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IMAGE

The intent of God is that the image of Christ, the exact representation (Christ likeness) must be seen in believers. Christ is the visible representation and manifestation of the invisible God, the objective expression of the Divine nature, the face of God turned as it were toward the world, the exact likeness of the Father in all things except being the Father.

Coming to His image has several terms that are used to denote Christlikeness:

- (a) **To bear the image** (1Cor 15:49) "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."
- (b) **To conform to the image** (Rom 8:29) "For whom He foreknew, he also did predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."
- (c) **Formation of Christ** (Gal 4:19) "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you".
- (d) **Growth into Him** (Eph 4:15) "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ".
- (e) **According to the image of Him** (Col 3:9-11) "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; ¹⁰ And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: ¹¹Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all."
- (f) **Putting on the lord Jesus Christ** (Rom 13:14) "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."
- (g) **The perfect man** (Eph 4:13) "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"
- Col 1:28 "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."
- (h) **The measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ** (Eph 4:13) "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:"
- (i) **As he is so are we** (1Jn 4:17) "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world."

- **Positionally we are like Him on the earth.**

(j) **Think like God** (Phil 2:5) "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus"

DIE TO YOURSELF

Col.3:5-8 "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. ⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth."

1Cor 15:30-32 "And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? ³¹ I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. ³² If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage *is it* to me? If *the* dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"

DILIGENCE

Hebrew 6:10-12 "For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labour of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. ¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

- Diligence is constant and persistent effort and care taken with regard to an assignment or task.

WE MUST BE DELIGENT IN:

- 1. Well Doing** (Gal.6:9) "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."
- 2. Abounding In the Lord's Work** (1Cor.15:58) "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."
- 3. Service** (Heb.12:28) "therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we \mathbb{I} may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

ETERNAL LIFE

Eternal life indicates that it is *perpetual* life - it goes on and on and on, with no end.

- Eternal life begins the moment a person exercises faith in Christ. It is our current possession.
- John 3:36 says, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life." **Note that the believer "has" (present tense) this life.**

There are similar present-tense constructions in:

- "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." (John 5:24)
- "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life." (John 6:47)
- John puts it so simply: "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:11-12).

ENDURANCE

Heb 12:1 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"

- Cling to God in the face of trials and tribulations like Job, Abraham, Paul, Syrophenician woman.
 1. **Enduring Persecution:** "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved." (Mat 10:22)
 2. **Enduring Chastening:** "If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?" (Heb.12:7)
 3. **Enduring Temptation:** "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." (James 1:12)
 4. **Enduring Grief:** "For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully." (1Pet.2:19)

NEWNESS OF LIFE/NEW NATURE

Rom 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **newness of life**".

2Cor 5:17-18 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, **he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. ¹⁸ And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;"

1Pet.1:23 "having been born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,"

John 1:12-13 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God".

Col 2:6-10 "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: ⁷ Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. ⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. ⁹ For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. ¹⁰ And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power"

Gal 6:15-16 "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. ¹⁶ And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God."

- Christ is the newness of life – in Him we have received a new life and nature
- We are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- So our identity is Christ.

NAME OF THE LORD

Prov 18:10 "The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."

Phi.2:9-10 "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;"

Mark 16:17-18 "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ 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."

Jer.10:6 "Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might."

- We have the **Name of the Lord** – David said to Goliath "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But **I come to you in the name of the LORD** of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."
- We call upon the name of the Lord? (Gen 4:26) "And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then *men* began to call on the name of the LORD."
- Here, to call on the name of the Lord means that people began to gather for corporate worship and seeking the help of the Creator.
- When Abram entered Canaan, he camped between Ai and Bethel. There, "he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD" (Gen 12:8).
- To call on the name of the Lord is to approach Him in thanksgiving, worship, and petition, and in so doing proclaim the name of God.
- "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom10:13).
- To call upon the name of the Lord is a sign of knowing Him and a way of connecting to Him. There is a difference between knowing *about* God and knowing Him *personally*.
- When we call upon the name of the Lord, as a form of worship, we recognize our dependence upon Him.

TRUST IN THE LORD

Prov 3: 5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Ps 112:7 "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD."

- The words translated "trust" in the Bible literally mean "**a bold, confident, sure security or action based on that security.**"
- Trusting is believing in the promises of God in all circumstances, even in those where the evidence seems to be to the contrary.

INTIMACY WITH GOD

Acts 13:22 "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."

- They ministered to the Lord.
- "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded" (James 4:8).
- God will never draw near to those who do not draw near to Him, and the way we "draw near" is through righteousness.
- Jesus is, in fact, the model of intimacy with God because He and the Father are one (John 10:30), and no relationship can be closer than that oneness with the Father that Jesus experienced.
- His relationship with the Father was characterized by love and obedience.
- In love, Jesus came to earth to do His Father's will. He did nothing on His own, but in all things did the will of His Father (John 5:30).
- There can only be intimacy with God when we are in good fellowship with Him through obedience. Then we can know the joy and peace that comes from trusting Him and yielding to His will, just as Jesus did.

IMMORTALITY

1Cor.15:52-55 "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

2Tim.1:10 "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel".

2Cor.5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens".

- The Bible clearly teaches a continuing existence after death for all. For believers this will be deathless and imperishable, marked by that glory and honour that come from union with Christ.

TEMPERANCE

Rom.6:12 "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

- Temperance is moderation in thought, word, or action.
- Those who practice temperance are self-controlled and show restraint in their passions and behaviours.
- Temperance or self-control is one of the fruits the Holy Spirit brings when He indwells believers (Gal 5:22).
- It is impossible to live godly lives and please the Lord without self-control because our flesh wants only to please itself (Rom 7:21-25).
- Paul describes biblical temperance in (1Cor 9:27) "I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

YIELD TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

To yield to the Holy Spirit means to be led by the Spirit. (Acts 16:6-7) "Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. ⁷ After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them."

- Acts 13:2-4 "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. ³ And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. ⁴ So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus."
- To yield is to give something up or your own ideas and efforts, and put yourself in His hand.
- A person yielded to the Spirit will accede to the Spirit's will and submit to His authority. Scripture mentions walking in the Spirit—following His lead and living in cooperation with His plan.
- Examples of believers yielding to the Holy Spirit are found in the book of Acts. The believers gathered in a house in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost were there in obedience to the risen Lord's command to "stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

- As we yield to the Spirit, allowing Him full control of our lives, we will see the fruit of the Spirit being produced in us (Gal 5:22–23), and we can look forward to “a harvest of righteousness and peace” (Heb 12:11).