

*“In Christ”
We have received
a divine nature*



Compiled by
Robert C May
Copyright © 2014

We have received a divine nature

1. We have escaped the corruption of the world.
page 2
2. We have True knowledge of Him who called us.
page 4
3. We have all we need for life and godliness.
page 8
4. We have His precious and magnificent promises.
page 10
5. We have already received our divine nature.
page 11

*In Christ we have received a divine
nature*

'To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by the sinful nature.'

2 Peter 1:1-4

This faith like Peter's is only concerned with our God and saviour Jesus Christ as revealed to us in the Gospel of God; concerning the person and work of Jesus Christ in delivering us from the power of sin and its darkness into the light of the Kingdom of God.

When we turn to Christ Jesus, we don't just come to Him to get saved and receive forgiveness. We come to Him to escape the power of sin to destroy us so we can be born again into a new life in the spirit, so that we can walk in the presence of the light of God. We come so that we can have a new life with God in order to walk with Him.

We have escaped corruptions grip

Because of what God has done, we have escaped the ways of the world and the power of the darkness to control us. We didn't escape by ourselves; Jesus saved us by His divine power. He died that we might live. Jesus died to save us for another life. He died so we could have life with God in His Kingdom.

If we have escaped from corruption in the world of the sinful nature in ourselves, exactly what have we left behind?

The scripture shows us the deeds of the flesh we should leave behind. Some of these things include what many call the bad stuff: murderers, homosexuals, thieves, witchcraft, immorality,

idolatry, sorcery, drunkenness, heretics, and the lawless and rebellious.

But the deeds of the flesh also include what some say are just natural for man, they are, but they are naturally from the flesh and the darkness, and need to be put off.

They consist of conceit, pride, arrogance, abuse, disobedience, ungratefulness, a lack of self control, causing trouble, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, gossips, envy coarseness, bitterness, greed, slander, and lies, and coveting.

On top of these we might as well add impatience and unkindness, because we are told to love one another, and impatience and unkindness do not love. Because love is patient and kind, to act otherwise is to remain in the darkness. It's not the degree of sin which condemns us; it's the nature of the darkness which remains in us unchecked that kills us.

Because we have escaped the control of sin and darkness, we are to put to death these things of the

flesh which remain, if we are to live with Him in holiness and truth. We are free to live with God by His Divine Power through obedience. We need to choose to live according to God's expectations as His children who share in His divine life.

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Pet 1:5-7

We have true knowledge of Him

We have been born again and come into a close relationship with our Lord and God by the power of the Holy Spirit who will teach us.

It is not what we think we know that saves us. It isn't what we have learnt by our human effort that gives us salvation. It isn't about our opinion of

who God is and what He does that has any lasting value. God is truth and His truth sets us free.

It's easy to have hundreds of ideas or propositions we agree with about God. But knowing the proposition doesn't mean we know the truth about the reality of God with us.

Having a proposition is like having a marriage proposal with someone you think you know. But until you take the last step and say '*I do*' you are not married, because you don't really know someone unless you are joined together with them.

If what is written in the scriptures can be known by all in the world regardless of faith, then the revelation the Holy Spirit brings would be unnecessary, as if we could make our own way without Him. Life and godliness can only come through true knowledge, and true knowledge only comes by the power of the Spirit of God in Christ when we are joined with Him through faith and obedience.

Only the surrendered and repentant soul, who give their whole heart and will over to God in

obedience and love, can experience the reality of these facts in order to gain the understanding of a life lived with God.

True knowledge is about a growing awareness of the abiding presence of God in our heart. This knowledge gives us the assurance that He will fulfil all His precious and magnificent promises to us who love Him, because He lives within us.

True knowledge can only happen when there is a joining of our hearts and minds with the heart and mind of God. This is why the Lord placed so much emphasis on being born again and abiding in Him. Therefore true knowledge only comes to those who live in a humble and obedient relationship with our God and Saviour.

True knowledge only comes when we lay aside our knowledge so we can be taught by the Holy Spirit. Those who believe in Jesus can have true knowledge by the power of God's Spirit.

'Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which

things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.'
1 Cor 2:12-13

The true knowledge of God is God's gift of understanding by revelation of the Holy Spirit personally given to the obedient who trust in Him for everything in this life.

It isn't enough to have some knowledge about God. It isn't enough to have some religious experience. It isn't enough to be as good as you can be. It isn't even enough to go to Church. Unless we have turned away from doing things our way and surrendered to Him to live His way in all obedience, we cannot possibly know Him.

