

# *Life in the Son*

*A Journal of Grace and the In-Christ Message*

# Life in the Son

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*Alice Scott-Ferguson has taken a leave of absence from Life in the Son to work on her next book.*

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# EDITORIAL

Christ-life Fellowship began in 1982. It began in homes with believers who wanted to see Jesus in a new and living way. It was not too long until there were many homes opened around the world as places where Christ-church members met. These people were not especially rebels, but people who had discovered that spiritual growth could take place at home better than anywhere else. They had learned the hard way that, to learn Christ who lived in them, they had to get to a different locale than the ordinary church buildings they had been to. Of course, there was nothing wrong with the church building, any building was fine. It was, however, what was taught in most church buildings that limited the on-going believer's understanding of the Christ who lived in him. Today, there are literally hundreds of home churches around the world teaching hungry believers about the Christ that lives in all born-again believers. However, a home church does not necessarily meet in a home. We have Christ-life believers who

have met in garages, hotels, and a stable; and some have even met in church buildings. It is not that such believers dislike church buildings; it is a fact that most church buildings have limited declaring the revelation of the mystery (Rom. 16:25). Of course, not all, but it is difficult to find a church building that preaches Christ in the believer as the believer's only hope. There was a time I had the vision of bringing the message of the Christ-life to churches. My burden was great because so many of God's offspring in church buildings are hungry to know Christ as their life. But, I soon saw the reality that while there were hungry believers, there was no leadership to lead them on into the fullness of the Christ-life. Of course, the problem was most evident: ministries feared that if believers knew Christ lived in them, there would be no place for the ministries. If the life the believer lived was Christ, then where was the need for most religious programs? This is a sad idea. Today's ministry in the church buildings, if

empowered with the message of Paul, could reach the world with the true gospel. As it is, the world does not know that a Christian is one in whom Christ lives; and worse, most Christians are denied the gospel that relates to such an existence. They, too, do not know what a Christian is. Sixty-two times Paul mentions the church (*ekklesia*). Most of his ministry was in homes; after he introduced Christ in synagogues and on street corners. The message of the Christ-life is growing worldwide. Thousands of God's offspring are worshipping in unthought-of places. The place is overwhelmed by the message they have, and these believers have learned that placing anything above or equal to the message will dilute the message. Notice, the message is the power. It isn't music; it isn't the beauty of the surroundings; it isn't the professionalism of the ministry; it isn't the program; it isn't the often most needed structure, the structure that drives most organizations. What drives and

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# CHOSEN IN THE SON

By Don Byrd

*“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love” (Eph. 1:4).*

This is one of the Scripture verses that point to the fact that Paul’s gospel was founded before the foundation of the world! How could God choose us in Him before the foundation of the world? We did not even exist at that point.

*“Hath chosen us in him”* means God never looked outside His Son to choose anyone to whom He would become Father. Tom, Sally, Dick and Jane did not exist when God made the decision to have no children outside His only Son. This is God in His capacity as a Father, who He was before Creation. This simply means that as best as we know, God has always been a Father and has always had a birthed Son.

*“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Heb. 1:2).*

*“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Col. 1:13–17).*

It is very obvious from these verses that the Son became the Creator; and by Him all things exist and continue to exist. He was Son before He became the Creator.

Before the foundation of the world, before creation, the Father and the Son decided that the union and fellowship they had with each other was of such magnitude and splendor that it should be shared with myriads of other offspring. *“And God said, Let us make*

*man in our image, after our likeness...” (Gen. 1:26).* Mankind could ultimately become participants in the Father-Son relationship. Being a participant of the Father-Son relationship required a birthing. The fact is the Father chose the in-Christ place as the place in which all His birthed sons would be found.

When the individual human makes the choice to become a born-again believer he is making the same choice our Father made prior to the foundation of the world. He is choosing to be placed in Christ through the work of the Cross. The believer does not realize this when he makes the choice to become a born-again believer, but this is actually what happens. He is placed in Christ, and this makes the believer our Father’s offspring. This is the birthing of Christ in you and you in Christ, which is what our Father chose before the foundation of the world!

The born-again believer must also look in Christ to properly see himself, which is also where our Father looked before the foundation of the world. The in-

Christ truth becomes a reality when the believer is born-again, according to Acts 16:31 and Romans 10:9. *“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house”* (Acts 16:31).

*“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved”* (Rom. 10:9).

Seeing the believer in Christ is a glorious sight indeed! Believers need to begin to see themselves as does our Father.

*“In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight”* (Col. 1:22).

*“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love”* (Eph. 1:4).

These verses, and others, declare what our Father sees when He looks in Christ and sees the born-again believer! The phrase “in his sight” means this is how our Father sees those who are in Christ! This is not the believer looking at himself through his own eyes, but it is the believer looking at himself through the eyes of our Father! What a sight to behold born-again believers who are in the place chosen for them before the foundation of the world. Believers need to begin to use their Father’s eyes to look at

themselves, and all others, who are found in the place Paul calls “in Christ!”

The phrase “in Christ” is the most prevalent term used in the New Testament. It is used over 250 times and because of its prevalence, the born-again believer should be aware of it. What does it mean to be in Christ? Each time it is encountered, it has enormous influence upon the thought being conveyed in the verse of Scripture. An example of the influence it has is found in Ephesians 1:3–4.

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”*

These two verses most emphatically state that the in-Christ place existed before the foundation of the world. This means the in-Christ place is not a created place because it existed prior to Creation. Our Father blessed us with all spiritual blessings before the foundation of the world! This has never changed and will never change, but most believers do not see the importance therein. The only place to obtain these spiritual blessings is the place known as the in-Christ place existing before the foundation of the world.

What are the spiritual blessings found only in Christ before the foundation of the world? Most definitely the spiritual blessings are not wealth, health, prosperity, material things or earthly things or places! These verses plainly state that spiritual blessings are found only in Christ and nowhere else. What could possibly be in Christ before the foundation of the world that would be of any value to the born-again believer presently living on earth? When believers read Ephesians 1:3, it is usually read in this manner: *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings,”* totally ignoring the last line of this verse. It is the last line of this verse: *“in heavenly places in Christ”* that gives meaning to the previous part of the verse.

The first and most important thing the in-Christ place provides for the believer is the Father he needs. Everyone in Christ has the same Father, and only those who are in Christ can know Him as their Father. If you are in Christ, you have the same Father as does the Lord Jesus Christ! When the believer is born-again, he receives the characteristics of the Father’s nature such as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, and so on. Just because these are res-

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BELIEVERS NEED TO BEGIN TO USE THEIR FATHER’S EYES TO LOOK AT THEMSELVES, AND ALL OTHERS, WHO ARE FOUND IN THE PLACE PAUL CALLS “IN CHRIST!”

