

# *Living Word Bible Class*

- *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.*
- *James 1:22 But demonstrate yourselves doers of the word and not merely hearers who delude themselves.*

# SLB-03 I

# I 2-03-06

The Spiritual Life Tactics (SLT):  
Phase I Tactics Concluded -  
Phase II Tactics Introduced

# SLB III: Spiritual Life Techniques

- We continue our study of the Basic Spiritual Life Tactics with a series of words beginning with the letter “R”.
- We are considering them within the context of the 3 Phases 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
    - Recognizing the Convincing of the Holy Spirit
  - Repentance
    - Changing the mind
  - Reliance
    - Total trust

# SLT: Phase II: Earthly

- Rest
  - Righteousness
  - Residence
  - Recovery
  - Resistance
  - Reckoning
  - Renovation
  - Rehearsal
  - Reciprocation
  - Reverence
  - 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.
- *And when He [the Comforter] is come, He will convince the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. (John 16:8)*

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Recognition (3 Potential Arenas)
  - 1. An awareness of an absence of a relationship with God.
  - 2. Conviction of sins: an awareness of particular wrongs done against God and/or others.
  - 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).

# SLT: Phase I: 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 (hamartia), 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.*

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

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

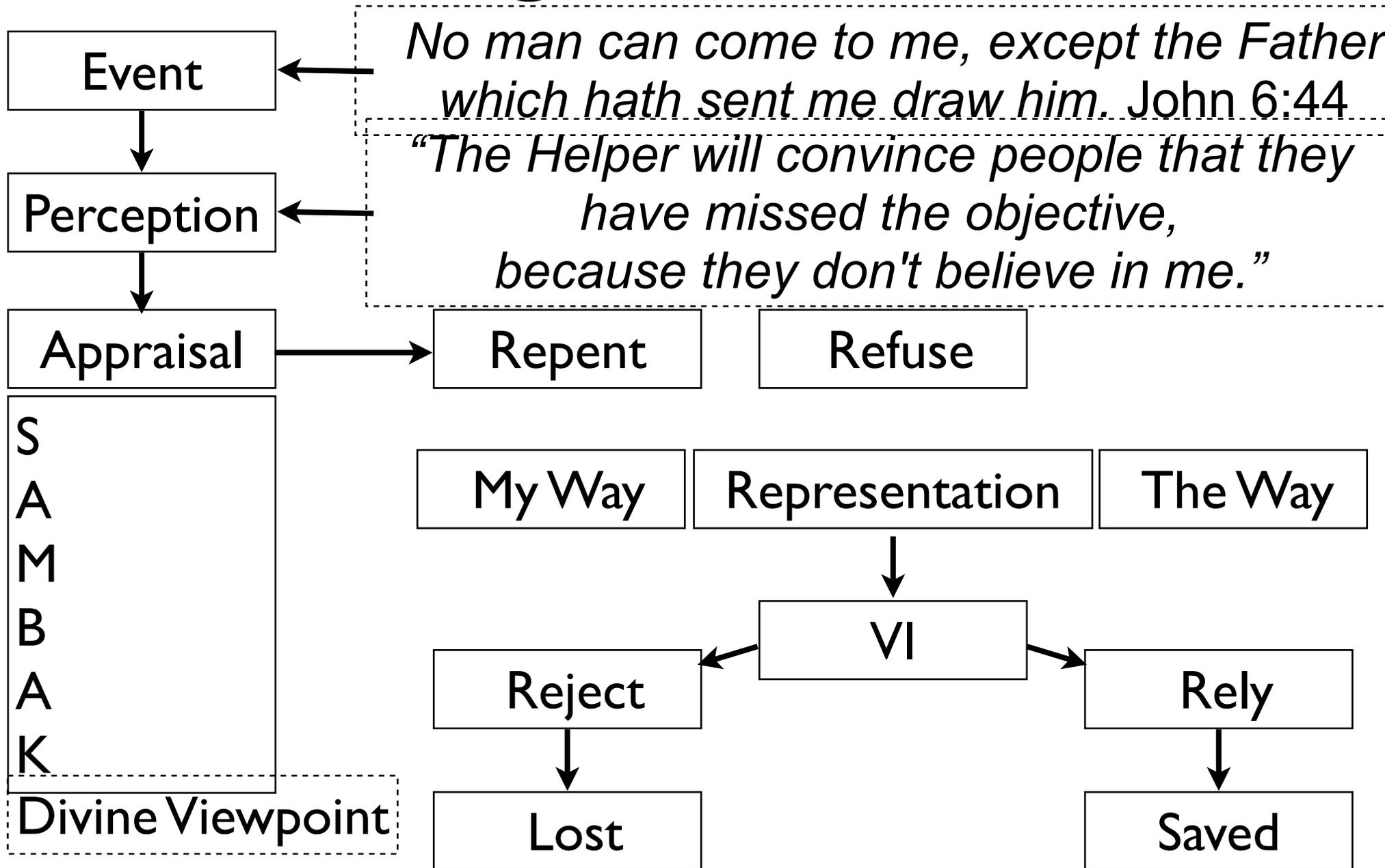
# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- In the NT there are 150 declarations that the lost are to depend ONLY on believing or Faith.
- Yet millions of Legalistic Christians(?), attempt to coerce those whom God calls into their box, by requiring some religious activity to stamp the process of salvation “legitimate” in their eyes.
- Their legalistic religionism negates the Grace of God, and deny untold numbers their salvation.

