

Our Destiny has already started

Romans 8:29 / 2 Corinthians 3:18

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Christies Beach Baptist Church

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What is our destiny...

Youth

- Job
- Partner



Middle

- Family
- Work



“Mature”

- Settled
- Tired



God has given us a destiny, not a blueprint

What is our destiny...Romans 8:29

For those whom God foreknew he also
predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,
in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.

“God’s before-the-ages plan was to create a Christ-shaped family,
a renewed humanity modelled on Jesus, the Son of God.

M. F. Bird (2016)

God has given us a destiny, not just a destination.

Our destiny has already started...

And all of us...seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are **being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Spirit.**

2 Corinthians 3:18

God has given us a destiny, not just a destination.

We are to Live Just as Jesus Does

Not just with power, but in Suffering and Service

For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve Mark 10:45

If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. John 13:14

If any wish to come after Jesus, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Jesus. Luke 9:23

For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, Philippians 1:29

Who does Paul think we are – Jesus?

...Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all...Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:14-21

Our destiny is the same, even if our paths are different

The Character of Jesus is Spirit-Filled

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. ...If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-25

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Are these not words that describe the Jesus of the Gospels?!

Conformed to the Image of Jesus

Conversion

Discipleship

Glorification

Falling in Love with Jesus

This is not about self-improvement efforts; it is about being genuinely changed through participation in the divine life with Jesus.

- We become who we love
- We become who we worship
- We need to lean into Jesus



Live...Just as Jesus Does

- Have the same mind as Jesus (Humility) Philippians 2
- Forgive one another just as God in Christ has forgiven you (Forgiveness) Colossians 3
- Love one another as I have loved you (Love) John 13

From one degree of glory to another

No-one knew Stephen's life journey when it began in Scotland
– but his God given destiny was always clear.



Am I fulfilling my God-given destiny? Am I becoming more like Jesus?