

Becoming a Son or Daughter of God

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The first revelation which God gives to man is that He is the Lord our God and that there is none else. The second is that mankind is the object of God's never failing love. The entire universe and everything contained therein was and is created to bear witness of this ultimate truth. From the very beginning, God has desperately tried to share His love with all mankind by the His own voice, the voice of His servants, and through the power of the Holy Ghost. And yet, knowing that man would not hearken to His voice regardless of how much He loved them, God decided to *show* His love through His Only Begotten Son in hopes that the children of men would see the price of sin, which was demonstrated upon the cross, and turn unto Him.

The Lord Jesus left the glory of the realms of Heaven in order that He might go "throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the Kingdom of God,¹" which is the message of salvation to all those who will hear and see. For through the fall of man which came by their disobedience, the gift of eternal life was rendered dormant within the soul of every son of Adam, every daughter of Eve, and thus it was hidden from the children of men. God therefore sent His Son in order to give light and immortality to man through the Gospel. For how could mankind believe in God and His love without first receiving a witness, which witness was borne in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ our Lord? Although the world has not seen nor heard the things which God has prepared for them that love Him, the Spirit has testified of the Holy Messiah who took upon Himself the form of a servant that He might take our sins within His own body in the hope that we might see and that we might believe in the most unyielding fact of the universe. God is.

Becoming a Son or Daughter

Apostle Arthur Oakman once said, "Nobody is anybody until someone loves him." However, there is only one type of love which has the power to lift a man up out of himself and beyond their own faults and weaknesses, which is the pure love of God as demonstrated in the face of Jesus Christ. Therefore God has given the children of men the power to become His sons and daughters so that they might be spiritually begotten in His image and thus, through their testimony, no soul on earth would be without the witness of God's love. For all those who covenant with God have the power to receive the image of the Lord Jesus in their countenance. In so doing, there is no circumstance or situation in life in which the love of Christ cannot be made manifest by the power of the Spirit. This is the essence of endowment and the will of God so that all things might be gathered in one in Christ Jesus.

For all things to be gathered in one as a collective body, the individual soul must submit their will to the Master and learn to become a son who is true to God at all times. For those "who know their hearts are honest, and are broken, and their spirits contrite, and are willing to observe their covenants by sacrifice; yea, every sacrifice which I, the Lord, shall command, they are all accepted of me."² And to become a son by sacrifice, a man must be desirous to come into the fold of God, to take upon them the name of Christ, and to bear the burdens of others. For a son is willing to mourn with those who mourn, and comfort those who stand in need of comfort, as well as to stand as witnesses of God at all times, in all things, and in all places even until death. "Now I say unto you, If this be the desire of your hearts, what

¹ Luke 8:1

² DC 94:2f

have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord, as a witness before Him that ye have entered into a covenant with Him that ye will serve Him and keep His commandments, that He may pour out His Spirit more abundantly upon you?³”

The commandments of God are not to be kept with simple eye and lip service as those who profess to believe in Christ and yet follow after the precepts of the world, but as loving and obedient servants who do the will of God from the heart. In so doing God has promised the children of men that they will be filled with the Holy Ghost who has the power to reproduce the character of the Lord Jesus within their soul. For the greatest in the Kingdom, even Jesus the Christ, was not a servant in word only, but in deed and in truth. Jesus said, “I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me...For I can of mine own self do nothing; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father who hath sent me...And He that sent me is *with me*; the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please Him...Therefore doth my Father love me, *because* I lay down my life, that I might take it again.⁴”

The Lord Jesus Christ is the very image of the Perfect Son as He willingly surrendered Himself before the will of His Father, not for His own glory, but for God’s. Jesus did not lay down His life brashly, but with skill and with purpose. For Christ pleaded with the Father before the foundation of the world, saying, “I will be thy Son so that man might know with perfectness the pure love which thou hast for them and so that thou might be glorified on earth as in Heaven.” The image of God’s person was perfectly expressed in the incarnation of our Lord, who was the light of the world by bearing witness of the brightness of the glory of God, for Jesus submitted to the will of the Father because the Father was willing to surrender His Son into the hands of men so that we might have our own will. For in the creation of mankind, God willingly placed upon Himself a tremendous limitation that if man is to know the love of God and experience its joy, he must first be free to become an agent unto himself. Thus the Lord God Almighty has chosen to allow us to say yes or no to ourselves, to others, and to Him, and rather than violate our agency He has chosen to go to the cross. As witnessed in the life of Judas, if a son of man will betray the Son of God, the Father must allow our choice or else our agency is vain. “Woe unto the world because of offenses! For it must needs be that offense come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh!⁵”