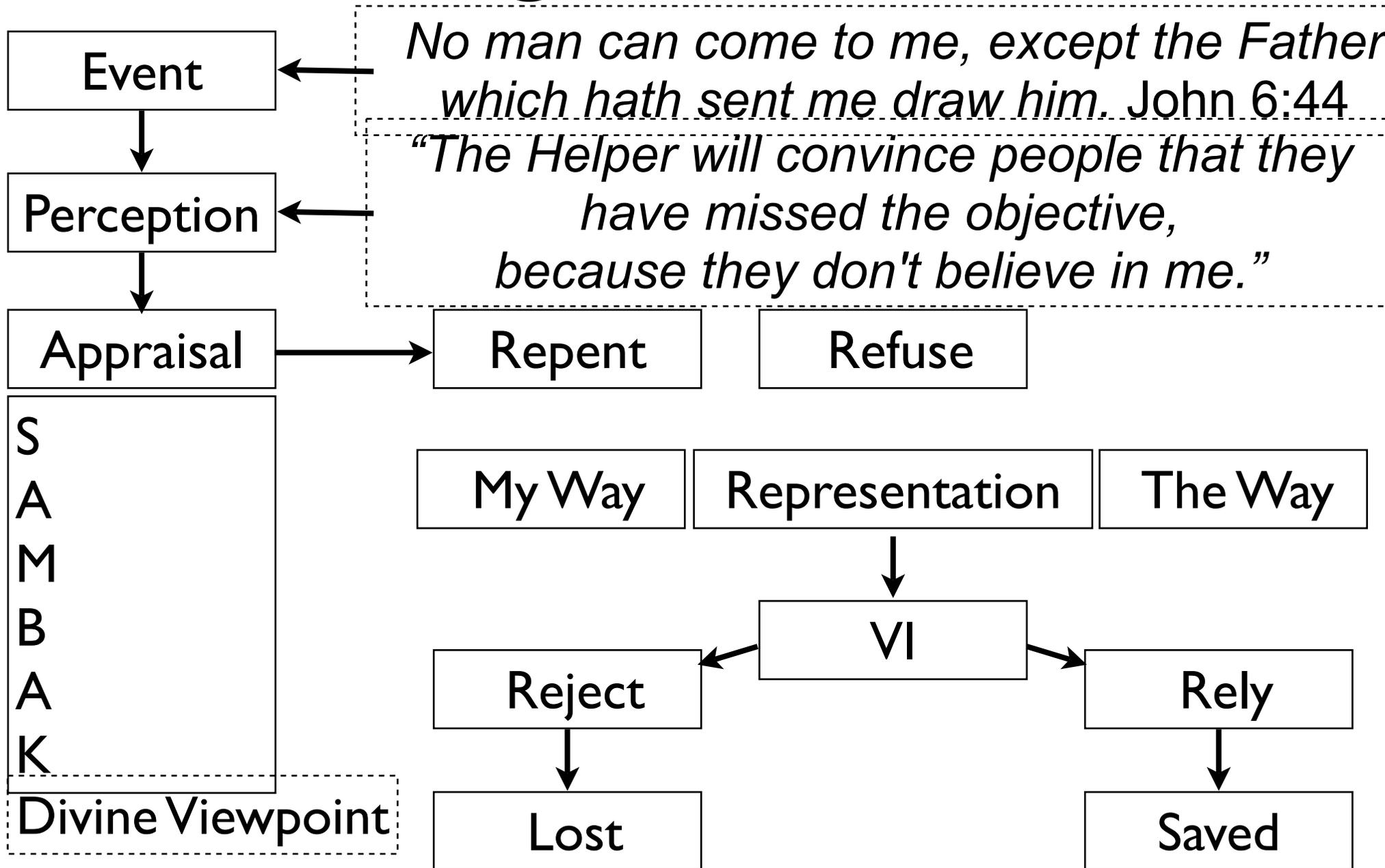
# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
  - There are 150 salvation statements with “faith” or “believe”, but without “repentance”.
  - When the true meaning of repentance is known, metanoeo - change your thinking, it is obvious that repentance is a part of the believing process, and a direct result of the Recognition process.
  - When one recognizes that nothing BUT Christ will do, we are forced to change our mind.

