

# SLB-038

The Rest of Regeneration - Lesson 4

# 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,

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- “As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest,’ 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,

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- 7 again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, “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.

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- “Today, if you would hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”
- The quotation is taken from the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Septuagint.
- The Hebrew original of Psalm 95:7b could be translated, "O, that today you would hear his voice."
- The Greek translation, using the word "if," makes it clear that for the Israelites, for the first readers of Hebrews, and for us there is a choice of whether or not to hear the voice of God.
- We are responsible to respond to what God is saying.

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- Hebrew poetry was written with what is called parallelism .
- In this case hear his voice is a parallel thought to not harden your hearts.
- That is, hearing the voice of God means having hearts that are open and responsive to him rather than hard and closed.
- The words of the psalm are directly applicable to the readers of the book of Hebrews.
- Those readers were under pressure for their faith in Christ; they were being tempted to give up their faith.

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- But to give up the faith means turning their backs to and closing both their ears and hearts to the entreaties of God.
- The words of the psalm say exactly what the writer of Hebrews want to say, "don't harden your heart" against God's effort to strengthen and encourage you.
- Don't resist God's efforts to help you in the midst of your pressure and trouble.
- To give up the faith in the face of persecution was the moral equivalent of the rebellion against God that took place in Israel's history during the wilderness wanderings.
- The author of Hebrews continued to quote from the Greek translation of the Old Testament in verse 8.

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- *“Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, as on the day of testing in the wilderness.”*
- The literal translations of the Hebrew text of Psalm 95:8 read, "Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day of Massah in the wilderness."
- Massah and Meribah became code words for a testing, complaining, questioning, argumentative spirit that was never satisfied with what God provided.
- It was a quarreling, complaining, bitter attitude.

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- Verse 9 describes Meribah and Massah as the place where the Israelite fathers tested God by trying to make him prove himself.
- The demand that God prove himself is the opposite of trust.
- It is the opposite of obedience.
- And the response of God according to verse 10 is anger.  
*“They always are deceived in their hearts and they did not know my ways.”*

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- The idea of being deceived in their hearts is a powerful word image.
- The word deceived speaks of wandering off track so that person, animal, or thing is not where the observer expects it to be.
- Tempting God to prove himself is thus described as being off track and deceived.
- The Hebrew parallelism suggests that being off track also means not recognizing God's ways.
- God uses the difficult times of life - whether it be the desert, persecution, or the pressures we face in life - to test our trust and obedience.

# Sometimes you know...



# Sometimes you Don't...



# Sometimes you have no control...



Sometimes it's out of your hands...



# Sometimes you make a mistake...



Sometimes you face unknown dangers...



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- To complain and question God and test Him by making our own plans in those times is to usurp the role and way of God.
- That is the sin of disobedience.
- As a result God swore that the Israelites would not “enter my rest.”

# The Rest in Regeneration

- So, what is this “Rest”?
- The rest to which Hebrews 4:1-11 refers is not the rest that the believer enters into at death, as so many commentators teach.
- The promised land was not meant to be a picture of heaven, which the words of many hymns might suggest.
- Joshua and Caleb entered a land full of enemies.
- They entered because of their faith in a God who would work on their behalf (see Exodus 14:14-"The Lord shall fight for you" and Numbers 14:9-"the Lord is with us").
- In the context of the Exodus and wilderness wanderings not entering God's rest meant not entering the promised land, where God would provide for their every need.

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- For us, it is failure to enter the Soul-Rest of the Spiritual Life we receive at Regeneration; again, where God provides for all our needs.
- *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." St. John 3:6*
- *GAL 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*
- *"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." Jude 24*

# The Rest in Regeneration

- The person who enters into God's rest is the person who ceases from his own works (Heb. 4:10) and allows God the freedom to outwork and manifest His life (Heb. 13:20-21).
- For God to "outwork and manifest His life", His life must be in us, and 'free' to express itself.
- Our "New Genetics" is the essence of Christianity.
- Christianity is not a belief-system or a morality code, but is the presence and function of the Spiritual Genetics of God's Life within Christians.

