Philips].

**This is why the whole creation waits expectantly, and longs earnestly for God's sons to be made known -- waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship---because they shall in turn minister that freedom and victory unto all men. THE PURPOSE OF SONSHIP IS TO BECOME AN INSTRUMENT THROUGH WHICH THE LIFE OF GOD MIGHT BE MINISTERED UNTO ALL CREATION. "For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death . . . that God may be all in all." [ 1 Cor. 15:25, 26, 28].**

## HIS SONS

O, who art thou? this question raised  
Can leave the startled, puzzled, dazed

A son of earth in mortal form?  
A pilgrim wandering in the storm?

What now is thy identity?  
For be thou bondwoman or yet free?

Of noble fame of rich mans birth?  
Or yet of little worth.

All that I was I now am not.  
The former realms I have forgot.

But stripped of all the flesh's pride,  
I find my name is set aside.

Naught to declare, nor make its boast,  
But numbered with Gods hidden host.

From day to day I must decrease.  
And wait the time of His release.

A new life I shall have in Christ.  
Fruition of this lonely tryst.

For he who with the Christ has died  
Shall be in Him identified.

Who art thou? Ah, then none need ask,  
When God shall all His sons unmask.

He shall declare them for His own,  
Identify them with His throne.

---Ray Prinzing