

# SLB-030

# 11-26-06

The Spiritual Life Techniques (SLT):  
Phase I Techniques Continued -  
Reliance (Review) and  
Regeneration (Expansion)

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance
- The Legalists talk about being Christians, and yet the whole time they mean by that, living a good life in order to be right with God.
- There is only one explanation - it is the devil, himself!
- *'If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them'* [2 Cor. 4 :3-4].
- To continue to spread this lie of Faith plus Repentance from sin is Satanic!

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance
- *'For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.'*
- Why?
- *'For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith' [Rom. 1:16-17].*

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance
- This is the good news that God Himself has provided for us the very righteousness that we need.
- What good news it is!
- It is especially good for those who have been trying to work up a righteousness that is adequate.
- God provides the righteousness; God provides the way of salvation.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance
- As many today, the Jews were ignorant of the fact that God offers us this righteousness as a free gift, and we shall go on to consider how He has done this.
- But here I am simply emphasizing that there is a righteousness from God - 'They being ignorant' of the righteousness that God has made, that He has provided, that He is offering as a free gift.

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# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance
- And, they were ignorant of the fact that you do not need to 'go about' in order to get righteousness; you just submit to it.
- Going about to establish your own righteousness is condemned completely and utterly by the gospel.
- Paul says: *'But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ . . . For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast'* [Ephesians. 2:4-9].

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- You see that there is no other way, and you gladly and willingly yield yourself to the truth, Relying on His Provision.
- That is Reliance, coming from the Recognition of your own insufficiency, and Repentance, the change of mind regarding your life and eternal life.
- When you Rely, God Regenerates!
- 1 Cor. 15:45—“The first man Adam became a living soul. The last man Adam became a life-giving spirit.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- The only explicit mention of the new birth is found in Jesus dialogue with Nicodemus (3:121).
- In reply to Nicodemus questions, Jesus told him, I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again (v. 3).
- Nicodemus' reply, How can a man be born when he is old? Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mothers womb to be born! (v. 4), indicates that he understood Jesus comment on a human, physical level.
- Nicodemus' misunderstanding gave Jesus opportunity to clarify what He meant.
- He was speaking of the need for a new spiritual birth rather than a second physical birth (vv. 68).

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- The misunderstanding and its resulting clarification are reflected in a wordplay in verse 3 (repeated in v. 7).
- The Greek word translated “again”, may mean either “again” or from “above”.
- Although Nicodemus understood it to mean again, leading him to conclude that Jesus was speaking of a second physical birth, Jesus reply in verses 68 shows that He referred to the need for a spiritual birth, a birth from above.
- This new birth was not to be the result of any human action (cf. v. 6), but is the work of the Holy Spirit (v. 8).

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- Supernatural insemination by the Spirit of God is required to bring about this new spiritual birth within an individual.
- It did not consist in merely greater insight or understanding but in a complete new creation of the individual (cf. 2 Cor.
- It is of the utmost importance that we have a clear understanding of this vital doctrine.
- By regeneration we are admitted into the kingdom of God.
- There is no other way of becoming a Christian but by being born from above.
- The doctrine, then, is the door of entrance into Christian discipleship.
- He who does not enter here, does not enter at all.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- Regeneration is the impartation of a new and divine life; a new creation; the production of a new thing.
- It is Gen. 1:26 over again.
- It is not the old nature altered, reformed, or reinvigorated, but a new birth from above.
- This is the teaching of such passages as John 3:37; 5:21; Eph. 2:1, 10; 2Cor. 5:17.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- A new governing power comes into the regenerate man's life by which he is enabled to become holy in experience: Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new (2 Cor. 5:17).
- See also Acts 16:14, and Ezek. 36:25-27; 1 John 3:6-9.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- The need is as universal: *Except a man [lit. anybody] be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God* (John 3:3, cf. v.5).
- Not age, sex, position, or condition exempts anyone from this necessity.
- Not to be born again is to be lost.
- There is no substitute for the new birth: *Neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature* (Gal. 6:15).

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- The absolute necessity is clearly stated by our Lord: whatever is born of the flesh, must be born again of the Spirit (John 3:37).
- By nature man is born dead in sin (Eph. 2:1); the new birth imparts to him new life - the life of God, so that henceforth he is as those that are alive from the dead; he has passed out of death into life (John 5:24).

