

# SLB-040 1-7-07

## The Rest of Regeneration - Lesson 6

*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.*

# Rest

- Jesus said, "I came that you might have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).
- In genetic-union with Christ we have "*abundant life*."
- "He is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we could ask or think, according to the power that works within us" (Eph. 3:20).
- Soul Rest life is *grace life*. "God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed" (II Cor. 9:8).

# Rest

- "My grace is sufficient for you" (II Cor. 12:9), God told Paul.
- In union with Christ we participate in the "*supplied life*," living and ministering by "the strength which God supplies" (I Peter 4:11).
- "Not that we are adequate in ourselves, to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy/sufficiency is from God" (II Cor. 3:5).
- Christ within is "the power of God" (I Cor. 1:24), and we are "strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man" (Eph. 3:16); "strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience" (Col. 1:11).

# Rest

- "We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God, and not from ourselves" (II Cor. 4:7).
- That is why Paul could say, "I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

# Rest

- A major doctrinal error is the concept that “in Christ” is only “positional truth” that is true from God's position or perspective, but is not “actually true.”
- No, these are actual truths of our genetic-union with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, abundantly documented in the New Testament scriptures.
- They are the essence of what it means to be a Christian.
- Until we understand that we are in genetic union with Christ (our spiritual life) and all we have in Christ (the genetic spiritual potential), we will never begin to behave like who we have become in our Genetic-Union to God Himself.

# Rest

- Genetic-Union allows for Rest, and should lead to Spiritual Life function that derives from the sufficiency that the Christian has in genetic-union with Christ.
- Genetic-Union does not inevitably and immediately cause and produce Rest.
- Rest is not an automatic outcome of genetic-union.
- Rest is a continual experience of allowing the Spirit of God who dwells within the Christian to produce that Christian's behavior.
- "Rest is ceasing from our performance of doing and striving to get what God has already given us."

# Rest

- "Rest" is not a super deluxe version of the Christian life. It is not a "mystical life" that only the super-saints achieve.
- Rest is not receiving something more than what every Christian receives when he becomes a Christian at regeneration.
- Rest is not an added extra in the Christian life: Jesus Christ + (something else).
- In genetic-union with God, we are "complete in Christ," and Rest is allowing the indwelling presence of God to experientially permeate our life.
- Rest is God's intended experiential out-living of the Christian life, of the Christ-life.

# Rest

- The God who impregnated our spirit is the God of Rest.
- He is not a Being who struggles and strives to act and achieve.
- He always acts out of His own Essence, as His Tri-unity functions in perfect peace and harmony.
- Throughout scripture He is often identified as "the God of peace" (Rom. 15:33; 16:20; II Cor. 13:11; Phil. 4:9; I Thess. 5:23).
- Rest is the means of attaining Peace by allowing the "God of peace to equip us in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ" (Heb. 13:20).

# Rest

- "Be still (cease striving), and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10).
- "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you *rest*. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find *rest for your souls*" (Matt. 11:28,29).
- ...as unto Babes in Christ; I have fed you with milk, not with meat..(1 Cor 3:1-2)
- "learn from Me" is the Key.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Everything necessary for being and behaving as “Christian” is inherent within and derived from the genes of the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
- Being a Christian is not a religious exercise of imitation of the historic life of Jesus Christ, striving by our own efforts to be Christ-like.
- Attempts to pattern one's behavior after that of Jesus amount to nothing more than self-serving attempts to satisfy Approbation Motivation.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- The Christian life is not an imitation of Jesus, but the manifestation of His life and character through us, "that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal body" (II Cor. 4:10,11).
- Living the Christian life is not comprised of going through the motions of repetitive religious rituals, asceticism, or mysticism.
- Nor is it the legalistic adherence to behavioral rules and regulations in conformity to a religious morality.
- Church involvement is not Christian living either; not church attendance, participating in christian service, or tithing ten-percent of one's income.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- In His departing promise Jesus explained, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (Acts 1:8).
- "God's grace is given according to the working of His power" (Eph. 3:7), providing "all sufficiency in everything" (II Cor. 9:8).
- Therefore, just as in becoming a Christian, it is not what we do to behave and live as a Christian, but the "Rest" of allowing the living of the life of Jesus Christ within us.
- "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6).

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Jesus said, "I came that you might have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). "I am the life" (John 14:6), Jesus declared.
- The Christian can affirm with Paul that "Christ is our life" (Col. 3:4); therefore, "for me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21).

