

**SLB-035**

**12-17-06**

The Rest of Regeneration - I

# The Rest of Regeneration

- John 14:6-11 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father '? "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

# SLB III: Spiritual Life Tactics

- 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 Tactics

- Phase I: Salvation
- Regeneration
  - Recognition
    - Recognizing the Convincing of the Holy Spirit
  - Repentance
    - Changing the mind
  - Reliance
    - Total trust

# SLB III: Spiritual Life Tactics

- Rest
  - Righteousness
  - Residence
  - Recovery
  - Resistance
  - Reckoning
  - Renovation
  - Rehearsal
  - Reciprocation
  - Reverence
  - Revelation

# SLB III: Spiritual Life Tactics

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

# 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
- Supernatural insemination by the Spirit of God is required to bring about this new spiritual birth within an individual.
- Regeneration is not 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.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- Regeneration is the impartation of a new and divine life; a new creation; the production of a new being.
- It is not that the Inherited Human Nature From Adam is altered, reformed, or even reinvigorated, but a new birth from above. (John 3:37;5:21;Eph.2:1, 10; 2Cor.5:17.)

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- As an organic member of God's family, a believer's regeneration is as permanent, as eternal as God's own life.
- God's life is both eternal and indissoluble.
- Therefore, "*having been regenerated, not of corruptible seed (spora) but of incorruptible*" (1 Peter 1:23), we enjoy a relationship with God which is equally eternal and indissoluble.
- In the human realm, no matter how naughty or unwilling a child may be, he is still his parents' child.
- No decision either by the parents or the child could ever dissolve the relationship which they share, for a relationship in life supersedes any based on conduct or will.

# 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 be fully revealed.
- (“We will be like Him”)

# 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 typical concept that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is an indefinite influence for good in the individual's present life is far below the concept 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 teach 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
- 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
- Regeneration 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 conceived by the Spirit;
  - (4) God the Father becomes his legitimate Father;
  - (5) therefore, all believers are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- Accordingly, the Bible uses the phrase “children of God” to refer to our relationship with God, not as a metaphor, but as a literal description of this genetic relationship with Him.
- *“Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us, that we should be called children of God; and we are....Beloved, now we are children of God” (1 John 3:1-2).* Paul Billheimer explains further in his book *Destined for the Throne:*

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- “From all eternity God purposed to have a family circle of His very own, not only created but also generated by His own life, incorporating His own seed, “sperma,” “genes,” or heredity.
- “Long ago, even before He made the world, God chose us to be his very own [in a genetic sense], through what Christ would do for us” (Eph. 1:4; also 5:25-27, 32 LB).
- In order to obtain this personal, organic family relationship, God conceived the infinitely vast and infinitely wise plan of creation plus redemption through the new birth, in order to bring “many sons into glory” (Heb. 2:10)....

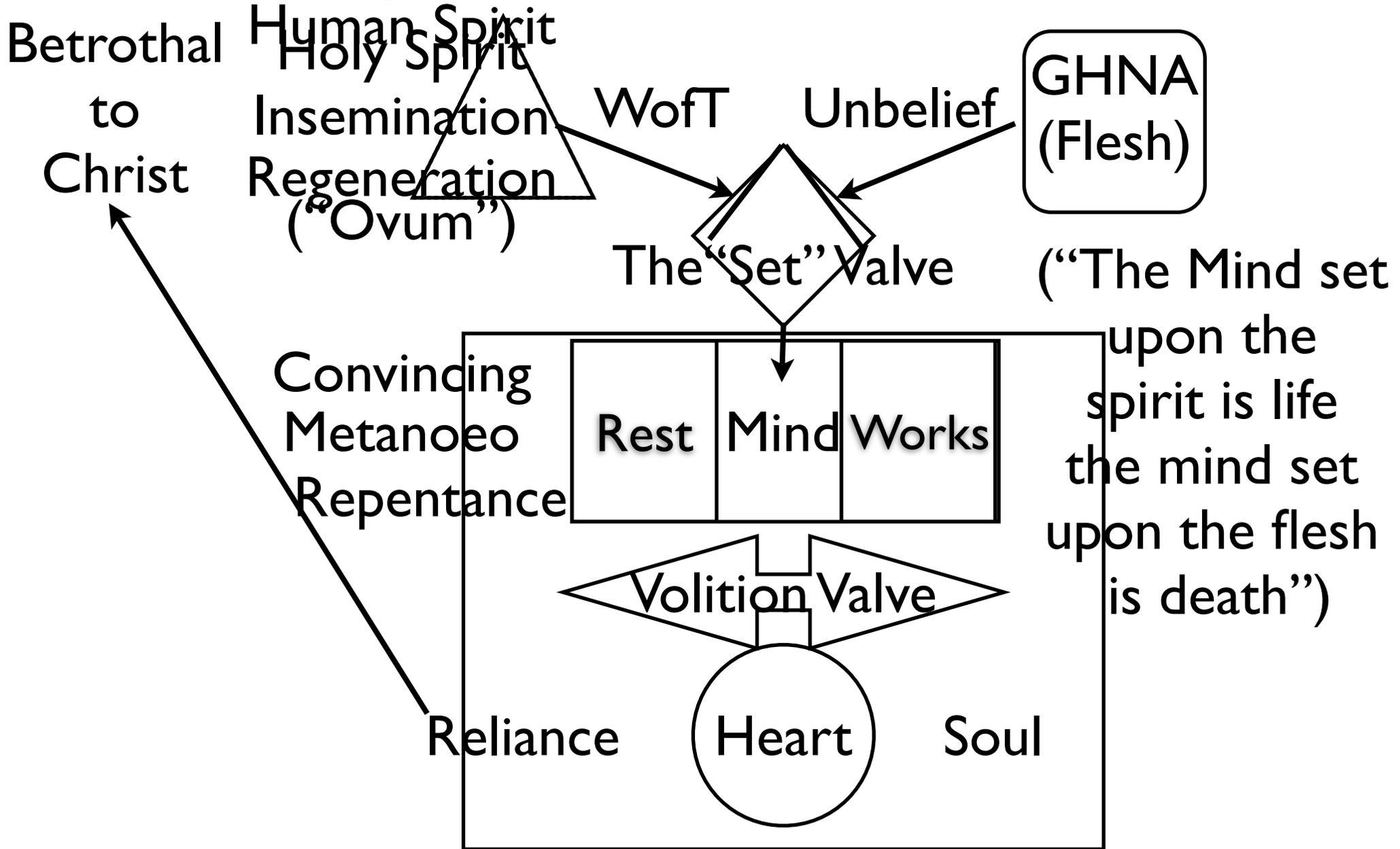
# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- “In John 1:12-13 we learn that the plan of redemption was inaugurated to set up a unique and original generative method by which these “many sons” would be born and progressively disciplined by a sanctifying process in order to bring them to glory.
- Regeneration is therefore much more profound than the concept of adoption, which holds that God the Father merely adopted His believers, granting them the position of sons, yet sharing with them no relationship in life.