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- In regeneration we are made partakers of the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4).
- We have put on the new man, which after God is created in holiness and righteousness (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10).
- Christ now lives in the believer (Gal. 2:20).
- God's seed now abides in him (1 John 3:9).
- So that henceforth the believer is possessed of two natures (Gal. 5:17).

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- *We are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:13).*
- *It was of His own will he begat us (Jas. 1:18):*
- Our regeneration is a creative act on the part of God, not a reforming process on the part of man.
- It is not brought about by natural descent, for all we get from that is the Inherited Human Nature of Adam (IHNA).
- It is not by natural choice, for the human will is impotent.
- Nor is it by self-effort, or any human generative principle.
- Nor is it by the blood of any ceremonial sacrifices.
- It is not by pedigree or natural generation.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- It is altogether and absolutely the work of God.
- Practically speaking, we have no more to do with our second birth, than we had to do with our first birth.
- The Holy Spirit is the Divine Agent in our regeneration.
- For this reason it is called the renewing of the Holy Spirit (Tit. 3:5).
- We are born of the Spirit (John 3:5).
- We receive the Divine Nature (God's Genetics!!!!!!)

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- John 5:21—“as the Father raiseth the dead and giveth them life, even so the Son also giveth life to whom he will”;

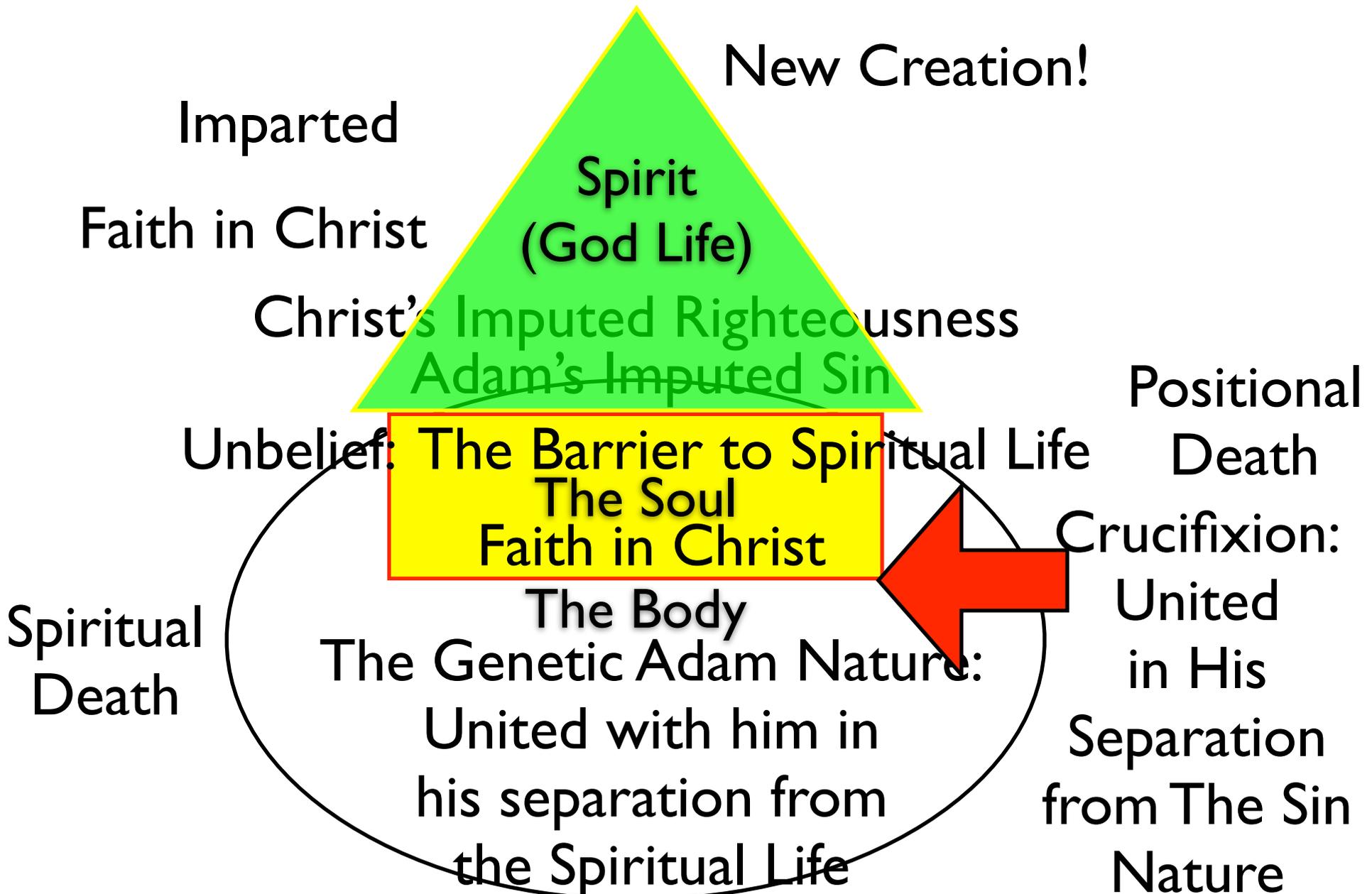
# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- James 1:18—“Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth”—here in connection with the special agency of God (not of mere natural law) the truth is spoken of as a means;

