

SLB-025

11-12-06

The Spiritual Life Techniques (SLT):
Phase I Techniques Continued -
Recognition (Review),
Repentance (Review),
Reliance (New) and
Regeneration (Conclusion)

SLB III: Spiritual Life Techniques

- We are exploring the Basic Spiritual Life Techniques with a series of words beginning with the letter “R”.
- We will consider them within the context of the 3 Phases of the Spiritual Life:
 - Phase I: Salvation
 - Phase II: Earthly Life (The SPIRITUAL LIFE)
 - Phase III: Heavenly Life

SLB III: Spiritual Life Techniques

- The Primary Descriptor of each Phase of the Spiritual Life:
- Phase I: Salvation = Regeneration
- Phase II: Life on Earth = Rest (The SPIRITUAL LIFE)
- Phase III: Life in Heaven = Resurrection

SLB III: Spiritual Life Techniques

- Phase I: Salvation
- Regeneration
 - Recognition
 - Repentance
 - Reliance

SLB III: Spiritual Life Techniques

- Phase I: Salvation
- The usual evangelical analysis of belief separates it into three parts: *notitia*, *assensus*, and *fiducia* - or understanding, assent, and trust.
- Regeneration
 - Recognition = understanding
 - Repentance = assent
 - Reliance = trust

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- “A most pride-humbling, flesh-withering, man-abasing word is this. "Coming to Christ" is a far, far different thing from raising your hand to be prayed for by some Protestant "priest," coming forward and taking some cheap-jack evangelist's hand, signing some "decision" card, uniting with some "church," or any other of the "many inventions" (Ecclesiastes 7:29) of man. Before any one can or will "come to Christ" the understanding must be supernaturally enlightened [Recognition], the heart must be supernaturally changed [Repentance], the stubborn will must be supernaturally broken.[Reliance]" - A. W. Pink

Spiritual Life Techniques

Phase II: Earthly Life

Rest

Righteousness

Recovery

Reckoning

Rehearsal

Reverence

Residence

Resistance

Renovation

Reciprocation

Revelation

Rest - NOT WORK!

Spiritual Life Techniques

- Phase III: Heavenly Life
 - Resurrection
 - Reward
 - Reign

SLB III: Spiritual Life Techniques

- Phase I: Salvation
- Regeneration
 - Recognition
 - Repentance
 - Reliance

SLB III: Spiritual Life Techniques

- Recognition *noun*
- a learning process that relates a perception of something new to knowledge already possessed.
- Theological definition: The point at which the unbeliever is “convinced” by the Holy Spirit that he is unable to meet God’s Standard, and requires Christ, who is able, as his Substitute.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Recognition
 - *And when He [the Comforter] is come, He will convince the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. (John 16:8)*
 - *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him. John 6:44*
 - The first work of the Spirit is to convince of sin.
 - *"He shall convince the world of sin. "*

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- This has always been the case.
- In Acts 2 we are told that when the Spirit came on the apostles the crowd mocked them saying: "*These men are full of new wine;*" and yet, when Peter preached, the Spirit wrought through his preaching on the hearts of these very scoffers. They were pricked in their hearts, and cried: "*Men and brethren, what must we do?*"

