

## 19. The Image of God.

**God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him. *Gen. 1,27.***

When God created man on the sixth day of creation, there was not a stain upon him; he was like unto God, holy, righteous, and as free from sin as the angels in heaven. The divine image consisted in blissful knowledge of God and in perfect righteousness and holiness. As God is holy, He had made also man holy. Man had a fervent desire for holiness. The apostle therefore writes, Eph. 4, 24: "Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Besides this, man also had a rich knowledge of God and a pure and strong affection to serve the Lord voluntarily and with joy. Our Confessions say: "The greatest excellency of this noble first creature was a bright light in his heart by virtue of which he had a perfect knowledge of God and His works, and true fear of God and truly sincere confidence in Him dwelt in it, and in every respect he had a correct, reliable understanding and a heart well disposed toward God and all divine things."

Man had a blissful knowledge of God, reverent fear of God, ardent love of God, perfect trust in God. Therefore the apostle admonishes, Co1. 3,10: "Put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him." Man knew the will of God and was both able and willing to do it; that was the image of God.

This image of God was lost to man in the Fall, and it would have been lost forever, had not God, in His mercy, sent His beloved Son into the world to live and die for us and thus to restore to us the lost divine image. A beginning of its renewal is made in the believers from the moment of their conversion, when by the gracious working of the Holy Ghost a new spiritual life is born in them. It must be our aim to renew this image by holy living all the days of our lives, until in the life to come it will be fully restored. Then we shall be entirely without sin, perfectly holy and righteous.

## Prayer.

O everlasting God, who hast ordained the services of angels and men in a wonderful order, mercifully grant that, as Thy holy angels always do Thee service in heaven, so by Thy appointment they may succor and defend us on earth. We beseech Thee that Thou wouldst give these ministering spirits charge over us and over all who fear Thee, that the Evil Foe may not disquiet or harm us. Let Thy holy angels serve Thy faithful children on earth and protect them from the assaults of Satan and the wickedness of the world; and on the Last Day let them gather us from our graves into Thy heavenly kingdom and receive us into their blessed company, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Though destruction walk around us,  
Though the arrows past us fly,  
Angel guards from Thee surround us;  
We are safe if Thou art nigh.

This devotion is one of 318 taken from *Daily Bread* by F. E. Pasche, published by CPH in 1926, but now in the public domain. They have been copied and reformatted by Rev. Bruce G. Ley and made available for distribution by pastors and missionaries.

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