

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

Being Conformed

“For whom He did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be CONFORMED to the image of his Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren” (Rom. 8:29).

Dear beloved with hope in Christ Jesus, isn’t it unique in the inspiration of the word of God, as set forth by the dear apostle, as he penned the words “for whom He (God) did foreknow” proceeds the word “predestinate?” It would appear that God the Almighty creator of ALL things, foreknew his people before “predestinating” them to a position of CONFORMATION.

*God being unlimited and absolutely sovereign in all his determined purposes chose Israel **not because** they were the greatest in number, nor of any other reason, except He simply **had a divine LOVE for them in particular**. Therefore, in choosing these people to be the prize of his favor and grace, he predestined them to fulfill a determined purpose which is our example of His sovereign works in this New Covenant era.*

Abraham’s Seed:

*“And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abrahams seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Gala.3:29). What is this Abraham’s seed? “For the promise, that he (Abraham) should be the heir of the world, was **not to Abraham**, or to **his seed**, through the law, but through the righteousness of **faith**. For if they which be of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made on none effect: Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. Therefore it is of **faith**, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the **seed**; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the **faith** of Abraham; who is the father of us all” (Rom 4:13-16).*

We have seen many discussions of late on the subject of the “Eternal Vital Union” of God’s elect heritage, which is a deep and mysterious concept to many. I am not able to

enter into the depth of EVU teaching, as I am still accessing the totality of the subject matter, seeking divine guidance in my studies. But what I am attempting to focus on is the **SEED of Abraham, which is the FAITH of God's elect**. Abraham is referenced as the possessor of **two seeds, per the scripture**; one of the natural blood heritage, as indicated in II Corin.11:22, and the other, the **seed of faith** the gift of God by grace.

We who have been foreknown, predestinated, chosen, called, appointed and ordained as adopted heirs of God, have been blessed with the **seed faith of Abraham**. This same **seed** that Abraham was blessed with (by grace), is the same **seed** of faith of God's elect in this New Covenant dispensation. This same faith is that in which Jesus Christ is the Author and Finisher of, the same faith which is **"of" Christ**. This gift of grace called **"faith"** is of necessity to be found in the human creature to please God; for without it, it is impossible to please Him (Heb.11:6). This faith which is the same faith that was the seed of Abraham's ability to **believe God**, is the evidence of salvation's sovereign work. For, as Paul listed in the epistle to the church at Galatia, the **fruit(s)** of the Spirit; faith was among that list as being of the Spirit of God.

We which have been blessed with faith and hope to believe our sins are forgiven and that God has provided us an eternal home in the heaven above, have the blessed promise that we shall be **conformed to the image of God's dear Son**. Yes, this is a true thing in the translation of these mortal bodies into immortality, yet, **in time**, we are promised to be **conformed** to the likeness of Jesus Christ, as we are blessed to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ our Lord. I am persuaded of this as John recorded our Lord's word when he said, **"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth"** (John 17:17). The translated, preserved word of God is a **means** of a work of God in the believer as God gives revelation of the truth. This grace and knowledge of truth brings to light the enhanced evidences of one who is of God. Therefore, we are revealed more and more of the character and attributes of Christ our beloved redeemer. I am persuaded of an "imputed" sanctification through the person of Christ, as referenced in I Corin. 1:30.

Yet, I see an ongoing work of grace in the Child of God in spiritual wisdom and understanding. As I ask myself, "Do I love my brethren more today than when I first began? Is the gathered Church of God's people more precious than when I first began? Have I grown in desire to love the word of God more? Do I love the Christ, who sought me and bought me with his redeeming blood, more than when I first began? Is the attraction of this world's goods and influence growing less and less?"

Oh, dear brethren, that we might seek to make our "calling and election sure." I pray that others might **see Jesus in me!** And I pray for those of like faith, of the seed of Abraham, the Faith of Christ, that you, as well, will be observed more and more like Jesus in speech, demeanor and walk in this time world. For if it be so, it is **only because** Christ has worked this **conforming** operation in us as a witness of his power, grace, love and mercy for the ultimate glory of his praise.

For we are “Predestinated to be conformed to the image of Christ,” not in the very physical image, but in the spiritual “new man” wherein dwelleth righteousness. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained (predestinated) that we should walk in them” Eph. 2:10). “For He which hath begun that good work in us, shall (not try to) PERFORM it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6).

*This is my blessed hope! Christ shall do **all which he has promised.***

By Christ’s merits alone, apart from any of my own,

*Respectfully submitted,
April 19, 2009*