

SLB-039 1-7-07

The Rest of Regeneration - Lesson 5

2 Peter 1:3-8, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

The Rest of Regeneration

- "Come unto me, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; and you shall find rest to your souls -Mt.11:28-29
- Hebrews 3:10 "for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his."
- Ephesians 2:10 (YLT) "for of Him we are workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God did before prepare, that in them we may walk.

The Rest of Regeneration

- Spiritual “re-gene-ing”, or regeneration, creates (conceives) the spirit of man. "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6).
- "The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are [genetic] children of God" (Rom. 8:16).
- A genetic union is effected whereby "one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him [genetically]" (I Cor. 6:17).
- The key reality that constitutes a Christian is the presence of the Spirit of Christ in the spirit (genetic union) of an individual who receives Him by faith.
- "If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him" (Rom. 8:9), i.e. not a Christian!

The Rest of Regeneration

- Regeneration
- Supernatural Spiritual 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.
- 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.)
- Just as Eternal life must come from eternal genes, Spiritual life must come from spiritual genes.

The Rest of Regeneration

- 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 a passing from one order of being into another.
- 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 almost universally misapprehended.
- The typical concept that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is an indefinite influence for good in the individual's human life is far below the concept set forth in the New Testament.

Spiritual Life - Regeneration

- Regeneration
- 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 union 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).*
- 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.
(Billhimer)

The Rest of Regeneration

- "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." (John 14:10)
- "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." (John 5:19)
- Likewise, we are to live the same:
- Ephesians 2:10 (YLT) "for of Him we are workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God did before prepare, that in them we may walk."

The Rest of Regeneration

- The dictionary gives the following primary definition of rest:
- TO CEASE FROM ACTION
 - The word rest means to cease from labor or exertion.

The Rest of Regeneration

- While “Faith-Rest”, as a Problem Solving Technique, related to trusting the Promises of God for solutions to our problems, 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.

The Rest of Regeneration

- But if anyone obeys His word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in Him: Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did" (1 John 2:5-6).
- How, again, did Jesus walk?
- "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." (John 14:10)
- The "normal" Christian Life is the "Rest of Regeneration", doing NOTHING of ourselves, but "the Father who dwells in me DOES His works."

Rest

- Andrew Murray - "As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, abounding therein. "COL.2:6-7
- IN THESE words the apostle teaches us the weighty lesson, that it is not only by faith that we first come to Christ and are united to Him, but that it is by faith that we are to be rooted and established in our union with Christ.
- No less essential than for the commencement, is faith for the progress of the spiritual life. Abiding in Jesus can only be by faith.

Rest

- “There are earnest Christians who do not understand this; or, if they admit it in theory, they fail to realize its application in practice.
- They are very zealous for a free gospel, with our first acceptance of Christ, and justification by faith alone.
- But after this they think everything depends on our diligence and faithfulness.
- While they firmly grasp the truth, “The sinner shall be justified by faith,” they have hardly found a place in their scheme for the larger truth, “The just shall live by faith.”

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,

The Rest of Regeneration

- *“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.

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.
- *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.*

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."

Rest

- Jesus said, "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).
- 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, because we have been "created in righteousness" (Eph. 4:24), receiving the Reservoir of Righteousness by the new birth.
- 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 Entering into vine entering into it.
- Entering into rest is opening the gates of that reservoir to allow the inborn character of God to flow forth.

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

- 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).

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

- 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 in growing up from childhood to adulthood in our "genetic-union" with God.
- In the natural man, genetics accounts for about 50 percent of human behavior and thinking, while the other 50 percent is related to nurturing, the way we grow up.

Rest

- Nurturing must relate to the genetic basis of who we are; you cannot nurture a human to totally act like a fish or some other creature.
- 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

- *2 Peter 1:3-8, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Rest

- 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.

Rest

- Genetic-union comes complete with the divine character of God, for His character cannot be detached from His Being.
- Paul describes the divine character as the "fruit of the Spirit" which is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and godly control of the self" (Gal. 5:22,23).
- These are not merely external behavioral traits or psychological attitudes, but they are the divine character that we receive when the triune God imparts the Divine Nature.

Rest

- For a Christian to complain that he/she lacks "patience" or "gentleness" or any other feature of Divine character, and then to seek to develop such through psychological procedures, is to deny all that we have received in our Divine Genetics, and to fail to enter into Rest.
- The inner spiritual character that is ours by the presence of God's Genetics is intended to be transformed into our thinking process by "growing up" from "new born babes", to "a full grown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

Rest

- Because of our Spiritual Genetics we are "complete [in genetic-union] with Christ" (Col. 2:10), lacking nothing spiritually. "All has become new" (II Cor. 5:17), and we have received everything God has to give.
- As the uneducated country preacher expressed it, "You got all there is to get when you got Jesus. You ain't gonna get no more, 'cause there ain't no more to get."
- "as, then, you did receive Christ Jesus the Lord, in Him walk you, yourself," (Colossians 2:6)
- Paul advised the Corinthian Christians, "all things belong to you; whether things present or things to come, all things belong to you" (I Cor. 2:20,21).

Rest

- "God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in [genetic-union with] Christ Jesus" (Eph. 1:3).
- "God has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence" (II Peter 1:3).