God's Plan: Restoring His Image in Man

To know what God's plan provides for, we need to look at the purpose the Lord had when He created man.

As we read Scripture, we can see that in His eternal plan God intended more than to create beings higher than the angels. His purpose was to make a being in whom His own nature would be revealed, a being made in His image and after His likeness. He created a being utterly different from anything He had created before. ("And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him." Genesis 1:26-27)

We can say with certainty that when God created man, He had a purpose completely different from His purpose for the angels, who were created to be servants. God determined to make brothers for the Lord Jesus, to fill His Kingdom with beings who would be like His Son. ("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." Romans 8:28-29)

What Man Is Capable Of

We have a soul and a spirit. God has given us the ability to think, to reason, to believe, to make decisions, to admire, to love and to choose. This is because He determined beforehand, in His plan, that we should be like Him.

But He did not stop at this likeness. God created us and gave us these abilities so that we would use them, and it is our responsibility to put them to good use, to work together with Him, so that we reach the stature He has set for us.

God's plan is not limited to a cheap salvation that consists only of repentance **(putting off the old man)** and the forgiveness of sins. It provides for **the restoring of God's image** in us **(putting on the new man)** and for bringing us "unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13)

This is the highest thing a human being can aspire to. ("Put on the new man, which after God is created." Ephesians 4:24)

The Perfection of God's Plan

The first man was deceived by Satan and his sin passed on to all, but that does not mean a mistake slipped into God's plan. Everything happened just as it was foreseen in this plan, laid down in eternity, which God worked out with great care down to the smallest detail.

God begins this work of restoring the image of Christ in a person at the moment of the new birth, and He has all the power He needs to bring us to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. ("Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will

perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6)

To illustrate this, think of how a car is built in a modern robotic factory. On the production line the manufacturer has a starting point where the first part is put in place. At the end of the process the finished car rolls out, worked on and finished down to the smallest detail.

It is the same in God's factory. He begins this work of restoring His image in man, and He completes it down to the smallest detail.

If man, whom God created, can finish what he starts, how much more can God! God has the finest factory there is, where He works together with every person who answers His call.

He gives us new birth and transforms us step by step into His image, until we reach the stature of His Son. ("But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18)

It is a perfect plan, drawn up with great precision, point by point, without missing even the smallest detail. What He begins, He brings to completion. ("Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:8)

Where God's Plan Leads

God's plan provides for the Lord Jesus to have many brothers who will be like Him. Everything that comes into our lives is ordained by God to work on our character until we come to resemble the Lord Jesus. ("All things work together for good to them that love God… to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28)

Our life on this earth, everything we do from morning till night, must be subordinate to this great project of God's. ("If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:1) If we do not do this, if we live this life in the flesh, just to enjoy it, then we have not really understood God's work in man, and we will settle for Satan's offer of a cheap salvation that consists only of the forgiveness of sins. ("Many walk… that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things." Philippians 3:18)

In His eternal plan, God decided to make us His sons, so that we would grow and reach the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. ("Now are we the sons of God… we know that, when he shall appear, **we shall be like him**." 1 John 3:1)

Examine Yourself

We warn those who do not search the Holy Scriptures carefully, who do not understand that they must reach this stature and are content with the forgiveness of sins alone: on that great day they will be in for a great surprise. For in the Kingdom of God, the Lord Jesus will have only brothers who resemble Him, who have prepared themselves and have reached the measure of

the stature of His fulness!

Many think this standard is too high for us, but this is our calling. The true God calls us to rise out of the corruption of this world and come to bear the image of Christ, because only then will we be able to dwell with Him.

This article is taken from the booklet Transformed into the Image of Christ – Pure Word (Unmodified Word) – Spiritual Revival Resources, available free online as a PDF.

Go to the next article: The Perfecting of Man in God's Plan – Pure Word (Unmodified Word) – Spiritual Revival Articles

---

Source: *God's Plan: Restoring His Image in Man* — Unmodified Word
unmodifiedword.com/articles/gods-plan-restoring-his-image-in-man