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# NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

## PART 2

By Dr. Rod Campbell

### **Total Union**

Galatians 2:20 brings about a new concept and consciousness of a new relationship with God. “*Christ liveth in me*” directly implies that there is a union in process beyond all human description. It is the understanding of this union, which is the very heartbeat of God. We now see that our Father not only wanted human beings to be saved, but to be re-born and to live for Him. The ultimate intention of the God of love is that the nature placed in the believer, the God-nature, would bring about a oneness and total union so that the believer would manifest the Father-Son relationship in its purity.

### **Identification**

Identification of a believer’s joined spirit with Christ, as a new creature is a necessity if the believer is going to go on growing in the Lord. Some believers identify themselves with churchanity, and some with Christ being the Holy Spirit. Both of these appear to leave the believer in a state of asking God to fulfill their

lives. They become frustrated by duty and service.

The theological doctrine of identification with Christ is derived from the New Testament, which regards Christians as being “*in Christ*.” Christ is identified with mankind as the second Adam. In this case, identity is a physical fact. God does divine reckoning, and we have no part in it except to recognize the Christ in us by the Father. The Holy Spirit has placed Christ in the believer, as the gospel says, and makes us bona fide members of the body of Christ. John 14:20 says, “*Ye in me, and I in you*.” There is no difference between Christ in us or we in Christ. It’s like a sock in the water. There is no separable union, as God has joined His Son’s life, as one life, and it’s eternal. The new relationship of the believer in Christ is indeed defined as a new position and results solely from what God does in the believer’s life in the flesh.

### **Union Is Identification**

It is more than just a position created by divine reckoning, because Christ

said very specifically, “*I in you*.” The doctrine that results from this is identified by the word union, which is commonly taken as a synonym for identification. There are at least seven figures employed in the Scriptures to illustrate this union and identification, the most prominent being the illustration Jesus gives of the vine and the branch in John 15:1–6. Here the union life is illustrated by communion, and fruit is the result of the union of the branch and the vine. The life of the branch is in the vine (Christ). This illustrates to us that Jesus becomes our new nature to draw from for a life of love.

Who is the head of this union? The Scriptures clearly state that Christ is the head of the Church, and the union is formed here; so, likewise, Christ is the head or the husband of the believer, as the believer remains the wife under the Christ-head. The wife never becomes the husband, and the believer never becomes Christ. Yet, where life is concerned, Christ the head produces the life through the wife-

believer. The wife cannot produce any life of her own and is totally helpless aside from her husband; so it is with the believer. The believer can produce no fruit of himself; this comes solely from the vine, the Christ-head. Therefore, in union, the Apostle Paul saw that the wife must give her own self to become a Christ-self. She in fact must give her own will to fulfill the will of the Christ-husband, for she could only produce death within herself. All life comes from the Christ-husband. Thus, when we say that the only life we now have is Christ, we are assured from the Scriptures that this is the only way it could be. This is what caused Paul to say, *“I no longer live, Christ liveth in me.”*

### **Ultimately, It Is Christ As Me**

If this is so, then coming to the Galatians 2:20 experience is imperative to fulfilling God’s ultimate intention. If Christ is the only life in us to the Father, and we by our growth are coming to see that He is our only life, then it is His nature, His personality, His will and ways which will ultimately predominate. At this level of understanding we can declare, *“Christ liveth in me, and Christ liveth as me.”* Christ becomes the husband to the believer, and the wife, as the believer, can say, My husband is the producer of life through me, and it’s

His will and personality that is my nature, and, therefore, He not only lives in me, but as me.

### **Partaker of the Divine Nature**

Christ in us, making us new creatures, is the most important element in satisfying the flesh. Christ in the believer, as the head of the church in each one of us, fulfills us to His spiritual nature. Our nature becomes spiritual and not earthly when it comes to satisfying the flesh. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *“Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.”* The corruptible seed was our Satan-nature, and it passes away. We have received a new nature by the incorruptible seed, Christ, who is joined to our spirits. The new creatures don’t have the power of the deity, but a new life to draw from with our senses.

The mind is not our nature, as there is no such thing as a human nature. Our nature is Satan or Christ, flesh or the Spirit. The mind is only where decisions are made, but our nature is either flesh or spirit and not a combination of both. With the sin-nature out and Christ in, we have the capability to stop our sinning and to be pleasing to God the Father, who gives us His nature. Revealing Christ to us by the Holy Spirit pleases the Father (Gal. 1:15–16). We must have a change of the mind as to who we are as a

new creature. Paul says we must have a renewed mind (Rom. 12:2). We are adopted into the family of God, and we grow up in the adoption as knowing Christ as He really is. Adoption is the process where a son, already birthed, comes into God’s family. Very simply, we who are born-again don’t become gods, but by the God-nature become bona fide birthed sons of God. We hold this God-nature in us as a treasure in earthly vessels, waiting for the resurrection morning and groaning to be delivered from these vessels which limit us from being sons of God by body as well as by spirit.

### **Christ-person Lives A Victorious Life**

Multitudes of Christians can see and feel that they can’t fit into this world and belong to God’s family. As it is, there are many Christians who feel defeated by frustration and hopelessness for a fulfilled life. Their lives may be full, but not fulfilled. With their last breaths from this world, they will wonder if what they did was good enough to please the Father. Many times believers only see their efforts and have not recognized the birthing of the Son in them as their new life. They have spent their lives trying on their own to have faith and please God, and there isn’t much security in this. What God has done for the born-

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THE MIND IS NOT OUR NATURE, AS THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A HUMAN NATURE. OUR NATURE IS SATAN OR CHRIST, FLESH OR THE SPIRIT.

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# SPIRITUAL DEHYDRATION

By Dr. Vicky Moots

*“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water”* (John 7:37–38).

Dehydration is a serious illness from which a person can die. God uses things in the natural to teach us spiritual lessons. The song, “He Washed My Eyes with Tears,” fits in with this message. Dehydration results from failure to take in enough water to meet the needs of the body; that is, more moisture is going out of the body than is coming in. It is like being overdrawn on your bank account. There is a certain balance of water necessary to the body, and it must be kept at that balance. Water is very, very important, more so than food. A person can go a long while without food; we may not think we can, but it’s true. However, a person can only go a few days without water before he dies. There

is only a limited supply of water stored up in our bodies, and so it is one of our daily needs.

There are three separate processes our bodies require water for. One of these is electricity. It’s too bad we can’t just plug ourselves into a current supply and charge ourselves when we need it. In a sense, we do that, both physically and spiritually. In our bodies, a current must flow in order for any activity to take place, whether it is for digestion, or any kind of movement. We can actually measure this electrical current. Without it, all activity in the body will cease, and we will die. There must be a flow of positive and negative ions to make a current flow. In order for that to happen, of course, we need things like sodium, potassium and chloride, and other elements; but without water, they mean nothing. This is why water is needed in a car battery. Without it, there will be no current generated.

