



5786/2026 Our Divine Connection - From Babes to Sons - Pt. 2

Bishop Steven A. Norman, Pastor

Sunday Sermon – 2/8/2026

Romans 8:14-19 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

The Year of Divine Connection.

The Year of Humanity Walking in our original purpose.

The Year when God uses us in a greater way to link/connect heaven to the earth.

Hebrews 9:28 (AMPC) Even so it is that Christ, having been offered to take upon Himself and bear as a burden the sins of many once and once for all, will appear a second time, not to carry any burden of sin nor to deal with sin, but to bring to full salvation those who are [eagerly, constantly, and patiently] waiting for and expecting Him.

Those who eagerly look forward to His coming will be those who are divinely connected to Him.

What it means to be divinely connected with God:

Being connected to God involves a personal relationship with Him, achieved through being born again by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Walking in our Divine Connection, start by understanding who we are. Our new birth is being born of the spirit **(John 3:5-8)**.

Jesus told Nicodemus, " You must be born again, that which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of spirit is spirit".

When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our spirits, which at our natural birth are dormant, are quickened and made alive **(Ephesians 2:1)**.

After we are born again, we have a relationship with the Father as His child. We have the very nature of God, but it is mainly undeveloped in the things of the Kingdom.

But with time and faith, the goal is to grow into mature sons and daughters, embracing the ways of the kingdom, which is contrary to the ways of this world and our fleshly nature.



This growth is the process of being transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ, so we can bear fruit, or one can say, do the work of the kingdom.

Romans 8:29-30 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

The term "Conformed" comes from the Greek word "*Súmmorphos*," which is an adjective found in the New Testament (**Romans 8:29, Philippians 3:21**). It means "conformed to," "fashioned like," or "having the same form." This term describes the process of being made into the likeness of another, specifically indicating that believers are being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. It conveys the idea that this transformation is a cooperative process rather than a forced change.

Just as the Father forces no one to be saved, He forces no one to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus. But the opportunity is always there.

New Living Translation. **Romans 8:29-30 (NLT)** For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

Foreknow, knew in Greek- "*proginōskō*" implies an affectionate, intimate, and active choice. When used in reference to God (**Romans 8:29; 1 Peter 1:2**), it is not merely passive observation of future events but a deliberate setting of love upon individuals beforehand.

The verses convey the idea that God was aware of our existence before we came into the world. This implies that our presence is not accidental but rather intentional and part of a divine plan. This perspective highlights the sense of purpose that individuals inherently possess, encompassing spiritual gifts, natural talents, physical attributes (including race), the circumstances of our beginnings, and the ultimate goals we strive to achieve.

Divine Election and Purpose are part of God's sovereign plan, indicating that God "foreknew" (set His love upon/chose) His people before the foundation of the world.

The conforming process starts with the process of repentance. There is no real transformation without the process of repentance.

7 R's for the Process of Repentance!

- 1. Recognition and Admission:** Acknowledge and admit the wrongdoings one has committed.
- 2. Remorse and Request for Forgiveness:** Feel genuine sorrow for those actions and ask and accept God's forgiveness.
- 3. The Remission of Sin:** Allow the Holy Spirit to restore confidence in God's faithfulness, understanding that through grace, all sins have been forgiven and abolished, so fellowship with God can be reinstated.



4. Refocus on Righteous Living: Shift focus toward how to live in accordance with God's truth and promises rather than on the ways of this world and dwelling on past mistakes.

5. Realign thoughts, words, and actions: once a person gets refocused, then they must realign. Live intentionally and on purpose to align oneself with the truth of God's Word, which helps prevent distractions and temptations that hinder proper fellowship with God.

6. Reconciliation: Reconciliation with God is the process of establishing a restored and harmonious communion of fellowship between God and us, overcoming any estrangement caused by sin.

7. Rewards: The reward of the repentance process is a renewed mind, more aligned with the mind of Christ, which will always lead to more righteous living.

The reward of righteous living begins with our transformation into the likeness of Jesus Christ, which will allow us to inherit everything He won for us through His finished work while we are here on earth. So, we can be who God says we can be, do everything God says we can do, and receive everything God says we have a right to.

Those who desire to be mature sons and daughters of God seek to be and do, as much as they wish to receive in material resources.

Romans 8:14-20 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. The only ones of us who are classified as sons of God are the ones who choose to walk in the Spirit.

You can be born again and choose to walk in the flesh; it is a choice!

Living a spirit-led life requires a conscious decision, and it may not always match the values of the world around you or your own desires.

Those who walk in the spirit will speak the language of the Kingdom!

Look at what it says in **Romans 10:6-9 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 7 or, "'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):** What Paul is essentially saying is, speak the word only.

We need to continue embracing this journey of walking in the Spirit so that our minds are transformed, and this way of living becomes a natural part of our lives.

Walking in the Spirit is a right that every child of God possesses. **Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

You only start to grow up in the things of God when you decide to walk in the Spirit.

Many people struggle to walk in the Spirit because they focus more on the lust of the flesh than on developing the fruit (attributes) of the Spirit.

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Many believers who make transformation a priority fail because they have this principle backwards. **“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh”.**

It didn't say *“focus on the flesh, so you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh”*. It says **“Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh”**

To walk in the Spirit means you give your main attention to the things of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit and the inherent promises of God.

This is why the enemy always wants to keep us focused on our shortcomings rather than on His glory that is within us.