# Rest

- Our term, "Spiritual Genetics," or "Genetic Union" is used to differentiate our Regeneration from the "positional truth" of "identification" with Jesus in His He crucifixion, burial, resurrection, and ascension.
- While there is truth and doctrinal importance in the fact that "when He died, we died," that "when He was buried, we were buried," that "when He was raised, we rose with Him," and that "when He ascended, we ascended," we must understand that the Judicial Imputations and our "identification" are not the means of the Spiritual Life; but the "right" to be born into this life.

# Rest

- Nor is the imputed participation in the benefits of Christ's redemption, whereby those who believe in Christ's substitutional and vicarious death for their sins are legally and judicially united with Christ in their standing before God in heaven.
- In imputed union with Christ, Christians are declared righteous, as Christ's righteousness is imputed to them for justification.
- Though theologically significant, this union is not the means of living out “Christ in you, the expectation of Glory”.
- It is not imputation, but impartation that does it.

# Rest

- By the term "spiritual genetics," I am referring to the real union of the genes of the Spirit of God and Christ with the "seed" of the human spirit in regeneration.
- "If any person does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Rom. 8:9)

# Rest

- What is it they do who are "spiritual"?
- In I Cor. 2:15, Paul wrote, "He who is spiritual appraises all things."
- In the context, a "spiritual" person is contrasted to the "natural man" in the previous verse (2:14), who cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God.
- Appraising all things is the conscious evaluation of every circumstance, every "Event" that we perceive, from the Divine Viewpoint of our Genetic-Union "mind of Christ."

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- The natural man is hurrying and scurrying to find “rest”.
- They seek it in boats and summer cottages; vacations to the beach or to the mountains; and in hobbies and games.
- They are seeking "rest" - but they are looking for the wrong kind of rest; their weariness and frustration is not from “work”, but from their “works”.
- When we enter into God’s provided rest, we can do any sort of “work” with perfect happiness and satisfaction.
- This true "rest" can only be found in our "New Genetics", our “Genetic-Union”
- Hence, our study of, “The Rest of Regeneration.”

# Rest

- Biblical spirituality involves the presence and function of the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit; all three members of the Godhead “residing” in the individual believer.
- It is the practice of Divine Viewpoint in every aspect of life.

# Rest

- Paul explained to the Ephesians that in their unregenerate state they "were by nature, children of wrath" (Eph. 2:3), receiving their genetic pre-dispositions, their inborn motivations from their physical (and fallen) human progenitor, Adam.
- The unregenerate "sons of disobedience" derive their evil from the genetic mutation caused by the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil", and its ally, the "god of this world" (II Cor. 4:4), for the "whole world lies in the evil one" (I Jn. 5:19).

# Rest

- But in the genetic exchange from Adam to Christ and from the “fatherhood” from "Satan to God" (Acts 26:18), the Christian becomes "a partaker of the divine nature" (II Pet. 1:4), in genetic rebirth with the Trinity.
- The regeneration by the insemination with the spiritual genes of God results in an exchange from spiritual death to eternal spiritual life.

# Rest

- This "eternal life" that we receive in Jesus Christ is not some "thing" that we possess; rather, "eternal life" is the life of God, Himself, innate to His very Being, and equally a part of our life in regeneration.
- Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life" (Jn. 11:25); "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn. 14:6). "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life" (I Jn. 5:12).
- In our "spiritual genetic union" with Christ we have "passed out of death into life" (I Jn. 3:14), for "Christ lives in us" (Gal. 2:20), and "Christ is our life" (Col. 3:4).

# Rest

- Christians are "*sons of God* through faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26).
- We are "*children of God*" (I Jn. 3:1,2) - no longer "children of the devil," but "children of God" (I Jn. 3:10), for "as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

# Rest

- We were once "unrighteous" (I Cor. 6:9), but we have now been "made righteous" (Rom. 5:19), not just by judicial imputation, for we have been "created in righteousness" (Eph. 4:24), receiving the Reservoir of Righteousness by the new birth and have "become the righteousness of God in Christ" (II Cor. 5:21), as the "Righteous One" (Acts 7:52; 22:14), Jesus Christ, has become the life-basis of who we are.
- We have been made "holy, and blameless and beyond reproach" (Col. 1:22).
- Christians are even identified as "perfect" (Phil. 3:15; Heb. 12:23) in spiritual condition, because the genes of Jesus Christ dwells within their Divinely impregnated spirit.