There is no substitute for water; there is nothing else to take its place. If

your body needs water, you can drink sodas, punch, or sports drinks, but it will not satisfy the thirst. In fact, if you are truly dehydrated and drink something other than water, it can actually make you more dehydrated because that higher-concentrated substance that is in your stomach pulls water out of your body. A body needs more water than it does these electrolytes and other things that are highly advertised.

There is no substitute for water; it must be pure, unadulterated water, nothing added. That pure, spiritual water is in Ephesians 5:26: *“That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.”* The Word is the water that is important for our spirits to be cleansed and purified. To have any power or energy at all, we must have that water. There are other Scriptures that relate the Word to washing and to pure water. Water is also used as a type of the Holy Spirit; the Word and the Spirit go together; they are part of the Trinity.



Jesus is the Living Word, as well as the Living Water. The Word and the Spirit cannot be separated. The Holy Spirit has a part in making the Word real and effective. We must have the Word of God as much as our bodies need water.

Water is so important to our body that God put some mechanisms there to regulate it very carefully. If we get too much water, our bodies will not function right, the same as when we get too little water. He puts two mechanisms there to regulate this: the kidneys and the thirst mechanism. The Bible talks about the kidneys: *“Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins [kidneys] and my heart”* (Ps. 26:2, author’s translation added). Try my kidneys? They are a very, very important organ. They regulate the amount of water that is either kept in the body, conserved, or eliminated from the body. This balance has to be exact; it cannot deviate too much one way or the other. The kidneys will try to conserve those bodily fluids that are necessary. When too little water is taken into the body, the first thing that occurs is that tears will dry up.

When a child who has been vomiting or has diarrhea comes into the emergency room, we suspect they are dehydrated. And, of course, when we examine them, they cry; but when they cry and there are no tears, we know

there is a significant amount of dehydration. It is the same in our spiritual lives. If we have not taken in an adequate amount of spiritual water, our hearts are no longer touched, and we cannot cry. Our eyes are no longer “washed with tears,” and we suffer from spiritual dehydration. The remedy: We need to take in more of the water of the Word! We need to replenish the necessary supply, and then the tears can flow. There is a reason God put in tears. But what is happening in the Church, today, is that saints no longer cry. *“Jesus wept!”* The Body of Christ is not weeping over the lost and dying because believers are not taking in the Word. Jesus is “touched by the feeling of our infirmities,” and as a part of the Body of Christ, we should also be touched by the needs of others. We need to replenish our supply of tears. There will be no tears in Heaven, but we need those tears now! The altars in churches should be stained with tears.

Along with the kidneys, the brain has an area that is a thirst center which actually monitors the concentration of the circulating body fluid. If it is too concentrated, there is not enough water, and we become very thirsty. Then, we want to drink. This thirst mechanism is very important. There are

Scriptures on the thirst mechanism. John 7:37–38 says,

*“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”*

How can the rivers flow if the inside is dehydrated? The kidneys will not let the waters flow if there is not enough water coming in. It is to be flowing water, in and out. We must thirst after the living God. We must drink freely of the water of the Word of God before the Holy Spirit can flow out of us. Before we can be a blessing to others, we must take in the Word first. We must have a thirst for the Word that is as strong a desire as for natural water.

In John 4:13–14, we read about the woman at the well. Jesus had to replenish His supply of water. He asked the woman for a drink. The woman asked how He was going to get water out of the well when He had nothing to draw with. *“Jesus answered, and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again.”* Jesus could fulfill His need at that time for natural water. The daily need for water comes because the fluid goes out of the body, through sweat and tears, and the supply is used up. It is necessary to

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IF WE HAVE NOT TAKEN IN AN ADEQUATE AMOUNT OF SPIRITUAL WATER, OUR HEARTS ARE NO LONGER TOUCHED, AND WE CANNOT CRY. OUR EYES ARE NO LONGER “WASHED WITH TEARS,” AND WE SUFFER FROM SPIRITUAL DEHYDRATION.

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thirst in order to replenish the supply. Jesus continued,

*“But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”*

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ONCE WE HAVE TASTED THIS PURE WATER, WE WANT MORE AND MORE. WHEN WE ARE COMPLETELY FILLED TO OVERFLOWING, WE CAN BECOME THAT WELL TO OTHERS.

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If we are continually taking in the Word, it will be our well of Living Water. Only this Water will satisfy our souls, but we want to keep drinking and drinking; we never get enough of Christ. It doesn't mean we just accept Christ as our Savior; it means only He can satisfy our needs. He is the only pure, unadulterated water that will satisfy spirit, soul and body; whether it be for power, the electricity, the cleansing, the purifying, or the cooling. He satisfies that need. Man goes through life thirsting and searching for more. He will only find true satisfaction if he drinks of that Living Water. Once we have tasted this pure water, we want more and more. When we are completely filled to overflowing, we can become that well to others.

*“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God?”* (Ps. 42:1-2).

When an animal becomes thirsty and can-

not find water, it begins to pant. Panting cannot take the place of drinking water, but it is a mechanism that gets rid of excess heat, by blowing off the heat from the body. It also brings in air to help cool it. It is only a temporary device until water can be obtained. We must thirst for the living God as we thirst for water for our bodies. Isaiah cried, *“Oh, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.”* These are living waters! We must first have a thirst, and recognize what kind of thirst it is. God puts that thirst into our lives, and we must pay attention to it; sometimes, we don't, or we try to satisfy it with the wrong kind of “water.” We must drink of the pure water, which is Christ, Himself. The pure water is in the Word of God, and that, too, is Christ. He is the Living Word. To some people, the words in the Bible are not alive, but if we believe this is the Living Word, it becomes alive in our hearts. After tasting this water, we thirst for more. Isaiah continued, “He that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.” This Living Water is without price, too. All we have to do is come to the well of Living Water.

Elderly people become dehydrated very easily because their thirst mechanism doesn't work as strongly. They can go all

day without drinking water, and not realize that they are thirsty. The same thing happens to believers. Newborn babes in Christ want to drink all the time; that need must be satisfied. As we grow, we can ignore the need to drink by becoming too busy with other things, and before we realize it, we are spiritually dehydrated. We need to replenish the supply immediately; that supply is there constantly. It is an everlasting supply. If we become dehydrated, it is not God's fault. He puts the thirst there at the first, and the Holy Spirit tells us we are thirsty for Him. He is the one who draws us to the water to drink, whatever stage of growth we are in. We must say, Yes! We have come to the waters to fill our needs, whether for salvation, for the Holy Spirit, for healing, or to replenish our supply of tears for others. We must take in the Word.

Isaiah again said, *“For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground”* (44:3). Does that sound like a lack of water? We want the Holy Spirit to pour out a flood upon us because we thirst after the Living Word of God. The water flows wherever we are, and all we need to do is kneel down and drink of that Living Water. We meet together in groups and wait for the flood! We want an over-abundance of that water; we want it

poured all over us, as well as in us.