# Thinking in Your Mind



# Thinking in Your Mind



# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Note the juxtaposition, not with “sins”, but with “faith” and “believing”:
- "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; **repent**, and **believe** in the good news." Mark 1:15.
- "John baptized with the baptism of **repentance**, telling the people to **believe** in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." (Acts 19:4, ESV)
- In Acts 20, Paul tells the Ephesian elders in his farewell address to them that the message he preached was of "**repentance** toward God and **faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ".

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Repentance:
- Repentance is part of the process of Believing.
- It is the result of Recognition in the Appraisal Process on the part of the hearer who then is faced with the decision to choose Reliance on Christ.
- This observation is well illustrated by 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10, “...how ye turned to God from idols.”

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance: n.
  - 1. The act of relying or the state of being reliant.
  - 2. The faith, confidence, or trust felt by one who relies; dependence. See synonyms at trust.
  - 3. One relied on; a mainstay.
- Rely:
- tr.v.,
  - 1. To be dependent for support, help, or supply: relies on her parents for tuition.
  - 2. To place or have faith or confidence: relied on them to tell him the truth.
- [from Latin religāre, to bind fast : re-, re- + ligāre, to bind.]

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- The Lord Jesus did not teach that saving faith was a simple matter.
- Instead of declaring that the saving of the soul was an easy thing, which many would participate in, He said:
- *"Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it"* (Matthew 7:14).
- *"Strive to enter in at the strait gate"* (Luke 13:24).
- *"How hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God"* (Mark 10:24,25).

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- *"Why call ye me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46);*
- *"Not everyone that saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).*
- Many a Faith PLUS Works Legalist will quote this verse to convince the unbeliever that he needs to "repent of their sins", but as usual, the context destroys their false premise...

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- *In the words of our Lord Himself, 'Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*
- *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity' [Matt. 7:21-23].*
- No works of any kind are allowed. Ephesians 2:8-9, *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that [salvation] not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*  
Romans 10:1-3
- Some are saved by '*coming to a knowledge of the truth about God's Righteousness*', so that if we do not have that knowledge, we cannot be saved.
- Note well, Paul does not pray that they would give up their personal sins to be saved, as is commonly presented today!