# The Rest of Regeneration

- By His Holy Spirit, the living Lord Jesus wants to fill us (cf. Eph. 5:18) and control our behavior in order to manifest His character.
- This is not ethical conformity to a Christian value-system, but is the manifestation of the "fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Gal. 5:22,23).
- Thereby we allow for His holy character to be expressed in the process of sanctification (cf. I Cor. 1:30; I Thess. 5:23).

# The Rest of Regeneration

- It is not what we do, but what He does that constitutes the living of the Christian life.
- Jesus told His disciples, "Apart from Me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5).
- Paul, a former religious activist if there ever was one, now realizes "we are not adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God" (II Cor. 3:5).

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Being the Christian we have become is not effected by increased dedication and commitment to God or the church.
- Nor is Christian growth and behavior enacted by "studying to show oneself approved to God" by the gnostic acquisition of additional biblical and doctrinal knowledge.
- Emotional experiences do not make one a better Christian.
- Participation in activistic causes, or serving the Lord in ministry or missions opportunities are not creditable means of enhancing the Christian life.
- God is "not served with human hands, as though He needed anything" (Acts 17:25).

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Paul credited Christ for everything in his life and ministry, when he wrote, "I do not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me" (Rom. 15:18).
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

# The Rest of Regeneration

- "As you received Christ Jesus, so walk in Him" (Col. 2:6)
- How did we receive Christ Jesus in order to become a Christian?
- By faith alone!
- In like manner, then, the Christian is responsible to continue to make the volitional choices moment-by-moment to allow for the receptivity of Christ's activity in our Christian lives.
- Such receptive faith allows for the vital outworking (cf. James 2:26) of the life and character of Jesus Christ in our behavior.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- "Christ lives in me," Paul explained, "and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me" (Gal. 2:20).
- Becoming a Christian is personally appropriated by coming unto God in faith.
- Faith is not believing the accuracy of certain data about Jesus Christ, nor is it having an existential experience of ecstasy.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Rather, faith is a volitional choice of Reliance on the reality of the indwelling genetics of Jesus Christ, willing to manifest Christ's life from our spirit.
- "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become [genetic] children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were [genetically] born...of God" (John 1:12,13).
- "Having believed, you were sealed in [genetic union to] Him with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Eph. 1:13).

# The Rest of Regeneration

- What does it mean, then, to be a Christian?
- Christianity is Christ!
- A Christian is one in whom Jesus Christ lives by genetic union with His Spirit, and one who allows the life and character of Jesus Christ to be lived out through his behavior, in order to function as intended to the glory of God (cf. Isa. 43:7).
- “The first man, Adam, became a living soul. The last Adam (Jesus) became a life-giving spirit” (I Cor. 15:45).

# The Rest of Regeneration

- The first representative man, Adam, became a living soul when God breathed into him the breath of lives (Gen. 2:7)
- But he made the death choice rather than the life choice. Jesus, on the other hand, is the other representative man who came to restore God's life to man.
- He is called the "Last Adam," the Eschatos Man, the last in a sequence of two alternatives.
- Earlier in the same chapter, Paul wrote, "As in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive" (I Cor. 15:22).
- All men are united representatively with either Adam or Christ, in either genetic spiritual death or genetic spiritual life.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- “I AM the resurrection and the life” (Rom. 11:25), Jesus said to Martha, identifying Himself with the I AM of God (Exod. 3:14). “I AM the way, the truth, and the life” (Jn. 14:6), Jesus explained to His disciples. Jesus is the modality (way), the reality (truth), and the vitality (life) of God Himself.
- “He that has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life” (I Jn. 5:12).
- “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life” (Jn. 5:24).

# The Rest of Regeneration

- The new spiritual condition of the regenerated individual is not an end in itself.
- Regeneration is a one-time event with the result of the inseminating of the Human Spirit with the divine character.
- Our "Reservoir of Righteousness," the "character" of God, Himself, indwelling us genetically through our union with the Spirit of Christ, must now be allowed to be exhibited: "the life of Jesus manifested in our mortal bodies" (II Cor. 4:10,11).

# Children will be Children...



# The Rest of Regeneration

- In our spiritual genetics, we are "complete in Christ" (Col. 2:10). "All things have been made new" (II Cor. 5:17) in our spirit because the Spirit of Christ is genetically therein making us a "new man" (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10).
- We have "every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3); "all things pertaining to life and godliness" (II Peter 1:3).
- "Of His fullness we have all received" (John 1:16), the "fullness of the blessing of Christ" (Rom. 15:29), whereby we are "full of goodness" (Rom. 15:14) and "full of the gladness of His presence" (Acts 2:28).