Water is a coolant. If we did not have water, our body temperature would begin to rise. This is what happens when someone has a heat stroke. If we are out in extreme heat and have not drunk enough water, changes take place in our bodies. First, all the tears dry up, and then there is no urine output, and you will not sweat and the heat builds up in the body. The body does not recognize thirst any longer. How does this relate spiritually? The heat is the trials we go through, and we get too busy trying to get ourselves out of the fiery trial without realizing that the fire extinguisher, the water, is right there. If we drink enough of that water, no matter how hot the

trial, we will not become dehydrated. God said He would not put upon us more than we could bear (1 Cor. 10:13). The way of escape is the water of the Word of God. We will never escape our fiery furnaces without the water! The three Hebrew children did not burn because they were too wet! If we are flowing with water, our trials will cool off.

We are running the race to win Christ. Once we are saved, we should want to win Him; that is our ultimate goal. It is not a race for salvation; it is a race to win Him as our bridegroom. Runners must take in more water than their bodies tell them to. Think about that! Take in more than is necessary to just meet your needs at a particular time. There is so much

energy used in running a race; your supply of water is used up quickly; you need more than your body tells. But, if we keep pouring in water, we will keep running and not faint. We can *“run and not weary.”*

When a person is first saved, he is filled with exuberance. He has that overflowing desire to be in every service. After awhile, he may miss a time or two, and take in less and less of that Living Water. His speed slows because there is a lack of water in the system. Why not just take in more spiritual water, and continue running? We need a daily supply of water to run the race. We pray that we will not suffer from spiritual dehydration! So, anyone who is thirsty, let him drink of the Living Water! †

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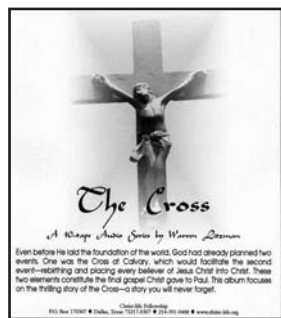
WE WANT THE HOLY SPIRIT TO POUR OUT A FLOOD UPON US BECAUSE WE THIRST AFTER THE LIVING WORD OF GOD.

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# THE OTHER HALF OF THE GOSPEL

By Ed Gardner

Most people's understanding of Christianity is comprised by trusting Christ as their Savior, having their sins forgiven, and then they die and go to Heaven. In between, it gets pretty desperate. They have lots of questions which boil down to one: Where is the life, the abundant life Jesus promised? Jesus met a man with just such a question. The rich young ruler asked, Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? Jesus told him, Don't murder. Don't steal. Don't commit adultery. Don't bear false witness. Honor your father and mother. The young man replied, I have kept them. What he was really saying was, I have kept all the commandments, but where is the life?

We can ask the same question, Where is the life? Yes, I received Christ, but isn't there more than what I am experiencing? Where is true life? Jesus said life is abundant, fulfilling, freeing, and wonderful; and there is a narrow gate that leads to this life.

In a small Bible study; the leader asked if anyone

wanted to receive more of Christ. I said, "Yes," because I thought if Christ had more for me than I currently had, then I wanted it. I accepted Christ as my personal Savior that night. My life completely changed from the inside; a new person now lived in me, I didn't know it yet, but I knew something in me changed.

As a new Christian, I began to investigate what I believed, what I stood for, and how to conduct my life properly. It was fun; it was exciting. I was like a kid with a new toy. It is wonderful to know that your sins are forgiven, but I tended to rely on externals for the basis of my life—my denomination, my friends, my pastor, my performance within the church. The truth is that having our sins forgiven doesn't tell us a thing about how to live the life. It is almost as if we were told, Now you are saved. Good luck. Jesus will see you when you die, and it will be wonderful over there. Go out there and try as hard as you can!

I found that I had become like the rich young

ruler who spoke to Jesus in the Bible; I did the best I could to keep the Golden Rule, the Commandments and the denominational rules. Now, where is the Life? There has to be something else, something more!

Then something wonderful happened; someone mentioned a man named Norman Grubb. In the course of his meeting, he said "You can't live the Christian life!" Then he said, "Christ is the life. Christ is the life, and He will live His life through you!" Oh, I thought, I don't have to try to live Christ's life; He will live His life through me! I can do that! After all the years of trying on my own, I had become convinced that I couldn't live the Christian life, not the way the Bible described it. But now I realized He can live His life in me, and I will let Him! It was a Revelation from the Holy Spirit. Paul said, "*But when it pleased God, to reveal His Son in me...*" (Gal. 1:15-16).

For the first time, I came to know that He had already made me the righteousness of God in Christ

(2 Cor. 5:21). In Christ, I was truly righteous. He had made me holy (Col. 3:12). He had made me complete (Col. 2:10). I was blameless in His sight (Col. 1:22). I was loved and accepted in the Beloved.

The Lord showed me that when I was crucified on the Cross with Christ, as Galatians 2:20 had told me for so long, I died to myself, as my point of reference. Now, He, living in me, was my point of reference. He would live His life through me, as me. Has He revealed that to you? If He hasn't, He wants to because that is the good news of the gospel!

One day, I was directed to 1 John 4:15, which begins, "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God..." There is a comma, then the verse continues: "...God abides in him, and he in God." Well, I confessed Jesus as my Savior in 1973, but I didn't experience the second half of that verse until 1991. The Spirit of Christ was within me, but I hadn't had the revelation of it yet. All along, the life of Jesus had been resident in me, and I did not know it. The New Testament truth

of Christ in the believer is foreshadowed in the Old Testament. In Exodus 12, God told the Hebrews to set apart a lamb from the flock, kill it and smear the blood on the doorposts of their dwellings. When the angel of death sees the blood, he would pass over the house and spare the firstborn inside. The people only had to apply the blood on the doorposts.

The lamb died for the household. The household did not participate in the death; the lamb died for them. In the New Testament, this is Christ dying for us. When, by faith, we apply Christ's blood (His death) to our lives, we are spared the wrath of God upon us.

The second half of the sacrifice of the lamb was that God instructed the Hebrews to roast the sacrificial lamb, and eat it as nourishment for their upcoming journey. They were to take the lamb (Christ) into them as life. In other words, everything necessary for the journey, living the life, comes from the lamb. It isn't that the lamb dies for you and then you're sent out to do the

rest on your own. The lamb is the total answer. The lamb gave its blood for them, and also gave its life to them. They took the meat into them, and that became their nourishment, strength and vitality for the journey. They lived their life out of the lamb's life. They killed the lamb for two purposes: for the Passover and for the journey.

Unless they put the lamb's life in them, they would be operating out of their own strength, out of the strength gained in captivity. When you put the life in you, you will be ready to live, and you will be ready to finish the journey. God is saying to us, I will share my glory with no man. Only I can live my life. But I will impart the Life to you. I will give you the Life, and I will live it through you.

