

Finding Me: *Discovering Who God Says I Am.* Pt 8

One final, but not ultimate, consideration of what God thinks about us as His saints, in Christ, who are chosen as beloved children, who have been redeemed and are now heirs and the enlightened of God is that we are His *masterpiece* (**Eph 2:10**). With God as the *artiste*, we have no other destiny than perfection.

And like every other artist, God has created us, fashioned us, crafted us, formed us in His mind, from His own heart, by His own hands. Collectively and individually, we, as believers, have been given a life that we are each, uniquely, purposed to live out, through Christ, by the enablement of the Holy Spirit, for God's glory and our good.

Although currently incomplete, He is working in us and on us to bring us to a state and status that is perfect in His mind according to His purpose for our lives. The difficulty for us is that the perfect life that we have idealized for ourselves may be vastly different from what God sees for us (**Prov 3:5-6**).

This brings us to the necessity of this entire study, discovering what He has determined for our lives so that we can work toward living out His plan over and, at times, against ours. There should be nothing more encouraging than knowing that God has created and is shaping our lives to be something that He thinks is a work of art.

The Greek word translated as workmanship is *poiema*, from which we get our English words *poem* and *poetry*. It means "something made" and can also be translated as *masterpiece*. In other words, we are God's supreme "work in progress" that will culminate in perfection.

*For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above – spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us] (**Eph 2:10 AMP**).*

There are essentially two ways that we can see ourselves. Either, diminished by a worldview, devoid of potential and without hope, that makes us dejected and 'sick of life'. Or, as a masterpiece in the making, with a far-reaching potential for excellence that gives hope, enthusiasm for life, and a desire for all that God has in store.

Prayerfully, the latter helps us see that we are created and being transformed to reflect God's perfection, even as seen in the image of Christ (**Col 1:15**). From the moment of our spiritual rebirth, the Holy Spirit dwells in us and begins to grow us to reflect Christ's nature (**2 Cor 3:18 CEB**).

We are the born-again, in-the-process-of-becoming-perfect children of God. God's plan for our lives is to lead us into this perfection, wholeness, completion, and fullness (**Mt 5:48; Phil 1:6; 2 Tim 3:16-17**). Our perfection is not something of our own doing or our own

achievement, we are His workmanship.

Yet, we are not relieved of our responsibility for participation in the process. If nothing else we are to remain pliable and shapeable in His hands (**Jer 18:1-6**). Difficult and painful as it may be, at times, it helps us to deepen our reliance on Him and grow in our relationship with Him.

Not only does God use trial and difficulty and painful experiences to remake us, but also to remove impurities so that we might better reflect His perfect nature (**Mal 3:3; Jn 15:2; 1 Ptr 1:6-7**). Even as a result of the trouble that we have that is of our own doing, God always intends to renew, restore, and reestablish us for His purpose (**Zech 3:1-5**).

God's intention is to be able to present us, as His work of art, to the world and those who need to see His handiwork. If the creation does, how much more should we in His image (**Ps 19:1**). Unlike the rest of creation, we are designed to directly reflect His person, character, and power.

Our yielded participation, or our alignment, allows for Him to do the work of perfecting us; making us, remaking us, refining us. Our part is to simply receive by faith what God is doing in our lives. It's believing that true perfecting is taking place even when it feels or seems to be.

We are to take God at his word and trust Him to do His work in us. We are to open ourselves to His work, invite Him to do His work in us, and believe that He is at work even when we can't see the results. He is always present and actively turning all things toward an eternal benefit for us (**Rom 8:28-30**).

Toward this purpose, He never removes His grace from our lives. He never takes His arms from around us. Nothing will ever snatch us from His hands. It is God who says that the moment you receive Jesus Christ as your savior, you are in Christ. It is God who says that He chose you, loves you, and has redeemed you from the bondage of sin.

It is God who has forgiven you and changed your sinful nature. It is God who declares that you are His heir, an enlightened saint with the mind of Christ, and a holy vessel in His hands. It is God who declares that you are His masterpiece. It is now up to us to live like we believe it, like we see ourselves, as He sees us.