

## Message Two

### Partaking of God's Nature

Scripture Reading: 2 Pet. 1:1, 3-11

#### **I. The divine nature refers to what God is, that is, the riches, the elements, and the constituents of God's being—John 4:24; 1 John 1:5; 4:8, 16:**

- A. The divine life and the divine nature are inseparable; the divine nature is the substance of the divine life and is within the divine life—Eph. 4:18; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 John 1:1-2; 5:11-13.
- B. God is holy; holiness is His nature, and He chose us to make us holy even as He is holy—Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:15-16:
  - 1. To be holy is to participate in God's holy nature—Eph. 1:4.
  - 2. Having chosen us to be holy, God makes us holy by imparting Himself, the Holy One, into our being so that our whole being will be saturated and permeated with His holy nature—1 Pet. 1:15-16.

#### **II. As those who have received equally precious faith and the divine power, we, the believers in Christ, should be partakers of the divine nature—2 Pet. 1:3-4:**

- A. To have eternal life is a matter once for all, but to partake of the divine nature is a continual matter—John 3:15; 2 Pet. 1:4:
  - 1. Although we have the divine life once for all, we cannot enjoy the divine nature once for all.
  - 2. During the course of our Christian life on the earth, and even in eternity, we will still be partaking of the divine nature.
  - 3. For eternity, as portrayed by the tree of life and the river of water of life in Revelation 22, we will be partaking of the divine nature.
- B. As the children of God, we are God-men, born of God, possessing the life and nature of God, and belonging to the species of God—John 1:12-13:
  - 1. At our regeneration, another nature was imparted into us; this is the nature of God, the divine nature—2 Pet. 1:4.
  - 2. Because the divine nature is in the divine life, the divine life with which we were born again has the divine nature within it—John 3:3, 5-6, 15.
  - 3. Whoever believes into the Son of God is born of God and has the right to become a child of God; thus, a believer has the right to partake of, to enjoy, the nature of God—1:12-13.
- C. A partaker of the divine nature is one who enjoys the divine nature and participates in the divine nature—2 Pet. 1:4:
  - 1. To partake of the divine nature is to enjoy what God is; to be a partaker of the divine nature is to be a partaker of the riches, the elements, and the constituents of God's being—1 Pet. 1:8.
  - 2. If we would be partakers of the divine nature, we need to live by the divine life within which is the divine nature—John 1:4; 10:10; 11:25; 6:57b.
- D. We enjoy the riches of the divine nature through God's precious and exceedingly great promises—2 Cor. 12:9; Matt. 28:20b; Eph. 3:20.
- E. Being a partaker of the divine nature has a condition—that we escape the corruption which is in the world by lust; we need to live in the cycle of escaping and partaking—2 Pet. 1:4.
- F. Day by day we should partake of God's nature and enjoy the constituents of His being—v. 4.

- G. Certain sufferings and hardships we cannot bear; however, we are able to bear them by the divine nature—Rom. 8:28; 2 Pet. 1:4.
- H. We need to experience the development of the divine life and divine nature contained in the divine seed that has been sown into us so that we may have a rich entrance into the eternal kingdom—vv. 1, 4-11.
- I. If we enjoy God and partake of the riches of His being, we will be constituted with the divine nature, becoming the same of God in life and nature but not in the Godhead and expressing Him in all that we are and do—John 3:15; 2 Pet. 1:3-4.