We are saved not only by Christ's death, but also by His life. This is what we call the Christ-life.

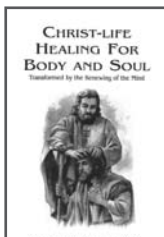
(Ed Gardner is a faithful follower and teacher of the Christ-life. He is the leader of the Christ-life Fellowship in Longview, Texas and attends the Dallas Fellowship meetings.) †

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# MODERN PRISON EPISTLE

By Frank Gonzalez

Dear Brother Warren,  
We have failed to give Jesus and His Cross the honor and respect they deserve. We have acted as if there is no difference between the saints before the Cross and the saints after the Cross. The Church, the body of Christ, is something special and unique to the Father because it represents His Son—head and body—in its fullness. *“For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily”* (Col. 2:9); *“...and gave him to be the head over all things to the church which is his body, the fullness of him...”* (Eph. 1:22–23).

When Peter had the revelation that Jesus was the Son of God, he also was looking at the fullness of the Church, head and body, fully developed. In time, we grow into this understanding, and on to maturity, *“...unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”* (Eph. 4:14). Peter didn’t know it then, but he was identifying the head and the body as one, working as one with the Father. This is where the Father is leading us to understand, but much is needed right now in the Church before

we get to this point. The flesh, the old man, must be taken out of the way before we see Jesus as all and in all. Rituals, manmade programs and agendas must be laid aside because these are the things shaken in Hebrews 12:27. Jesus must stand alone as our all; and the way the Holy Spirit is doing it is by showing us how all these things are nailed to the Cross. To God, these things do not exist; but it takes the revelation for us, the Church, to see it.

The Holy Spirit asked me how Galatians 2:20 would read prior to the Cross. It would read something like this: I am not crucified with Christ, I still live, and the life I live in the flesh I live by my own faith.... Of course, this is the “old man” speaking because he has not yet been crucified. The old man represents the flesh. The Holy Spirit led me to do the same thing with other Scriptures that belong to the Church, Scriptures that Old Testament saints couldn’t claim for themselves. In Romans 8:9, it reads, *“But you are not in the flesh but in the spirit if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you.”* In fact, this Scripture

belongs only to the Church. But how would it read before the Cross? It would read something like this: But you are not in the Spirit but in the flesh because the spirit of God doesn’t dwell in you. Let’s take Romans 6:11 and read it prior to the Cross. In short, it would read: I am alive to sin but dead to God.

If we put these Scriptures together with other ones, we must come to conclude that prior to the Cross, God dealt with people according to the flesh since they were dead spiritually. Why is this important to know? Because God required them to do or not do, as He wanted, in the flesh. Reversing Galatians 2:20, it was them living in the flesh; it was them believing with their own faith; and this is the reason Jesus would say it’s your faith that made you whole. Some had little faith; others had great faith; and still others were faithless. You see, before the Cross, there was no way any humans could be one with God because God is spirit and humans were living in the flesh. Only in Christ, in His Spirit, will you find oneness.

I use to go to Bible classes that used Old Testament saints as examples of good leaders. I knew something was wrong, but I couldn't pinpoint it until later when the Holy Spirit taught me these things I'm talking about. You see, they were using spiritually dead, fleshly people as examples, but they were teaching us, who are spiritually alive, to be like them. I know I can learn good things from Moses and others; but I can learn good things from unbelievers, too, since both are spiritually dead. On both occasions, the flesh is the focus; and like Romans 8:9 says to the Church, "But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit..." (emphasis mine). The old man in Moses and everyone before the Cross is very much alive today. There is much teaching going around today that uses Old Testament saints as examples, but from them we can only learn a few good things they did in the flesh!

I have sat in meetings where two hours were taken in teaching us about some Old Testament saint. Do you know what this does? After the meeting, we go home wanting to be like

Moses, like Joshua, like this prophet or that saint. What about Jesus? After I was born again, I was in the image of Christ, not Moses. Prior to that, I was already in Moses' image (Adam)—fleshly and dead spiritually! We spent so much time with Old Testament saints that it's no wonder we haven't learned Christ (Eph. 4:20). The Cross did away with the old so the new could enter. No more flesh, sin, old man, defeat and what have you. A new creation was raised out of the dead so that now, in Christ, we may all be one.

In Christ, there are no levels of faith; there is but one faith, and it's the faith of Christ! I once had a dead faith that was quickened by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit—quickened enough to believe, but from there I entered into the faith of Christ, thus we have moved from faith to faith as recorded in Romans 1:17.

Jesus and His Cross do make a difference; and it's about time we honor the work God accomplished in Christ. We must stop trying to correct the flesh to make it something. It will never be Jesus! If do's and don'ts

could have corrected the flesh, Moses' Laws would have done the job; it didn't! God help us see this! We, the Church, must take the Scriptures that belong only to the Church and ask the Holy Spirit to quicken those Scriptures to us. The old has passed; and, behold, the new is in Christ. We, as Paul, must put everything aside, count it as dung, "that I may know Him and the power of his resurrection" (Phil. 3:10). We waste so much time and money on how to get the earthly, the temporal, and the fleshly that we don't grow spiritually at all. "For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ" (Phil. 2:21). We say we preach Jesus, but most don't; most teach "my faith," "my tithe," "my faithfulness," "my commitment," "my this," "my that"—all against what the Word says: "For we preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus the Lord" (2 Cor. 4:5).

As I remain in Him,  
Brother Gonzales

(For many years, while Frank was in prison, he faithfully studied the Christ-life. He is now back at home and sharing the good news everywhere he can.) †

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WE SPENT SO MUCH TIME WITH OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS THAT IT'S NO WONDER WE HAVEN'T LEARNED CHRIST (EPH. 4:20).

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# THE BIRTHING

## PART 2

By Warren Litzman

### **The Holy Spirit And The Liberating Secret**

In the last series of messages Jesus gave in John 14, 15 and 16, He laid out something very important concerning the Holy Spirit. These three chapters introduce the Holy Spirit, who was yet to come. In John 14:20, Jesus specifically said, *“At that day [the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit comes] ye shall know that I am in my Father and ye in me, and I in you”* (author’s translation added).

That is a very important statement Jesus made. If we do not understand what Jesus said, we will not understand the liberating secret. Jesus said only when the Holy Spirit comes would you know what God had done and who you are. You would know that *“I am in you and you are in me.”* It is obvious to me, from reading the Scriptures, that the Holy Spirit came and multitudes did not understand what Jesus had said at all! They did not have any knowledge about the birthing. They did not have any understanding about how Christ was in the believer and the believer was in Christ. Nothing is

written about this truth in the book of Acts. The whole of what the Holy Spirit came to do, as far as Jesus was concerned, was missed. It is the same in the Christian world today with multitudes of believers misusing the Holy Spirit. They think He is power and the blessing, and they make Him the gifted one. They teach that He is the one who empowers man to be something in and of Himself, but Jesus never spoke of that being the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said when the Holy Spirit came, He would not do anything of Himself; He would not speak of Himself but would take the things of Jesus and reveal them to the believer (John 15:26; 16:13–14). It was a mystery that needed to be revealed. That mystery was Christ in man (Col. 1:26–27). The Holy Spirit would perform and reveal that ministry.