# Rest

- Everything has become "new" for the Christian who is in Christ by regeneration.
- The prophet Ezekiel prophesied about the impartation of Spiritual life by Christ, saying, "I will give you a *new heart* and put a *new spirit* within you" (Ezek. 36:26).
- This is repeatedly and falsely taught as God's force for "motivation" in us to give us a "new attitude", but almost never accurately taught as a "new creation".

# Rest

- When the Christian receives Christ in regeneration, this "new heart" and "new spirit" become a spiritual reality within.
- In the "inner man" (II Cor. 4:16) we receive the "newness of life" (Rom. 6:4) of the presence and function of Jesus Christ's genes.
- Jeremiah's comment that "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jere. 17:9) is no longer true in the Genetic union of Regeneration.

# Rest

- The Spirit of Christ's genes indwell our spiritual hearts (Eph. 3:17), and this constitutes a "new heart" wherein "God has written His laws upon our hearts" (Heb. 8:10; 10:16).
- "If any man is in Christ, he is a *new creature*; old things have passed away and new things have come" (II Cor. 5:17).
- By genetic-union with Christ, everything has become spiritually new in the Christian.
- We are a "*new creation*" (Gal. 6:15).
- We are a "*new man*" (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10).

# Rest

- Perhaps the most frequent phrase used in the New Testament to refer to our genetic union with God is the little phrase, "in Christ," and its variant forms of "in Christ Jesus," "in Jesus Christ," "in the Lord Jesus Christ," and "in Him," etc.
- "By His (God's) doing you are *in Christ Jesus* (I Cor. 1:30)," Paul writes.
- "If any man is *in Christ*, he is a new creature" (II Cor. 5:17).
- Whenever we see one of those phrases it is quite helpful to read it as "in genetic-union with Christ." For example, "Consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God *in Christ Jesus* (in genetic-union with Christ Jesus)" (Rom. 6:11).

# Rest

- "The free gift of God is eternal life *in Christ Jesus our Lord* (in genetic-union with Christ Jesus our Lord)" (Rom. 6:23).
- The phrase "in the Spirit" can also refer to the genetic-union with the Spirit of Christ.
- Genetic-union results in the presence of the entire Trinity within us.
- The mystery of the indwelling of the 3 members of the Trinity is easily explained by the genetic union, the impartation of the genes of the Godhead through the miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit.

# Rest

- The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have come to dwell and take up residence in our spirit.
- When we become "partakers of the divine nature" (II Pet. 1:4), we become partakers of God the Father, "partakers of Christ" (Heb. 3:14), and "partakers of the Holy Spirit" (Heb. 6:4).
- Jesus explained to the disciples in the upper room discourse, "If anyone loves Me, We (My Father and I) will come and make Our abode (in genetic-union) with him" (John. 14:23).

# Rest

- John writes, "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, *God abides in Him* and he in God (in genetic-union with God)" (I John 4:15,16).
- It is the apostle Paul who is so clear about Christ indwelling us.
- This is the mystery of the gospel, Paul states, "*Christ in you* (in genetic-union), the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).
- "It is no longer I who live, but *Christ lives in me* (in genetic-union)" (Gal. 2:20), Paul tells the Galatians.

# Rest

- Paul asked the Corinthians, incredulously, "Do you not recognize that *Jesus Christ is in you* (in genetic-union with you)?" (II Cor. 13:5).
- Likewise the *Holy Spirit dwells in* (in genetic-union with) *us* (II Tim. 1:14).
- "God gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge" (II Cor. 1:22), and has "sent the Spirit into our hearts, crying, 'Abba, Father'" (Gal. 4:6).
- Genetic union results in the indwelling presence of the entire Trinity.

