

Here, the salvation of the saints is seen to be *“predestined according to God’s purpose,”* but notice that this is not God’s highest purpose. Oh no, here it says that the predestination of salvation is *“to the end that we.....should be to the praise of His glory!”* And this purpose of God is being powerfully worked and fulfilled in us through our **union with Christ** by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The New Testament explicitly connects this **purpose in salvation** as the **work** of the **Holy Spirit** in causing us to **bear God’s image**, having already, past tense, been *“created like God”* in regeneration. As **new creations** in Christ, He has created us in His **image** and **likeness**, and we are now **becoming in practice** what we already **are in reality**, children of God fashioned after the image of our Father and His Son Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 15:45-49** - 45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a **life-giving spirit**. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; **then the spiritual**. 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and **as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly**. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, **we shall also bear the image of the heavenly**. NASB

**Ephesians 4:22-24** - 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on **the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth**. NASB

**Colossians 3:10-11** - 10 and have put on **the new self** who **is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him** 11 — a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. NASB

Consider how the Scripture speaks of our *“being transformed”* progressively into God’s image from *“glory to glory”* because we have been created like Him already.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** - 8 But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just **as from the Lord, the Spirit**. NASB

See in these Scriptures how the very **work of the Holy Spirit** in salvation is to not only **powerfully re-create** us in regeneration, but also to **powerfully transform** us in progressive sanctification, causing us to be conformed to the image of Christ practically throughout our life.

## **Glorification**

When He is finished with the work of **progressive Sanctification**, the process of conforming us to His image practically, we shall ultimately take on His image in much fullness and be *“like Him”* at the resurrection, on the day of Glory! We call this **glorification**.

**1 John 3:2-3** - 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, **when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is**. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. NASB

**Philippians 3:20-21** - 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 **who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory**, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. NASB

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54** - 50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed**, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed**. 53 **For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality**. 54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. NASB

This is the eternal state, to experience the **fullness of the glory of God** (as receptors) and to sing forth the praises of His glory as an overflow of the enjoyment of His Goodness (as reflectors).