Jesus did not answer Nicodemus because it was the Holy Spirit’s work to reveal the Son. The Holy Spirit reveals Christ in and to the believer! This was missed in the book of Acts. Blessed as the book of Acts is, we have no record of Christ as the life of the

believer until some years later when Paul received a revelation of Christ as his life (Gal. 1:15–16). The mystery is very important! Paul said only the Holy Spirit could reveal the mystery. Paul speaks of several mysteries, but the mystery of godliness is Christ in you, your only hope of glory (Col. 1:26–27). You come to know that only by the Holy Spirit.

### **The New Creation In Christ Jesus**

He who is saved is *“created in Christ Jesus”* (Eph. 2:10). *“In Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature”* (Gal. 6:15). This creation takes the place of the old creation in the first Adam.

*“If any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”* (2 Cor. 5:17).

This new creation is *“the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness”* (Eph. 4:24).

The new man is the born-again man, the one born of the Spirit, as distinguished from the old man, or carnal man, the



one born of the flesh. The old man has a corrupt sin-nature, with inborn tendency to evil. The new man is partaker of the divine nature and life, and in no sense is the old man made over, or improved (Eph. 4:24; Rom. 6:6).

God created Adam in His own likeness (Gen. 5:1-2). Afterward, "Adam...begat a son in his own likeness, after his image and called his name Seth" (Gen. 5:3). This is the beginning of the generations of the human race. But something happened in the interval between the second and third verses of Genesis 5. Adam, through sin, had lost his likeness of God. When Seth was begotten in Adam's "own likeness, after his own image," it was not in the original likeness to God, but it was in the likeness of sinful Adam. Scripture said of Adam "and he died," so it was also said of Seth "and he died." The observant reader will find the following formula throughout the chapter: "And all the days of...are...years: and he died." There is but one exception, Enoch, of whom it is not said, "and he died." Enoch, who was "translated that he should not see death" (Heb. 11:5), is a type of those saints who are to be translated when Christ comes for His Church.

Ever since, that same formula has applied to man. Every descendant of Adam, from Cain and Seth down to the present day, has been

born in the likeness and after the image of Adam, with a sinful nature and subject to death. There is absolutely no exception from this condition. Therefore,

*"Through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all have sinned"* (Rom. 5:12).

Thus, "by the offence of one, judgment came upon all men" (Rom. 5:18). The words which are written large over the first creation, of which Adam is the federal head, are: Sin Hath Reigned unto Death.

That condition is unalterable, for God had commanded Adam not to eat of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and had made death the penalty for disobedience. That means death in its fullest significance: physical death, spiritual separation from God and the second death, which is the final everlasting separation of the body, soul and spirit from God. God's commandment had been broken, and the penalty could not be avoided. When the Son of God became flesh and came into the world, He dwelt among men of the old creation. But He was not of it. He was not of the seed of Adam, but of the seed of His heavenly Father. Therefore, He did not possess Adam's sinful nature. He was full of truth (John 1:14). He was in the like-

ness of sinful flesh (Rom. 8:3), but no sin was in Him.

Through love, Christ identified Himself with the first creation and took upon Himself its guilt. He was the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world. As a result, He tasted death for every man (Heb. 2:9). But God raised Him up, "having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it" (Acts 2:24). He rose victorious over death. The Son of God? Yes, but also the Son of man. With His resurrection, there was a new creation raised by God out of the death of the old. All who are saved are quickened together with Christ in this resurrection.

*"But God...even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus"* (Eph. 2:4-6).

As the first creation has one man as its federal head (Adam) so also has the new creation the man, Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:15). The first creation received its sinful nature from its federal head, Adam. The new creation receives its righteous nature from its federal head, the man, Jesus Christ, for "by the obedience of one, many shall be made righteous" (Rom. 5:19). In each case, the nature of the creation depends upon the act of the

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THE OLD MAN HAS A CORRUPT SIN-NATURE, WITH INBORN TENDENCY TO EVIL. THE NEW MAN IS PARTAKER OF THE DIVINE NATURE AND LIFE, AND IN NO SENSE IS THE OLD MAN MADE OVER, OR IMPROVED (EPH. 4:24; ROM. 6:6).

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head. It does not depend upon the acts of those who issue from the head.

As the unalterable law of the first creation is sin unto death, so the law of the new creation is grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life. The law of the new creation is even more unalterable than that of the first creation.

*“For if by one man’s offence, death reigned by one: much more they which received abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:17).*

Since the head of the new creation cannot be condemned (Rom. 6:9–10), the members cannot be condemned.

To be saved is to be rebirthed into the new creation under the law of righteousness unto eternal life. If one who has been rebirthed can be un-birthed, it must be possible to bring him back into his original position in the old creation. That is impossible! To say this could happen would contradict Jesus’ own words:

*“He that heareth my words and believeth on him that sent me...shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24).*

Furthermore, for everyone that is in the new creation, the old has passed away (2 Cor. 5:17). There can be no return to it. To say a saved person, one who has been quickened

(rebirthed) together with Christ, can be lost is to reject completely God’s teachings concerning His new creation.

For the most part, in Christianity today, we have a religious idea that a new creature means we are an old person made better. Because Christians do not understand the birthing, they keep this idea that they are getting better; however, it was never God’s intention that we be better. It was never God’s intention that we be good on our own. We have missed the point, and that is why we fail as Christians. That is why we are not steady, nor do we quit our sinning. Our thinking and actions do not change because there is no concept change. A Christian is not a changed person; he has a totally exchanged life! That is what “*new creation*” means.

You may have thought life was the way you lived; but the life, the only life there is, is in the Son. Some theologians who write translations from the Greek have another translation of that verse that says, “*If any man be in Christ he is a new race of people.*” That translation fits what the Scriptures teach. As you read the Scriptures, they say we are strangers and sojourners; we are not a part of this earth at all. We are a heavenly people and were never intended to be earthly people. We are an entirely new race of people, but we have no understand-

ing of that. How do you get to be a new race of people? You have to be birthed by a father, but it cannot be the same father you had in the previous race. To be of a new race of people you have to have a father who is of that race. God does not change us from one thing to another; He has an entirely new race of people on this earth who are not earthly but are heavenly. When you understand the birthing, you understand the lifeline of 2 Corinthians 5:17, “*Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*” We are a new race of people because the old has passed away. Most Christians do not understand this truth and that is why the world is not flocking to Christianity. The liberating secret of Christianity is still in God because we have not allowed the Holy Spirit to reveal it to us.