# Rest

- Since God dwells in us in Spirit form, the scriptures employ numerous descriptions of how the genetic-union is established and functions.
- We must be "born of the Spirit" (John 3:5,8), Jesus told Nicodemus.
- We receive the "gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38), Peter explained in the first sermon of the church.
- We are "sealed in the Spirit" (Eph. 4:30; II Cor. 1:22); "sealed in Him (in union with Christ) with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Eph. 1:13), as God's own possession.

# Rest

- In like manner, every Christian has spiritual *vision*, whereby with "the eyes of their heart" (Eph. 1:18) they can "look at the things which are not seen, which are eternal" (II Cor. 4:18), and "behold the glory of God" (II Cor. 3:18).
- In genetic-union, Christians have an *inner, spiritual hearing* to "hear what the Spirit is saying" (Rev. 2:7,11).
- Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice" (John 10:3,4,16,27).
- "If anyone has an ear, let him hear" (Rev. 13:9) and listen to what God is saying.

# Rest

- Those who are in genetic-union with God often fail to appreciate the spiritual knowledge potential that genetic union with God provides.
- Paul explained that "the natural man does not understand spiritual things, but he that is spiritual (i.e., has genetic-union) appraises all things" (I Cor. 2:14,15).
- This knowledge is the result of growth in the knowledge of "spiritual things", which results in an intimate relational knowledge of Our Father.
- "*We know* that we have come to *know* Him, if we keep His mandates" (I John 2:3).

# Rest

- "May God grant you a spirit of *wisdom* and *revelation* in the *knowledge* of Him" (Eph. 1:17), Paul prayed for the Ephesians.
- This spiritual revealing of God's character, God's ways, and God's direction cannot be "understood" by the "natural man"; it must be "learned" in the spiritual perception and awareness inherent from the "genetic-union" with God.
- The Psalmist reported, "My inner man instructs me in the night" (Ps. 16:7).

# Rest

- To the Corinthians, Paul wrote, "We have received the Spirit of God, that we might *know* the things freely given to us by God" (I Cor. 2:12).
- We are "able to *comprehend* what is the breadth and length and height and depth (of God's ways), and to *know* the love of Christ which surpasses (natural) knowledge" (Eph. 3:18,19).

# Rest

- By natural reasoning, God and His ways are "past finding out" (Rom. 11:33), but the Christian in genetic-union with God can "*know* God's ways" (Heb. 3:10), "*know* the grace of God" (II Cor. 8:9), "*know* that he has the anointing of the Spirit" (I John 2:20), "*know* that he has passed out of death into life" (I John 3:14), "*know* that he has eternal life" (I John 5:13), and, in fact, "*know* all things" (Jude 1:5) that God wants him to know.

# Rest

- "The Son of God has come and given us *understanding*" (I John 5:20).
- Paul prayed that the Colossians might "be filled with the *knowledge* of His will in all spiritual *wisdom* and *understanding*" (Col. 1:9).
- To Timothy, he explained, "the Lord will give you *understanding* in everything" (II Tim. 2:7).
- God reveals things to the Christian with whom He has genetic-union.
- Paul told the Philippians, "Have this attitude, and if you have a different attitude, God will *reveal* it to you" (Phil. 3:15).

# Rest

- "We have the *mind of Christ*" (I Cor. 2:16)
- The "mind of Christ" is not an attitude of false humility as some portray, for the "mind of Christ" is the genetically provided "consciousness" of the divine nature via spiritual revelation.
- That is why Paul admonishes, "Let this mind be in you, which was in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5), encouraging the "renewing of the mind" (Rom. 12:2: Eph. 4:23) for the development of Divine viewpoint in the soul.

# Rest

- Paul explained to Timothy that those who are not Christians are under "the snare of the devil, being held captive to do his will" (II Tim. 2:26).
- Christians, on the other hand, have the *will of God* within them.
- God did not come into us without His will, and He is "at work in us, both to *will* and to work for His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).
- In genetic-union, we can "understand what the *will of the Lord* is" (Eph. 5:17), and "do the *will of God* from the heart" (Eph. 6:6) by His grace.