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Though every Christian is genetically full of the presence of the Spirit of Christ, for "He gives the Spirit without measure" (John 3:34), the process of allowing the life and character of Christ to fill and pervade our minds and hearts through our volitional acquiescence in order to be expressed in our behavior is realized by the growth process.
- Paul's prayer for the Ephesians, though they participated in "the fullness of Him who fills all in all" (Eph. 1:23), was that they might "be filled up to all the fullness of God" (Eph. 3:19), "to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13).

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Consideration of the release of the Spirit of Christ into behavioral expression using the figure of being "filled with the Spirit" has long been clouded with misunderstandings, controversy and confusion.
- Biblical terminology utilizes metaphors that portray the Spirit in fluid terms such as "rivers of living water" (John 7:38) and the Spirit being "poured out" (Acts 2:17) upon mankind, as if it were some external application such as filling our automobile tank with a gasoline.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Others treat God as a "cosmic waiter" with a big pitcher full of Holy Spirit, awaiting their request to "fill their cup."
- These concepts err in representing an additional external application of the Spirit after the Christian's conception by the Spirit of Christ at regeneration.
- Since "all spiritual things belong to us in [genetic union with] Christ" (1 Cor. 3:21,22), to suggest that the Christian needs more is to suggest that the very character and essence of God we received when born of God is insufficient.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- A more accurate understanding is to recognize that the Christian has received the traits of the Spirit of Christ in his spirit at regeneration (Rom. 8:9) and is "complete in Christ" (Col. 2:10).
- Internally, not externally, from the inside out, the Spirit of Christ functions like a river "springing up to eternal life" (John 4:14), from the Reservoir of Righteousness to manifest His character in Spiritual Fruit and Gift-Ministry.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Paul's command to the Ephesians "Do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18), will serve as our springboard for the study of the mechanics of the filling of the Spirit.
- The context in which Paul's command is stated is a treatise on practical behavior.
- Referring to the conduct of daily life, Paul admonishes the Ephesian Christians to "be careful how you walk" (Eph. 5:15) so as to be "wise" and "make the most of your time" (Eph. 5:16).

# The Rest of Regeneration

- It is important, Paul says, to "understand what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17), which is always the expression of the character of Jesus Christ.
- The context of the filling of the Spirit is not "Spiritual Ecstasies" or some other mystical experience wherein one is zapped by God "with the Holy Ghost."
- Rather, the filling of the Spirit relates to daily behavior.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- The results of being filled with the Spirit will be a "song in your heart" (Eph. 5:19), a thankful attitude (Eph. 5:20), and deference to one another in interpersonal relationships (Eph. 5:21).
- And, can anything be more practical than behavior which exhibits the character of Christ in marriage relationships (Eph. 5:22-33); parent and child relationships (Eph. 6:1-4); and employer and employee relationships (Eph. 6:5-9)?
- In all relationships God wants to see the fullness of his character expressed in our behavior.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- When Paul commands the Ephesian Christians to "be filled with the Spirit," the verb is in an imperative mood.
- This is not an option in the Christian life, but is mandatory.
- It is one of those mandates that we are to keep if we are to know that we know him.
- "*We know* that we have come to *know* Him, if we keep His mandates" (I John 2:3).

# The Rest of Regeneration

- The command has two parts in Ephesians 5:18.
- The first command is "Do not get drunk."
- The number of messages and sermons on this particular phrase of the text reveals the legalistic religious fervor of the majority of writers and preachers pontificating, today.
- Very few teach the practical instructions concerning what it means to "be filled with the Spirit."
- It is much easier for the religious man to focus on the negative behavioral admonitions rather than the positive instructions, failing to recognize that the positive instructions will solve the problems addressed by the negative.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- For example, if we follow the instructions of Rom. 12:2 to, "be transformed by the renewing of our mind" it will prevent our "being conformed to this world".
- Likewise, in our text, if the Christian is being "filled with the Spirit," we need not concern ourselves with the the eventuality of his "being drunk with wine."
- To emphasize the behavioral modifications is to evade the mandate to enter into the Rest of Regeneration provided by God which is to be found in the Reservoir of Righteousness and the control of the Spirit.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- When Paul commands the Ephesian Christians to "be filled with the Spirit," the verb "be filled" is second-person plural, which means that it says, "You all be filled with the Spirit."
- To be filled with the Spirit is the birthright of every Regenerated Christian.
- Having been "born of the Spirit" (John 3:5,6), we are to be "filled with the Spirit."
- Many Christians, like Esau (Gen. 25:34), despise their birthright, willing to sell it for a mess of pottage and temporary pleasure.
- God intends for every Christian to "be filled with the Spirit," for such is the normal Christian life wherein man functions as God intended the New Genetic-Union Man to function.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- When Paul uses "getting drunk with wine" and "being filled with the Spirit" in the same sentence, he is making a comparison by contrast.
- There are other occasions in Scripture where these two concepts are mentioned with one another.
- Luke records that the Angel told Zacharias that his son, John the Baptist, "would drink no wine or liquor, but would be filled with the Holy Spirit" (Luke 1:15).
- Luke also records that on Pentecost the apostles were "filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4), and observers mocked them, saying, "They are full of sweet wine" (Acts 2:13).