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- *'Blessed are the poor in spirit'* [Matt. 5:3]. But, you see, people who believe that they can put themselves right in the sight of God by their works are NOT poor in spirit.
- They are proud of spirit, as the Apostle was before his conversion, as our Lord depicted the Pharisees.
- *'What you need,'* they hear, just as those today who are told they must repent of their sins, is not poverty of spirit but self-confidence, a belief in yourself, a belief that you can make yourself good enough for God to save you.
- Set out to be saved by “Faith Plus Anything”, and this is the opposite of being 'poor in spirit'.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- And then, of course, our Lord put it like this in a terrible phrase in Luke 16:15: *'Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knows your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.'*
- If you have any doubt that the failure to be saved comes from a lack of cleaning up your life, look at this great mound of righteousness that the Pharisees had built up: *'That is what I have done. Look at my deeds, look at my good life, look what I have sacrificed, look AT MY righteousness.'*

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- And our Lord's comment upon it is that it is nothing but *'abomination in the sight of God'*.
- *'All our righteousnesses,'* says Isaiah, *'are as filthy rags'* [Isaiah. 64:6].
- Our best deeds are unworthy.
- Anyone who relies on his goodness and his righteousness has completely misunderstood the whole of the biblical teaching.
- They have “sinned”, missed the objective, “because they believe not in me”

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- *'They being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.'*
- If they had known what God really demands they would never have been foolish enough to go about to try to establish their own righteousness.
- And then, because they thought they were satisfying God, they did not listen to the demands of God's righteousness.
- They were prejudiced against it and rejected it, even as the Pharisees rejected our Lord, His teaching and all that He had to offer.
- The last people to believe the gospel, and to be saved, are always those who think that they can save themselves.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance:
- Our Lord looked at the Pharisees, who were good, moral, godly, religious people, and said this terrible thing,
- *'The publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you'* [Matt. 21:31].
- It is true now as it has always been true.
- There is no greater sin than the sin of the Pharisee, the sin of self-righteousness.
- It is, of everything, the thing that most blinds a man to the truth of the gospel.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Reliance
- The majority of Christians witness as if the gospel puts a premium on sin, but it does not.
- What the gospel does is to show the horrible, terrible danger of self-reliance, self-justification, self-righteousness.
- *'The publicans and the harlots'* - the complete outsiders, the most hopeless in society- actually did go into the kingdom before the others.
- Why?
- Because they were more ready to admit their need; they were more ready to acknowledge their own utter helplessness and hopelessness.

# 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.
- And 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

- 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.”

# Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- "It is the greatest wonder in the entire universe that human beings could be begotten of God" (Lee, Witness)—that is, regenerated with the divine life of God.
- Yet over the centuries of Christian history the precious, vital significance of regeneration has been neglected and gradually lost.
- Instead, some have come to view regeneration as simply a “new beginning,” a fresh start in one’s Christian life.
- Others regard regeneration as the point in time when a decision is made to leave one’s old manner of living, turn over a new leaf, and begin to follow the moral, Christian path.

# Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- Even *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language—Third Edition* defines **regenerate** as follows: “To reform spiritually or morally; to undergo spiritual conversion or rebirth; reform.”
- It defines **regeneration** as “spiritual or moral revival or rebirth.” Sadly, these definitions are shallow at best, not only failing to convey this precious truth, but also helping to obscure it. (regenerated.net)

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration (by Witness Lee)
- “Regeneration is a rebirth which brings in a new life. It is absolutely a matter of life, not a matter of doing.
- Regeneration is simply to have life other than the life we already have.
- We have already received the human life from our parents; now we need to receive the divine life from God.
- Hence, regeneration means to have the divine life of God in addition to the human life which we already possess.
- Therefore, regeneration requires another birth in order to possess another life...

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration (by Witness Lee)
- “To be regenerated, to be born again, does not mean to adjust or correct ourselves.
- It means to have the life of God, just as to be born of our parents means to have the life of our parents.
- To be regenerated is to be born of God (John 1:13), and to be born of God is to have the life of God, that is, the eternal life (3:15-16).”
  - (Witness Lee, LS of John, 98)

# 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.
- This, then, is the door of entrance into Christian discipleship.
- He who does not enter here, does not enter at all.