John the Baptist testified of the Master, saying, “He who cometh from heaven is above all. And what He hath seen and heard, that He *testifieth*; and but few men receive His testimony. He who hath received His testimony, hath set to his seal that God is true. For He whom God hath sent, speaketh the *words of God*; for God giveth Him not the Spirit by measure, for He dwelleth *in Him*, even the *fullness*. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hands. And he who believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and shall receive of His fullness. But he who believeth not the Son, shall not receive of His fullness; for the wrath of God is upon him.⁶” The words that Jesus taught and the works which He performed were merely a reflection of the nature of His Father, who, although He is Alpha and Omega,

³ Mosiah 9:41

⁴ John 6:38, 5:31, 8:29, and 10:17

⁵ Matthew 18:6

⁶ John 3:32-36

sacrificed and surrendered all, even His Only Begotten Son, in hope that His creation might experience a joy without measure and without understanding, a joy that is only perfected through sacrifice.

It was for this purpose that the Lord Jesus surrendered His life to those wicked men whose greatest desire was to slay their God. And because they desired it, He hath done it. And yet Christ did not do so arbitrarily, but as a true servant and Son, Jesus laid down His life with a singleness of heart just as His Father had done before the world began when He gave His Only Begotten Son. “For, behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer, if they would repent; but if they would not repent, they must suffer even as I; which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit, and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink; nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men.”⁷

In order for mankind to truly take upon them the name of Christ and be endowed with the power of the Holy Spirit they must learn to submit and to be a son, to be a daughter. And to be a son or a daughter, man must first keep all the commandments, embrace the truth, and look upwards, or in other words man must sacrifice the rebel will which is the very essence of sin. For the children of men do not commit sin merely by using the tools of the world, but by exalting themselves “above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing *himself* that he is God.”⁸ Idolatry is the very nature of sin and it has no place within the heart of a son or daughter of God. To be a son means to submit to the Spirit of Truth who testifies that God is, that His ways are just, and that His thoughts are above mans’.

Sacrifice

However, how can a man learn to humble himself and to submit if he is not first willing to serve? Sacrifice therefore is the act of discovering oneself in the act of giving oneself. Sacrifice is learning that though a man might give away all that he has, even his life, he is not losing anything, but in truth he is gaining so much more, even a hundredfold. “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, or husband, yea and *his own life* also; or in other words, is *afraid* to lay down his life for my sake, cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.”⁹ There is perhaps nothing more precious in the eyes of God than life, and yet He forsook His own with the hope that mankind might desire to be holy even as He holy. For God cannot *make* a man be righteous, but in the face of so much charity He has the supreme hope that there will be some men who will yearn *to be* righteous and pure even as He is and discover that Christ is their own better-self growing up within them.

There is no guarantee that the love which God has so graciously given will ever be reflected back to Him, but yet the prophets have testified “Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of His understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth

⁷ DC 18:2h-j

⁸ 2 Thessalonians 2:4

⁹ Luke 14:26-27

strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; but they that will wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.¹⁰ The Lord God is the only one who knows the thoughts and intents of the heart of man, and thus, knowing the weaknesses of mankind, He has promised the Holy Ghost to those who will hunger and thirst after righteousness, for a son yearns to do those things which do please his father. In so doing, those whose eyes will wait upon the hand of the Lord as the eyes of a servant looks unto the hand of his master, will discover the power of the Spirit by which man is made free.

The liberty and freedom which can only come through the power of the Holy Ghost bestows upon mankind the ability to break the chains with which they are bound, both to themselves and to Satan. Thus captivity is lead captive as the children of men are no longer in bondage to the temptations of the devil but are instead captured by the enticings of the Holy Spirit of Promise. In so doing, the children of men will crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts and live in the Spirit of Christ, thus putting to death a rebel will and becoming a son. And if we are a son, then we are one in God.

Dearly beloved, let us cast off the world and the shroud which does so easily cloud our minds and look unto Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son, who is full of light and truth. For if we will open our hearts and receive the Gospel with gladness and with great joy through sacrifice and service, we will be spiritually begotten of the Father and receive of His fullness, even eternal life. Not for our sake only, but for the redemption of Zion, the Kingdom of God. We must therefore believe in the testimony of Jesus and be true unto God in all places and at all times, and if we will endure unto the end by the power of the Spirit, righteousness, peace, and joy will be added unto the sons and daughters of God in the Holy Ghost.

¹⁰ Isaiah 40:28-31