# The Rest of Regeneration

- What do these two concepts have in common that would cause Paul to contrast them in comparison?
- When a person is drunk it is usually obvious from the way he behaves.
- He does not need a sign hanging around his neck to tell us, "I am drunk!"
- His drunkenness is evident from the way he walks, talks, thinks, and acts.
- The alcohol affects every aspect of his demeanor.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- In carrying on the analogy, Paul refers to being "careful how you walk" (Eph. 5:15), being "wise" and "understanding" (Eph. 5:15,17), indicating that "being filled with the Spirit" will affect your "speaking to one another" (Eph. 5:19) and your relationships (Eph. 5:22-6:9).
- The effects of the filling of the Spirit, like those of being drunk, will affect one's walking, thinking, talking and relationships with others.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- The process of getting drunk and being filled with the Spirit also have some similarities.
- There is nothing mysterious or mystical about getting drunk.
- A person simply consumes enough alcohol until they are controlled by the alcoholic "spirits."
- In a similar manner the Christian makes a choice to allow himself to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.
- The comparison that Paul is making then becomes obvious: "Do not be controlled by the alcoholic spirits, but be controlled by the Holy Spirit."

# The Rest of Regeneration

- The contrast of "getting drunk" and "being filled with the Spirit" provides us with a basic understanding of what it means to "be filled with the Spirit."
- The basic concept is that of losing control of ourselves to be controlled by something else.
- Paul is commanding us, "Do not be controlled by alcoholic spirits, but be controlled by the Holy Spirit."
- Do not be under the influence of the alcoholic spirits, but be under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
- Do not abandon your judgement and behavior to the alcoholic substance, but voluntarily surrender your judgement and behavior to the Spirit of Christ."

# The Rest of Regeneration

- In the Rest of Regeneration "being filled with the Spirit" is not a psychological or personality makeover by means of self-effort from within ourselves.
- "Not that we are adequate to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is of God" (II Cor. 3:5).
- There is a Reservoir of judgement and behavior provided by our New Nature that naturally, by inheritance, conforms "to the image of Christ".
- It is not an attainment that we strive to produce, but an obtainment derived from the genetic presence of God within the spirit of the Christian.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- Furthermore, to "be filled with the Spirit," is in the passive voice.
- This does not mean that the Christian does nothing at all, in the process of "being filled with the Spirit."
- It is not a process of being passively controlled by another, as if a "Zombie" or in an hypnotic trance.
- Just as a person does not get drunk passively, but by actively partaking of the alcoholic beverage, the Christian, exercising his volition, voluntarily surrenders to the control of God's Spirit, in his judgement and behavior.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- The passive voice of the verb “filled” in the Greek language indicates that the subject of the verb is being acted upon.
- The subject, we saw, is “you all,” and the One who is to be allowed to act upon “us all”, is God.
- We are commanded to be acted upon in this receiving of the filling of the spirit.
- We are not to fill ourselves, but to choose to be filled.
- We are not to fill our selves, but to obey the mandates to put us in the position to be filled.

# The Rest of Regeneration

- As stated before, the content of this filling activity does not involve the supplying of any external pouring of divine substance into us or upon us.
- God and His character and essence are a unity that cannot be fragmented.
- "He gives the Spirit without measure" (John 3:34).
- The Christian is "complete in Christ" (Col. 2:10) having "every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 1:3).
- To be filled with the Spirit is not our receiving more of the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit being allowed to fill more of our Soul thinking and behavior.

# The Meaning of Filling