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Recognition (3 Potential Arenas)
 - 1. An awareness of an absence of a relationship with God.
 - It's not enough for one to have a sense of need, but of a particular need—the need for the establishment of fellowship with God; a need to know God.
 - It is an intolerable relationship to remain in, and so a recognition springs up that, whatever the cost and on whatever terms, it must be changed.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Recognition
 - 2. Conviction of sins: a sense of guilt for particular wrongs done against God.
 - True conviction may include recognizing specific sins, sins that were willfully done in direct violation of the law of God written in the heart (Rom 2:14-15) and in God's Word.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Recognition
 - 3. Conviction of God's Perfection: a sense of one's complete inability to meet the standard of God's Righteousness and one's consequent need of the new birth (John 3:3).
 - True conviction evidences itself by the desire to end reliance on our own Human nature.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Recognition
 - The second step (after the Spirit's Ministry of Conviction) is Recognition, whereby the unbeliever beholds Christ as the God of his salvation, as the fullness of his own emptiness, the righteousness that is able to blot out his own unrighteousness, the life that overcomes his death.
 - And corresponding to this act of spiritual Recognition on the sinner's part, is God's act of spiritual illumination, whereby He convicts of the reality of the insufficiency of the unbeliever.
 - When He convicts a man of his need, He does not leave him in the despair of his condemnation: He shows him Jesus in all the fullness of His salvation.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Recognition
 - This spiritual illumination is not the same as that natural enlightenment by which the unbeliever knows all about Christ, recognizes and acknowledges to an extent by his natural powers the beauty of Christ as the best of men, as one that was deeply God-conscious, as a great teacher and wonderful example; but he does not behold Him as the righteousness of God, and the cross is foolishness to him.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Recognition
 - The natural man does not understand the things of the Spirit; *"they are foolishness to him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* I Cor. 2:14.
 - Illustrated in Matthew 9, when our Lord says quite plainly, *'I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance'* [v. 13]. *'They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick'* [v. 12].
 - This was a dig at the Pharisees who thought they were whole and did not need a physician! That is why He infuriated them - He made them see that they did. They felt they did not need rebirth; they did not need His Substitutionary Death, because they were already satisfying the demands of God. = No Repentance.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Sin, Righteousness, Judgment and Salvation - John 16:8-11
- When the Helper comes, he will prove to the people of the world the truth about these things: about missing the objective, about being right with God, and about judgment.
- The Helper will prove that people have missed the objective, because they don't believe in me.
- He will prove to them about {my} being right with God, because I am going to the Father.
- You will not see me then. And the Helper will prove to the world the truth about judgment, because the ruler of this world (the devil) is already judged.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- *1Ti 2:3-4 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*
- *2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Metanoeo - Meta = change; and Noeo = mind.
- To change your mind.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- In the NT there are 115 declarations that the lost are to depend ONLY on believing.
- In another 35 they are to depend ONLY upon faith.
- Yet millions of Christians (or “Religians”), from legalistic individuals to entire legalistic denominations, attempt to coerce those whom God calls, into their box, requiring some religious activity to stamp the process of salvation “legitimate”.
- Their legalistic religionism negates the Grace of God, and deny untold numbers their salvation.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- There are numerous additions to the simple but accurate Faith, Believe, Trust, or Rely means to salvation:
 - 1. Believe and Pray
 - 2. Believe + Ritual
 - 3. Believe and Confess before men
 - 4. Believe and Confess your sins
 - 5. Believe and Repent of your sins

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 6. Salvation by emotion
 - Faith is a non-meritorious act of perception and has nothing to do with emotion!
- 7. Salvation by Church
- 8. Salvation by Commitment

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 7. Salvation by Church Membership or involvement.
- Join the church - If you don't join, you are not saved.
- Tithing. This was commanded in the Mosaic Law as a 10% income tax for the client nation Israel. Tithing has no spiritual connotation, either for salvation or blessing. Giving is a matter of the privacy of your own priesthood, and the amount you give is based on your own self-determination and has nothing to do with any blessing.
- Church-related works. Just work faithfully around the church and God will save you.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 8. Salvation by Commitment
- Penance. A favorite of Catholicism. The noun penance has basically three meanings: (1) remorse for your past conduct; (2) a Catholic sacrament: repentance and confession, then satisfaction and absolution; and (3) self-mortification, self-abasement, i.e. voluntary self-punishment in order to atone for some wrongdoing. All of these are in direct contradiction to the finished work on the cross.
- Practice the Lordship of Christ. This refers to the false doctrine taught which says, *"if Christ is not Lord of all, He's not Lord AT ALL"*. This is a failure to understand one of the forty-plus things done for us at the moment of salvation. By

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 8. Salvation by Commitment
- Practice the Lordship of Christ. This refers to the false doctrine taught which says, *"if Christ is not Lord of all, He's not Lord AT ALL"*. This is a failure to understand one of the forty-plus things done for us at the moment of salvation. By the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, which enters us into union with Christ, He is Our Lord at the very moment of salvation. Whether we recognize this or not is a matter of cognition of pertinent doctrine. Regardless, we do not have to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord to receive salvation. It is simply believe in Christ.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 8. Salvation by Commitment
- Practice asceticism. What we give up at any time is inconsequential! People want to take what they have sacrificed or given up in their lives and compare it with the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.
- Self-denial and maintaining a healthy body. To associate salvation or spirituality with health foods and vitamins is ludicrous.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance: (False)
- 1. Believe and Pray
 - Repeat a prayer formula.
 - Pray to tell God you are sorry.
 - Pray to ask God to save you.
 - Praying to Invite Christ.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 1. Believe and Pray
 - Invite Christ.
 - A spiritually dead person cannot invite the Perfect One, The Lord Jesus Christ, anywhere; not into his heart, or his home, or his life.
 - There is no Scriptural Authority for us to we make invitations to Jesus Christ!
 - Salvation is through faith alone in Christ alone; He invites us to come to Him - we do not invite Him to come to us.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 1. Believe and Pray
 - Invite Christ.
 - Inviting Christ into your heart. This is total nonsense and blasphemy. A spiritually dead person cannot invite Eternal God, The Lord Jesus Christ, anywhere; not into his heart, or his home, or his life.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 1. Believe and Pray
 - Invite Christ.
 - He does not come to us; we come to Him by believing in Him. Remember Our Lord's invitation in **Mat 11:28**
"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
 - **John 6:35**, Jesus said to them, *"I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in me will never thirst."*
 - **John 6:37** *"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out."*

