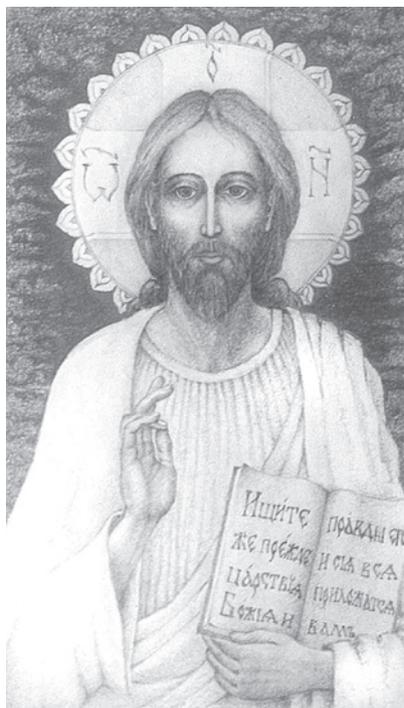




"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me!"

About sanctification



“Blessed art Thou, O Lord;
teach me Thy statutes.

The Choir of the Saints have found the Fountain of Life
and the door to Paradise.

May I also find the right way,
through repentance and conversion,
I have failed in my life;
Call me, O Saviour, and save me.”

”God, how wonderful You are in Your saints.”

These are two texts of many of the hymns of the Orthodox Church. The spiritual meaning of these texts indicates that one who is baptized to Christ by free will and consciously should purify himself from worldly habits and let himself become sanctified. Since the Baptism often is performed 40 days after the birth of the child, it is the godparents duty to make sure that this turning to Christ and identifying with Him is done. The christened child ought to learn listening to the inner, through the Baptism active Christ-identity, and in this way practise to realize God’s will in her life. By man being a true expression of God’s holiness, God can once again recognize His Creation through Christ within man, just like He once created man for His Paradise. This is the only way to be able to pronounce with apostle Paul:

“...nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...”

Galatians 2:20

"Seek you first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..." St. Matthew 6:33 by letting the searching and listening permeate your everyday life, since *"...the kingdom of God is within you"* St. Luke 17:21, and one cannot imagine a kingdom of God without the presence of God. So if the kingdom of God is within man there must be a God longing to express Himself through the man every day. This God, through Lord Christ, is the true nature and eternal identity of man.

When this process is accomplished, and the christian has annihilated his original sin of Adam, for the sake of Lord Christ, he is sanctified. Through the sanctified man this is how it can be done in a wonderful way *"...in earth as it is in heaven..."* St. Matthew 6:10. This is how Lord Christ can return to earth individually through each one who does not only believe in Him, but let Him be born (the secret of Advent and Christmas) and realized in his life. God has then become everything in the man, and the man has fulfilled the purpose of life - i.e. God's purpose with man. This way God's image - man himself - has carried out God's dream about the rehabilitation of Paradise on earth.

Résumé;

Man was created in God's image, to be Him alike in every matter. He is born with the original sin of Adam, the first Adam's disobedience to God, which Lord Jesus Christ removed when He let Himself be born into this world, through His teaching, and by giving His life – for us to convert and become an expression of Him and His holiness.

Everyone who is baptized, is baptized to identify himself with and be like Him in every way, and in this manner let oneself be sanctified. When this purification is complete the God is, present in His kingdom in the heart of man, totally uncovered and apparent to the world and man has become a radiant image of God, who is the Life, cause and purpose of the world and all beings.

Someone who has made this renouncement and dedication of his life is called a saint in the Orthodox church - a sanctified human being through whom Lord Christ again can be recognized and revered. "Each one of us is called to be a Saint."*

The church, times of fasting, asceticism and the Jesus Prayer, the prayer of the heart, are all tools to help us reach this goal.

God said:

"...Let there be light, and there was light."

Genesis 1:3

Lord Jesus said:

"I am the Light which has come into the world"

St. John 12:45

"I am the Light of the world..."

St. John 8:12

Rememberence as a consequence of your christening;

"Christ shines as a radiant light deep inside of me"

This light came fully to expression through Lord Jesus from Nazareth at

"The transfiguration on the mount Tabor"

and at the

"Resurrection"

*Father Damascene, Russian monk, from "The orthodox Word" no. 221, page 277. Se also "The Saints lives in Christ", page 262.