True knowledge begins with the knowledge of our own sinfulness, and this opens us up to the person and work of Jesus Christ for our deliverance into a new life of being changed into His image. The result of this miraculous change means we may walk with Him in newness of life as we are made to be holy in Him as He is holy. True knowledge enables us to understand all that our Father has

predetermined us to receive according to His glory and excellence. True knowledge inspires our hearts to love Him the way He loves us. True knowledge enables us to love others as He has loved us. True knowledge helps us realise we have all we need to walk before Him in holiness and truth as we work with Him to see His Kingdom made alive in the hearts and minds of all who walk on this earth.

*We have all we need for life and
godliness*

We don't have to create what we need for life and godliness, as if we are able to be all God calls us to be by ourselves. True knowledge of Him grants us all we need for life. We don't have to despair that God is asking too much of us, because *we have it all*, and He has done it for us. We just need to follow Jesus and His example.

This life *we have received* is the life born of God which is holy and godly. We therefore have God living with us and in us. Therefore we are able to be holy as He is holy.

There is never a time when God is not abiding in us if we obediently abide in Him by faith. There is never a time when God is caught by surprise, for He cares for us. There is never a time when God will not be able to show us a way out of the temptations we face which are common to all men. There is never a time when God is not in control of our lives so we can always trust in Him. He uses all things that come to us for our good as those who are called according to His purpose of being conformed into the image of His Son.

In any and every circumstance in our life, be it good or bad, God is in us by His Spirit and we are in Him; for He has promised not to leave us as orphans but to come to us. He will never leave us or forsake us; for He lives in us so we can live in Him. In every situation we face, grace and peace can be multiplied to us in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. If we are to grow more in our divine nature, we need to give up more of the old ways of the flesh, and understand that anything less than life according to that divine nature is in fact living in the darkness.

We have His magnificent promises

The precious and magnificent promises of God are all to do with removing us from the control of the devil and his darkness, so we can walk with God in the light in holiness and truth.

Jesus Christ completed the promises for us by dying for our sin on the cross and then by making us alive to God by giving us His divine nature and placing us under His control and dominion.

Here are a few of His promises.

- He promises salvation and forgiveness to all who believe in Jesus.
- He promises to deliver us from the power of sin to enslave us.
- He promises all God's children will receive His eternal life.
- He promises we will be brought into a relationship with Him.
- He promised His children will not walk in the darkness.
- He promised the Holy Spirit will teach us what we need to know.

We can believe His promises are His guarantee of help as we grow in true knowledge concerning our Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done for us. These promises are for our encouragement so that we can know our Father is working in us, doing all that is divinely possible in order to see us attain the full measure of the life of His Son Jesus.

We need to believe these promises are intended to strengthen us if we place our faith in God, because they are for our benefit as we walk in the darkness as children of the light. His precious promises are for our ultimate glory, for our Father has plans to build us up until we attain the fullness of life in Jesus Christ.

We must believe God, and stand by His word rather than allow our circumstances in the world to cause us to anxious and fearful.

We are partakers of the divine nature

Because of His promises we share in God's divine nature. Our Father has done all that is needed for us who believe in Jesus Christ so we can walk with Him according to His divine nature.

Those who believe in Christ have been made alive in their spirit and therefore are children of God. They now have His DNA as their own; they are able to reflect the life and the ways of our Father.

This life we have been given is life in the Spirit which only comes by the power of the Spirit of God to those who want to be free from the darkness and sin enough to surrender all to Him. Being born in His image is intended to make us like Him.

But we need to work out our salvation if we are to grow into Him. The problem we have is, while we have died with Him to self, not all of our self has died. The flesh, our old self, denies the divine life in us, because it does not want to die.

Being born of God means we must believe we have Christ living in us as we are transformed into the image of God's Son by the ongoing renewing of our mind, for the Christ life is now our life.

The only cure for our personal struggles and the darkness and ills of the world, is God's light and love which can be found in us as we live our

divine life by abiding in Christ Jesus our Lord as we obey Him. We have been saved so we can walk with God in the newness of His divine nature. This nature is holy and pure; it is immortal, eternal, glorious, and loves just like our Father loves.

We have received everything we need for life and godliness, so nothing should shake us on earth. When we remember who we are as a child made in His divine image and likeness, our life will be a message of love and hope to others and our testimony of Christ will be the power of God shining in the darkness of a needy world. Then we can live in peace.

Because He lives in us, we will love as He loves for we will do anything to please Him because we love Him. This love of His is the key to God's life for all those who follow Jesus Christ as Lord. We have died with Him so we may live in Him.

Abide in Him

We are partakers of the divine nature