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 1. Believe and Pray
 - Invite Christ.
 - There are three blasphemous invitations:
 - 1. We do not invite Christ to come to us. **Revelation 3:20** is addressed to believers: *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me."* This is a verse dealing with recovery from carnality, and has nothing to do with salvation.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 1. Believe and Pray
 - Invite Christ.
 - There are three blasphemous invitations:
- 2. We do not invite Christ into our heart. **Jeremiah 17.9** teaches about our heart, *The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?* Inviting Christ into our heart is an emotional form of legalism.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 1. Believe and Pray
 - Invite Christ.
 - There are three blasphemous invitations:
 - 3. We do not invite Christ into our life. **Romans 5:12** teaches about our life, *Therefore, just as through one man, sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.*

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 2. Believe + Ritual
 - Baptism:
 - Only 1 verse (Mark 16:16) joins these together.
 - This verse is not included in the oldest manuscripts.
 - It is evident from the final statement, “he that believes not shall be condemned”, that baptism is not the essential element, anyway.
 - Baptism is the word for identification; it is only through the wrongful alignment with water baptism that the false doctrine is perpetuated.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 2. Believe + Ritual
 - Baptism. The idea of salvation by baptism is prominent today. It was started by the Catholics, and copied by the Lutherans during the Reformation.
 - It is a heresy that has always existed in the Church Age.
 - Baptism was an identification with retroactive and current positional truth prior to the completion of the Canon.
 - Partaking of the Eucharist or The Lord's Supper. This is a favorite of Roman Catholicism, which teaches that The Lord Jesus Christ goes back into their body, after having left it, through the taking in of the Eucharist.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 3. Believe and Confess before men. “Brag-amonies”)
 - Found only in the Kingdom teachings of Mt. 10:32.
 - Acknowledging Christ publicly is not effectual for salvation.
 - It is a distortion of Romans 10:9-10 which refers to cause and effect.
 - The cause is faith; the result, as the believer matures, is to witness and to acknowledge Christ.
 - Giving public testimony to your faith in Christ makes an issue of yourself, but salvation is designed to call attention to Jesus Christ and no one else.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 4. Believe and Confess your sins.
 - An erroneous application of the 1 John 1:9 verse addressed to Believers.

20-20 Break time



SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 5. Believe and Repent of your sins.
 - 6 verses can be found that couple repentance, believing and salvation.
 - However, the book of John that repeatedly reveals the plan of salvation never uses the word repentance.
 - Romans, the advanced exposition of the doctrine of salvation omits repentance at every prescription.
 - Repent means to change your mind about Christ, as occurs under the Holy Spirit's ministry of common grace.
 - The word repent has been misinterpreted as feeling sorry.
 - No one is saved by feeling sorry for his sins.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 5. Believe and Repent of your sins.
- Salvation by personality change.
 - Many times what the “Christian Witness”, “Evangelist”, or “Preacher”, want, is a change in your personality; sometimes from outgoing to “humble”; other times from “quiet” to “Holy Ghost Happy”.
 - Although a change in some people's personality may be desirable, it is not the means of salvation.
- Salvation by keeping taboos.
 - Many think you cannot really be saved unless you stop doing something offensive to them: drinking, smoking, dancing, wearing makeup, swimming in mixed company, etc.

SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- 5. Believe and Repent of your sins.
- This is equivalent to Salvation by morality.
 - Morality has to do with establishment; it is not the Christian way of life.
 - The Spiritual Life from God is higher than morality; your lack of morality is not the issue.
 - 2Co 5:14,19 *For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not counting their trespasses against them**, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*