# SLT: Phase I: Salvation

- Regeneration
- “Nowhere in his Gospel does John suggest an adoptive relationship.
- Instead, he likens regeneration to the birth of a child.
- In his study on the Greek word Teknon (“children”), as used in John 1:12, Marvin R. Vincent points out, “Teknon, child, denotes a relation based on community of nature, while huioi, Son, may indicate only adoption and heirship...John never uses huioi to describe the relation of Christians to God, since he regards their position not as a result of adoption but of new life” (Word Studies, 49).

# The Regeneration Mechanics



# The Rest of Regeneration

- The dictionary gives the following definitions of rest:
- 1. TO CEASE FROM ACTION
  - The word rest means to cease from labor or exertion.
  - Applying that to God's rest, it means no more self-effort--no more trying to please God by your human works.
  - Rest involves cessation from legalistic activity; we rest in free grace.

# The Rest of Regeneration

## ●2. TO BE FREE FROM WORRY

- Some people are never at peace because they're always bothered about something.
- To rest means to be free from whatever disturbs you, or causes you to worry.
- It means in this sense to be quiet, still, peaceful, and free from guilt.
- To enter God's rest means to be at peace with God; to possess the perfect peace that God gives.
- It means to be free from guilt, because our sin is forgiven.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- 3. TO BE SETTLED
- God's rest is the kind of rest where a man is stabilized in Christ, and does not run from philosophy to philosophy.
- He is no longer blown about by every wind of doctrine, but is rooted and grounded in the truth of Christ.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- 4. TO BE SECURE
  - To enter God's rest is to be secure, having absolute trust and confidence in God's care for you.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- 5. TO HAVE SOMETHING TO LEAN ON
- To enter God's rest means that you can lean on Him.
  - You can rely on God for support, trusting Him to supply all your needs.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- There are two final definitions of rest not found in a dictionary.
- The Bible speaks of rest in the millennial kingdom and rest for eternity in heaven.
- That's what God is promising and that's what He calls rest.
- Many people fail to believe in God's promises, and thus do not enter into rest because of their unbelief.
- Just as we HAVE God's Eternal Life, NOW, not just in Heaven, we have His REST, NOW, as well.

# SLB III: Spiritual Life Tactics

- Rest
  - Righteousness
  - Residence
  - Recovery
  - Resistance
  - Reckon
  - Renovation
  - Rehearsal
  - Reciprocation
  - Reverence
  - Revelation

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Rest is commonly taught as “Faith-Rest”, a Problem Solving Technique, related to trusting the Promises of God for solutions to our problems.
- While it is a valid doctrine, I believe that this fails to emphasize the necessity of Rest as THE way of life for the Believer.
- Rest is more than trusting God for the solution to our problems, it is THE essential approach to living the entire Christian Life.
- We will cover the technique of “Faith-Rest” under the topic of Reckoning - To rely with confident expectancy.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Rest is the living of the Life of the Father BY the Father dwelling in us.
- "If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." (Jesus quoted by [John 10:37-38](#))
- "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works." (Jesus quoted by [John 14:10](#))

# The Rest of Regeneration

- "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished." (Jesus quoted by [John 5:19-20](#))

# The Rest of Regeneration

- We, too, have the Father indwelling us; and not the Father only, but the Son and the Spirit.
- "If any man does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Rom. 8:9)
- "He who is joined to the Lord (Jesus Christ) is one spirit with Him" (I Cor. 6:17).
- The "normal" Christian Life is the "Rest of Regeneration", doing NOTHING of ourselves, but "the Father who dwells in me DOES His works."

# The Rest of Regeneration

- "If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." (Jesus quoted by [John 10:37-38](#))
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# The Rest of Regeneration

- Hebrews 3:7-19
- 7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, 8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, 9 WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS. 10 "THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS';

# SLB III: Spiritual Life Tactics

- Rest
  - Righteousness
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  - Revelation

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Hebrews 3:7-19
- 11 AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'" 12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Hebrews 3:15-19
- 15 while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME." 16 For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? 17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? 19 So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. 2 For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. 3 For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said,
- “As I swore in my wrath,  
‘They shall not enter my rest,’”

# The Rest of Regeneration

- although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4 For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” 5 And again in this passage he said, “They shall not enter my rest.” 6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, 7 again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

# The Rest of Regeneration

- “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”  
8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- 11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.