



Scripture Nugget: The Apple of His Eye

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty Savior, Who will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in His love, Who will sing joyfully because of you, as on festival days. I will remove disaster from among you, so that no one may recount your disgrace (Zephaniah 3:17-18).

Like a most loving parent, God, our Heavenly Father takes delight over us, His children who bear His own image. We are His most precious creation and He made all His other creatures submissive to us (cf. Genesis 1:28). From the very beginning, even before the foundation of the earth, God thought about us (cf. Ephesians 1:4). God has never stopped thinking about us (cf. Psalm 139:17). He made us like Himself. We have a heart to receive love and to give love, a mind to reason, and a free will. We are made to last forever as our souls never die!

When mankind sinned and fell from grace, God was quick to pronounce His Providence in the form of a Saviour Who turned out to be none other than His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ Who provides a suitable sin offering of His own Body and Blood to satisfy God's high justice. In His great generosity and love, through Jesus Christ, God adopted us as His children, and thus, amazingly, we become no less than co-heirs with Jesus Christ to His Kingdom! *The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ ... (Romans 8:16-17).*

Like every caring parent, God has a loving plan for each of us (cf. Jeremiah 29:11). His greatest desire is for our eternal salvation (cf. John 3:16) so that we can be with Him for eternity, sharing His joy, peace and glory as members of His Family. Jesus reveals to us that a place for every one of us has been prepared in heaven (cf. John 14:3). We are precious to God Who takes note of everything that is happening to us. *Even all the hairs of your head are counted (Matthew 10:30).* Any tear we shed did not go unnoticed but recorded (cf. Psalm 56:8). God promises to be with us always (cf. Matthew 28:20).

Conversation with God, Our Heavenly Father

Heavenly Father, You did not shrink to see Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ shed His Blood and endured the most cruel torments on the Cross of Crucifixion so that You can raise me up, a poor sinner and make me fit to be Your child and a co-heir with Christ to Your glorious Kingdom. Eyes have not seen, nor ears heard nor the human mind ever conceived the things You have planned for those who love You (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9). Open the eyes of my heart, my mind and soul to the wonder of Your love, and the greatness of Your calling to my glorious, eternal inheritance. Remove all obstacles in my path to Your glorious Kingdom, and help me take delight in You as You do in me. In the Name of Jesus, I pray. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me.