# Regeneration: Union with Christ

- 1 Pet. 1:23—“having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which liveth and abideth”;

# Deaths



# Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- The receiving of the divine nature means that the individual has truly been born of God.
- God has become his legitimate genetic Father and he is the Father's legitimate genetic son.
- This is a change so radical and so complete that there is thus achieved a passing from one order of being into another.
- Eventually in this great change the Adamic nature infusing every cell of the fleshly body will be dismissed and the identity as a separate entity will represent nothing less than the stupendous fact of being a son of God and a rightful member in the family and household of God.

# Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- The New Creature will have become precisely what his new position in glory requires him to be.
- The significance which is achieved by a birth from above—an insemination by the Holy Spirit—actually now experienced by all who are saved, is too often and for want of due consideration almost wholly misapprehended.
- The conception that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is an indefinite influence for good in the individual's present life is far below the conception set forth in the New Testament.

# Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- Instead it teaches that Believers are a new and eternal order of being created with an indestructible family relationship to the Creator of all things.
- The fact of the new birth, whether comprehended or not, is the basic and distinguishing feature of the Christian.
- The life of God which is eternal, and which therefore Christ is, has been imparted as definitely as the breath of natural life was breathed by God into Adam at the first creation.

# Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- At least eighty-five New Testament passages aver that a Christian is a changed person by virtue of the fact that he has received the very life of God.
- Through infinite love, the Son of God was given by the Father that sinful men should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Christ said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6) and “I am come that they might have life” (John 10:10).
- So, also, “the gift of God is eternal life” (Rom. 6:23).
- That imparted life is said to be “Christ in you, the expectation of glory” (Col. 1:27).

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- John 1:12 and 13 bring together these two thoughts; the divine and the human in regeneration: Those who received Him (i. e., Christ) were born of God.
- The two great problems connected with regeneration are the efficiency of God and the activity of man.
- (a) Man is Regenerated by Means of the Acceptance of the Message of the Gospel.
- God begat us by the word of truth (James 1:18).
- We are born again, says Peter (1 Peter 1:23), of incorruptible seed, by the word of God.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- We are begotten through the gospel (1 Cor. 4:15).
- These scriptures teach us that regeneration takes place in the heart of man when he reads or hears the Word of God, or the Gospel message, or both, and, because of the Spirit working in the Word as well as in the heart of man, the man opens his heart and receives that message as the Word of life to his soul.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- The truth is illuminated, as is also the mind, by the Spirit; the man yields to the truth, and is born again.
- Of course, even here, we must remember that it is the Lord who must open our hearts just as He opened the heart of Lydia (Acts 16:14).
- But the Word must be believed and received by man. 1 Pet. 1:25.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- (b) Man is Regenerated by the Personal Acceptance of Jesus Christ.
- This is the clear teaching of John 1:12, 13 and Gal. 3:26.
- We become children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.
- When a man, believing in the claims of Jesus Christ receives Him to be all that He claimed to be, that man is born again.
- Man therefore is not wholly passive at the time of his regeneration.
- He is passive only as to the Divine Conception and Birth.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- With regard to the exercise of this disposition he is active.
- A dead man cannot assist in his own resurrection, it is true; but he may, and can, like Lazarus, obey Christ's command, to "Come forth!"