Paul said these truths were once hidden from apostles and prophets but are now made known by the Spirit. The writer of Hebrews said in Hebrews 1:1–2 that in the last days, God will no longer speak through prophets but by His Son. This is so because they are a new race of people. They are not old people that have accepted Jesus as their Savior; they are rebirthed people. If you really knew that, your life would be radically changed by that knowledge. You would know the only life you now live is Christ. You would

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A CHRISTIAN IS NOT A CHANGED PERSON; HE HAS A TOTALLY EXCHANGED LIFE! THAT IS WHAT “NEW CREATION” MEANS.

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know there is only life in the Son. You would know the only way you have life is by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. If you understood the essence and the power of that, it would change your world, your mind and your ideas. It would change your health, your problems and your marriage. I am not talking about being a "good Christian" because I do not think you can be a good Christian. I am not talking about being holy because I do not think you can be holy. I am talking about a birthing. I am talking about something God has done in you. God put someone in you who made the difference, who made you different in character and person than you ever dreamed you were. You have been born again.

In John 3:7, Jesus said you must be born again, and not until the next to the last epistle written in the Bible is that statement ever used again. In fact, it is only used twice in the Bible. In 1 Peter 1:23 it says, "*Being born again not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible.*" You are birthed in the natural because a father and a mother cohabited. They performed an act of love; and, as a result, the father put his seed in the mother, and that seed is another person. There is nothing a mother can do to bring about that other person aside from the father's seed. The mother may have cohabited; she may give herself; she may

genetically give her ovum to encompass that seed and bring out genetic effects in that person created, but that mother cannot produce another person by herself. It is done by the father's seed. What did Jesus mean when He said, You must be born again? He literally said there must be another father in the picture because only fathers produce fruit. Mothers cannot produce fruit; they only bear it. Believers cannot produce fruit; they are mothers who can only bear the seed that is put in them. You cannot produce a Christian life. I do not care how many times you are baptized, how many churches you join, how many times you make commitments, how many times you consecrate yourself, how many times you go to the altar, how much good work you do; as a believer, you cannot do any good works to please the Father. There is nothing you can do to produce Christ-likeness or the Christ-life. You must start with that fact. There are many things you will do, but there is nothing you can do to produce that seed. The seed has to come from a father. That is what Peter is saying in 1 Peter 1:23. He says you are born again by the Father putting His seed in you.

Let me tell you what happened the instant you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. First, you need to understand that all you needed to do was believe. Acts 16:31 says, "*Believe*

*on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved.*" The instant you believed, you cohabited with another Father; and that Father, in an act of love, birthed in you His dear Son. That birthing is an act of love. Notice in 1 Peter 1:23 he said, "*Being born again not of corruptible seed.*" The new creation race was introduced in that verse. The corruptible seed is what happened to you when your natural mother and father came together. When your natural father planted a seed in your mother, you were birthed in corruption. Because of that, you came into this world a sinner with a sin-nature needing a Savior. You were unable to save or redeem yourself. The corruptible seed is the old life and not the life we now live. The life we now live is Christ because He has been birthed in us.

This truth is explained more completely in 2 Peter 1:4,

*"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature."*

There are a number of things to be said about this verse. How is it this awesome event of another Father birthing in you another person takes place? It takes place by what you believe. How did you become a sinner? You became a sinner because your forefather believed what the Devil said. In the

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I AM TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING GOD HAS DONE IN YOU. GOD PUT SOMEONE IN YOU WHO MADE THE DIFFERENCE, WHO MADE YOU DIFFERENT IN CHARACTER AND PERSON THAN YOU EVER DREAMED YOU WERE. YOU HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN.

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Garden of Eden, the progenitor of the human race had God's Word available along with what Satan had said. Instead of believing God, he believed the Devil and thereby took on Satan's nature so that every child he produced had Satan's nature. That is why the Scripture says, "*Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble*" (Job 14:1). In sin did our mothers conceive us. How did that happen? Because Satan planted the thought in Adam's mind that if you eat of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you will be as your own god (Gen. 3:5). You would not need almighty God; you will be your own god. Sinners believe they are their own person and can do their own thing. That is from the old nature. Peter said because we believe the promises of God, we have become partakers of a new nature.

Notice what Peter said in both of the verses we have looked at. In 1 Peter 1:23 he says, "*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God.*" We are born again by the Word of God. We are not born again by a preacher, by baptism, by joining a church, by doing good works or by trying; we are born again by the Word of God. This all happens by believing. "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved.*" Look at what Peter says in 2 Peter 1:4,

*"Whereby are given to us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature."*

By God's Word (the precious promises) you are a partaker of the divine nature. Another Father put His nature in you. That means the nature of God is in the seed, and the seed is the life, and the life is Christ, Christ in you. How did you get Christ in you? By believing what the Scripture said you became a partaker of the same nature of God. Do you know why people keep sinning and doing their own thing? They do not know who they are. No one has ever taught the birthing to them. They think they are getting better, or they are going to get better or will do right tomorrow, but that is false thinking.

When you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Father put His perfect Son in you. You may not live like it, talk like it, act like it, or believe it because you do not understand the birthing. Religion and Satan have been instrumental in confusing us. We have not been preaching the Word. We do not preach what God did! Multitudes of people waver back and forth between sin and righteousness because they do not know God's righteousness is in them. Every time you open your mouth to say a vile word, if you knew the only life in you is Christ, what would happen in what

you say? The problem is not sin but rather not really believing Christ has been birthed in you! You have no concept that God's nature is in you. If you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, God put His seed in you. That is how simple it was when you were born again.

After Christ has been birthed in you, the Father will not depend on you at all; He will depend on His Son in you. As you walk on this earth, He will not depend on you acting righteous, He will depend on Christ in you, your hope of glory—that is the gospel. You have been lied to by religion and told that you need to be better, you need to put it all together, you need to get it under control, but that is a lie because you cannot do it. But the nature God put in you was God, the Son. You are partakers of His divine nature, and Christ can and will do what you cannot.

## Conclusion

In this article, I have detailed how the Bible defines the word *birthing* for us. The most ironic thing in the Scriptures is that the Apostle Paul never used the expression born again, let alone the word birthing. John paralleled our new birth with natural birth by saying God so loved that He committed an act of cohabitation with the sinner. When the Apostle Paul had his revelation of Christ in him, he saw something

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 29)

LIFE IN THE SON

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MULTITUDES OF PEOPLE WAVER BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN SIN AND RIGHTEOUSNESS BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KNOW GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IS IN THEM. EVERY TIME YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH TO SAY A VILE WORD, IF YOU KNEW THE ONLY LIFE IN YOU IS CHRIST, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN WHAT YOU SAY?

