

DIVINE METAMORPHOSIS

John 3:1-8

Introduction: "Metamorphosis" is the term describing an act in nature where an insect lays an egg, the egg changes into a larva, the larva wraps itself in a web called a cocoon and inside the cocoon the larva changes into a pupa and after a certain time, the pupa changes into an adult and makes its way out of the cocoon and in some cases it is a beautiful butterfly. Jesus Christ is the first of a new race, so how do others become like Him? When a person believes in Jesus, the Holy Spirit brings a new birth and a changed life then follows.

I. CHANGE FOR THE CHRISTIAN IS NECESSARY

1. The human body is made for the earth but as a Christian a different body is needed for heaven.
2. Earthly goodness is not good enough for heavenly way of life.
3. Earthy people have differences, but all with the heavenly nature are the same.

II. A NEW LIFE IS GIVEN

1. The Christian passes from one order of life to another: from a terminal life to an eternal life.
2. A new nature, that of God, is given and in finality the old human nature will be removed.
3. The Christian is not given a new attitude or influence to do good, but an actual rebirth occurs.
4. The Christian is an actual changed person by virtue of having been given a NEW life.
5. The new life of a Christian has certain characteristics:
 - A knowledge (heart kind) of God as his/her heavenly Father.
 - A genuine prayer life with answered prayers and peace after praying.
 - God's Word comes alive and there is a burning desire for God's Word.
 - There is a love for God's family, with a sweet fellowship with all believers in Jesus.
 - There is a compassion for the unsaved, a love for who and what God loves.
 - Sadly though, all these characteristics, evidences can be hindered by an unspiritual heart.

III. HOW DOES THIS CHANGE OR NEW LIFE HAPPEN?

1. Human effort is fruitless. Only God can give the new Divine Nature.
2. The two natures of the Christian cannot mix, they will remain separate.
3. The human nature cannot grasp the divine nature (the new one).
4. Eternal life is a gift, made available by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

5. The Holy Spirit brings eternal life and a divine nature to the believer.

IV. THE CHANGE PLACES THAT ONE INTO GOD'S FAMILY

1. God uses the earthly family to reveal the new life, such as Father-Son relationship.
2. Upon entrance to God's family, one has immediate and full family membership.
3. Once a child of God, a son or daughter, a family member, always a family member.
4. God endures His family's imperfections now but in eternity all human imperfections will be over.

V. THE CHANGE MAKES ONE AN HEIR TO ALL THAT JESUS HAS

1. The Holy Spirit causes the believer to become an heir to all that Jesus Christ has.
2. Jesus Christ's riches are not here but will come with the New World He will establish.

VI. GOD HAS A APURPOSE FOR HIS CHILDREN (*Ephesians 2:10*)

1. All that a Christian is and will be is entirely God's doings.
2. Normal human experiences come and go but the essential facts (salvation, preservation, etc.) depend upon God and not upon people.
3. God intends for all His family to be like Jesus Christ.
4. Believers live as holy lives as possible because they already have eternal life.

VII. FAITH IS THE BASIS FOR THE CHRISTIAN'S NEW LIFE (*John 1:12-13*)

1. Every aspect of salvation is God's work and man must believe and trust God.
2. There is no exception. Faith is all a person can exercise in salvation.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Holy Spirit brings new life, divine nature and eternal life.
2. The believer is born of God, created anew by God and receives God's nature.
3. Humanity is dead to God, and must be made alive to have eternal life and only God can do that.
4. Man is totally unable to help in any way. Grace offers salvation, the Holy Spirit brings salvation, eternal life and the new nature.
5. The new life is instantaneous and feeless.
6. The new life is lived alongside the Old Human Nature.
7. The new life enables the Christian to see, hear and enjoy things of God and God's Family