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- Regeneration is not a change of the old Adamic life, but the introduction of a new; it is the implantation of the life of the Last Adam.
- And this is by the operation of the Holy Spirit, founded upon the accomplished redemption of Christ, and in full keeping with the sovereign will or counsel of the Father.
- The moment a sinner receives the Saviour by faith, he becomes the possessor of a new life, a totally new creation — and the source of that life is the Lord Jesus; he is born of God, and His child for all eternity.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- Some there are who think that regeneration is a certain change which the old Adamic life undergoes; and, moreover, that this change is gradual in its operation, until, at length, the whole man becomes transformed.
- Wesleyan Arminianism is the general source of this teaching today.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- That this idea is unsound can be proved by various quotations from the New Testament.
- For example, “The carnal mind is enmity against God.” How can that which is thus spoken of ever undergo any improvement? The apostle goes on to say, “It is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” If it cannot be subject to the law of God, how can it be improved, how can it undergo any change? Again, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh.” Do what you will with flesh, and it is flesh all the while.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- And Paul does not say, Ye have improved, or are seeking to improve, “the old man,” but rather, “Ye have put off the old man” (Col. 3:9). Passages might easily be multiplied to prove the unsoundness of the theory with respect to the gradual improvement of the old man — to prove that the old man is dead in sins, and utterly unrenewable; and, moreover, that the only thing we can do with it is to keep it under our feet by reckoning upon the death and new life that we have in union with our risen Head in the heavens.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- This is what makes Christianity what it is; and, moreover, distinguishes it from every system of human religion under the sun, whether it be Romanism, or Protestantism, or any other ism whatsoever. Human religion gives the creature a place, more or less; it keeps the bondwoman and her son in the house; it gives man something to glory in. On the contrary, Christianity excludes the creature from all interference in the work of salvation- -casts out the bondwoman and her son, and gives- *all* the glory to Him in Whom alone it is due.
- — C.H. Mackintosh

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration

- Five facts concerning the nature of regeneration need to be stated:
  - (1) a new life has been thereby begotten which is eternal;
  - (2) that life is the divine nature;
  - (3) the believer is begotten by the Spirit;
  - (4) God the Father becomes his legitimate Father; (5) therefore, all believers are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. On the human side, regeneration is conditioned simply on faith (John 1:12–13; Gal. 3:26).

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- Regeneration may be defined as the communication of divine life to the soul...as the impartation of a new nature...or heart...and the production of a new creation.<sup>38</sup>
- Succinctly stated, *to regenerate* means “to impart life.” Regeneration is the act whereby God imparts life to the one who believes.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- Two basic passages of Scripture discuss regeneration as it pertains to the impartation of new life to a believer. John 3:3 (although not using the word *regeneration*) refers to regeneration as a “new birth.” The Greek word translated “new” is *anōthen* and may be translated “from above.” In other words, the second birth is a birth from above, from God. The new birth is a spiritual birth in contrast to the first birth which is a physical birth. In the spiritual birth the Holy Spirit regenerates the person; He is the *means* of regeneration.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- In John 3:5 the phrase “is born” is passive,<sup>39</sup> indicating it is a work done *upon* man, not *by* man. Man does not bring about regeneration; the Holy Spirit produces it. Titus 3:5 is the other passage where regeneration is explained. In this passage regeneration is linked to two things: washing and renewing by the Holy Spirit. It is noteworthy that in both John 3:5 and Titus 3:5 two elements are mentioned: water and the Holy Spirit. It is possible to understand water as symbolic of God’s Word (cf. Eph. 5:26).<sup>40</sup> Others link water and the Holy Spirit to cleansing as in Ezekiel 36:25–27. In this case the water would refer to the cleansing that comes through repentance.<sup>41</sup> A contrast between the first and second births can be seen in the following chart.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- ***It is instantaneous.***
  - Just as a child is born at a specific moment in the physical birth, so the spiritual birth occurs instantaneously when the Holy Spirit imparts new life.
- ***It is not the result of human experience.***
  - It is not something the person does but something that is done to the person.
    - Experience may *result* from regeneration, but experience as such is not a cause of regeneration.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- ***It is not based on human effort.*** John 1:13 indicates the new birth is not effected by the will of man. Regeneration is an act of God, not a cooperative effort between God and man.<sup>44</sup> That is not to say, however, that faith is unnecessary in salvation. It may be suggested that although regeneration and faith are *distinct*, they occur simultaneously.<sup>45</sup> The two are set side by side in John 1:12–13. In John 1:12, at the moment of receiving Christ (believing), the person becomes a child of God; in John 1:13 it indicates that at that very moment the persons have been born of God. Surely there is a mystery here that surpasses human comprehension.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- The Result of Regeneration
- ***A new nature.***
  - The result of regeneration is the impartation of a “divine nature” (2 Pet. 1:4).
  - The believer has received a “new self” (Eph. 4:24), a capacity for righteous living.
  - He is a “new creature” (2 Cor. 5:17).