Westminster Shorter Catechism
Question 32
Discussion led by Steven Anderson

What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, sanctification, and the several benefits which, in this life, do either accompany or flow from them.

Romans 8:28-32.

Ephesians 1:3-6.

1 Corinthians 1:26, 30.

Personal application:

See overleaf.

A Summary of the Categories of Biblical Analogy
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The primary purpose of the Bible, of course, is to communicate God's message to man in a clear, vivid, and memorable manner. One of the important tools it uses to do so is an extensive variety of analogies, including the following.

A **simile** is a figure of speech whereby a prominent trait of one thing (generally well known) is presented as being likewise true of another thing (generally less clear). English signals a simile with the comparatives, *like* or *as.* For instance, the Epistle to the Hebrews contrasts man's impermanence with God's eternity, by likening his impermanence to that of a garment (Hebrews 1:11, 12).

A **metaphor** is a figure of speech whereby the essence of one thing is deemed to be identical with the essence of another. For instance, Jesus powerfully claims divinity during the Gospel of John (NKJ): "I am the bread of life" (6:48), "I am the light of the world" (8:12), "I am the door" (10:9), "I am the good shepherd" (10:11), "I am the resurrection and the life" (11:25), "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6), and "I am the vine" (15:1,5).

A **symbol** is a physical object which represents an abstract concept. For instance, the tabernacle was a symbol of God's presence with the Israelites during their wilderness wanderings (Exodus 40:34-38).

A **type** is a nonverbal Old Testament prophecy of the long-expected New Testament Messiah. For instance, the sacrificial lamb was a type of Christ (Leviticus 5:6, John 1:29).

A **parable** is an earthy story whose plot illustrates crucial relationships extant within the Kingdom. For instance, the careful and yearning search for a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son depicts the Father's indefatigable love for His children lost in sin (Luke 15).

A **vision** or **dream** is an image comprising elements of earthly realities, in order to reveal heavenly truths or to predict earthly events. For instance, the likeness of fire represents the power, purity, and glory of the One enthroned in heaven (Ezekiel 8:1, 2) and the giant statue uses the relative glory and intrinsic strength of several metals to represent succeeding powerful empires, all of which were eventually to be overpowered by the Stone, which is Christ (Daniel 2:31-36).