

Becoming God's Children—Fallen Nature (Part Three)

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A Personal Reflection.

I recommend that you read the reflections presented in Part One and Part Two of the Fallen Nature series before you read this one. In Part One, we defined fallen nature. In Part Two, we expanded on it. Here in Part Three, we will examine how to eliminate it.

By eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve denied themselves the opportunity to become mature individuals physically and spiritually in the realm of God's nature. In other words, they denied themselves the opportunity of becoming God's perfect images. By denying themselves the opportunity of becoming God's perfect images, they also denied themselves the opportunity of passing to their offspring the divine nature that God originally endowed them with. This further implies that instead of being God's images, Adam and Eve became, in reality, the images of the one whose words they actually listened to and followed—the devil Lucifer.

In fact, Lucifer usurped and replaced God's image with his own. This is why, in the Bible, he is referred to as the “prince of this world” (Jn. 12:31) and the “god of this age” (2 Cor. 4:4). Furthermore, Jesus referred to him as a murderer and a liar (cf. Jn. 8:44). This explains why the children that Adam and Eve gave birth to were endowed with the nature of the devil that they, Adam and Eve, received from Satan. This inner nature has been transmitted from one generation to another throughout history. (*The Blessing*, pp. 8-9)¹

This inner nature, needless to say, is fallen nature. How do we eliminate fallen nature?

According to the Divine Principle (pp. 192-193), we eliminate our fallen nature by taking the following approach:

1. Love the central figure the way God loves him/her
2. Respect the central figure
3. Submit to the central figure
4. Unite with the central figure

¹ *The Blessing* is a book written by Christian Nseka.

A central figure is the person with whom God works. In this context, not only a leader, but every one of us is God's central figure as long as we remain connected to God's word. We are central figures when it comes to our individual relationship with God. We are also central figures when it comes to eliminating our fallen nature. Nobody else can do it for us but ourselves. *I* cannot expect *my* leader or *my* spouse to eliminate *my* fallen nature for *me*. They can help, but they cannot do it for *me*. Only *I* can do it for *me*.

As explained in the Divine Principle, the first step in eliminating fallen nature is to love as God loves. In other words, we cannot eliminate our fallen nature and strengthen our original nature if we cannot (1) embrace God's standard of goodness. Embracing God's standard of goodness will help us (2) be respectful and humble when relating to God's truth and those around us. This will set the stage for us to (3) inherit God's ideal and submit to it. As we connect to God's viewpoint and inherit His ideal/will, we can therefore establish a pure base upon which to build a harmonious relationship with those who represent God's authority in our lives. This will allow us to (4) develop goodness within us and carry out God's will.

It all depends on the type of relationship we have with God and His word. This is what the Divine Principle calls the Foundation of Faith. How does God's word affect me? Are the fruits of my attitude and actions more pleasing to God or are they more pleasing to Satan?

Our attitude is a great exhibitor of our fallen nature. Hence, we need to be aware of our predisposition and disposition if we want to eliminate our fallen nature. Our predisposition deals with our core nature. The question we can answer to identify the nature of our predisposition is whether our core is connected to goodness or to evil. As for our disposition, we need to think about how our predisposition is expressed outwardly. For instance, we need to ask ourselves whether we are quick to anger or slow to anger. Whether our anger is constructive or destructive. We cannot successfully undertake the task of eliminating our fallen nature if we are ignorant of our predisposition and disposition. In other words, we must be aware as to whose nature we regularly express—God's or Satan's.

Here are some key teachings from Jesus and the True Parents that are supposed to help us eliminate our fallen nature:

- Living for the sake of others
- Turning the other cheek
- Loving our enemies
- Loving our neighbors as we love ourselves
- Not judging others
- Forgive, love and unite

- Absolute faith, absolute love, and absolute obedience
- The Golden Rule
- Etc.

I hope this series on fallen nature has helped you understand fallen nature and given you an outlook that will help you strive, day in and day out, to eliminate your fallen nature.

We cannot become God's true children if we do not forsake the enemy's way of thinking.

Let's start eliminating our fallen nature right now. Let's not leave it for later or wait for tomorrow. Every second counts. Every opportunity counts.

Thank you for reading.

May God bless you and yours.