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# RELIGION'S CHOSEN BLINDNESS

By Cliff Gardner

Religion only sees truth that it wants to see. My definition of religion is a system where humans do something within themselves to please God, relying on their own efforts instead of the work God the Father and God the Son have already completed. Religion stands against seeing truth in total—Jesus Christ as life. It knows that, if it were to see Jesus Christ in that way, religion would end. In Jesus' day, the religious leaders—priests, Scribes and Pharisees—knew that if they embraced Christ as Messiah, their religious system with all of its positions and pageantry would end, and they would “lose their place” (John 11:48).

The situation today hasn't changed much. Jesus, as Savior, is embraced; but Jesus Christ, as all, in all, who is our only life, is rejected. We live in a “grab-bag” religious culture where we pick and choose to create an image of Jesus that suits us. This is a subtle twist as we create a god in our own image.

The structure created by religion—with all the hierarchy of superintendents, administrators, boards and committees—very effectively negates the opportunity for the “followers” to see the real Jesus, the one who lives right inside those who have been born again. Religion always sees Jesus in a very nebulous way—not being too sure of where He really is at the present moment. Mostly, religion sees Jesus outside, knocking to get into the life (or heart) of the believer. The truth is that Jesus is already inside the born-again person, ready and willing to live through him. It's like Jesus is knocking on the inside, letting the believer know that He is already there! Religion sees Jesus as His eleven apostles did, as having left the Earth and gone back to Heaven to return someday at the end of the world. Religion misses the truth that Christ has returned in Spirit. It is Christ's Spirit in the believer, as the believer's new spirit and life. This is aside from the Holy Spirit's ministry in the believer, as the

teacher and revealer of Christ in the believer. Christ is the life of His new body, the “called out ones,” who have believed on Him, with the old body having been crucified. His expression on the Earth now is through those who believe on Christ as their life, living through them as He created them to express His life in them.

If religion dealt with blatantly evil teaching, it would be a lot simpler to understand and handle. As it is, religion deals with half-truths, and truth misplaced by not “rightly dividing” the Scriptures—that is truth meant for another time and place (2 Tim. 2:15). Many dear, well-meaning brothers and sisters who are kind of heart, choose to see only the good of religion and tend to purposely overlook the dark down-side of the system so as not to “destroy the wheat with the tares” (Matt. 13:29). They usually become agitated when someone endeavors to challenge the apparent mixing of law and grace of the organized religion's body of doctrine and teaching.

“After all, people do get saved in these organizations,” is the heated response to any questioning or attempts to bring light into the religious darkness. I find it very difficult to watch these dear souls being used and abused by the religious system (as I was) and not react and

become angry and bitter against it! But I know that truth can only come through a revelation from God that cannot be coerced or short-cut by human effort, no matter how well-meaning that effort may be.

All praise to our wonderful God and Father who has birthed us as His children

by planting His seed, Christ, in us and who brings us to the revelation of Christ in us. How merciful He is to us, delivering us from sin, and giving us life. We need no more “religion” to make us something to God. He has made us His sons (1 John 3:1). What more could we ever be to Him? †

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(EDITORIAL—CONT'D FROM P. 3) maintains home churches is an organism, a life, the Christ-life that is too precious to treat as a religion.

Aside from this understanding, there is no reason for a home church to exist, and anyone who would call a meeting of God's offspring

together for any other reason does not understand why so many of God's birthed children meet in such unusual places. †

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(CHOSEN—CONT'D FROM P. 5) ident within every born-again believer does not mean that the believer will allow them to be manifested through him.

*because it knew him not*” (1 John 3:1).

Where does this kind of love come from? It has its origin in the Father from before the foundation of the world! Learning how to love with a love that existed before the foundation of the world is indeed of great value to each one of us. Do you know how to handle such love as this? Can our Father trust you with His love that is now resident within you? This manner of love is not manifested in the believer's child (immature) stage of maturity. The love characteristic is most definitely in the child, but the child is not able to manifest that manner of love from or to the Father.

Version. This will totally destroy the greatest truth mankind will ever know in time or eternity.

Each time the terms *in Christ* or *Christ in you* are encountered, it always pertains to the place God looks to choose His sons, as described in Ephesians 1:4.

*“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love”* (Eph. 1:4).

Before the foundation of the world, our Father looked in His Son, Christ, and said, This is the only place I will ever have sons. Incredibly important are these two terms simply because the in-Christ place was chosen by our Father before the foundation of the world and is the only place our Father sees His born-again sons.

The only place the believer can look to find what our Father desires is in Christ, which is where

These most magnificent characteristics lay dormant within the born-again believer until the time appointed of the Father. The spiritual blessings in Ephesians 1:3 consist of these types of characteristics! Oh, the glory, joy, and honor found when the believer is able to love our Father with the same love as does our Lord Jesus Christ! *“...That the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them”* (John 17:26). This kind of love is not normally manifested in most born-again believers; it is there, but it remains dormant.

*“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not,*

Do you not see the importance of the in-Christ statements found in the Scripture as it is written? Many new versions of the Bible are removing all the *in-Christ* declarations presently found in the Authorized King James

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EACH TIME THE TERMS IN CHRIST OR CHRIST IN YOU ARE ENCOUNTERED, IT ALWAYS PERTAINS TO THE PLACE GOD LOOKS TO CHOOSE HIS SONS.

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our Father also looked before the foundation of the world. Each time these terms are encountered, the believer needs to stop, look, listen, and ponder these two terms carefully because they are our Father's choice as the only place where He would look to see His offspring. Think about it! This in-Christ place is the foundation upon which Paul's epistles are written. His gospel is based solely upon this premise and nothing else.

There was no other place for our Father to look when He made His choice to have many sons. There was no universe, no Heaven, no earth, etcetera, at this juncture. Paul's gospel does not have its origin in Judaism or any other religion or anything after Creation. Paul often uses the Old Testament Scriptures to communicate his thoughts to the unbelieving Jews simply because they knew these Scriptures. This does not mean it was a part of his gospel; it was only used to communicate with the Jews about something they knew, to lay a foundation to present his gospel to them.

What about Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Rachael, and others? Did not God choose them as part of His plan? Absolutely, yes! He did have a great relationship with each of these. However, this was what the author of Hebrews calls a God-to-people relationship and not a Father-son (birthed) rela-

tionship. These all died in faith and were never in Christ; they never will be in Christ because this in-Christ place is reserved solely for the born-again believer! God is Father only to those who are in Christ; He is not Father to anyone outside of Christ! Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel and many others had a faith relationship with God and were an earthly people. *"I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people"* (Heb. 8:10). This God-to-people relationship is a far cry from *"I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son"* (Heb. 1:5), which is the Father-son relationship brought about by the birthing of Christ in the believer.

Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Rachael, etcetera, are a part of God's plan for His people who will inherit and inhabit the earth. *"For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever"* (Gen. 13:15). God spoke this to Abraham meaning that they are an earthly people. Those in Christ are heavenly sons because of Christ in them.

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ"* (Eph. 1:3).

These are not earthly but heavenly sons with a one-to-one, face-to-face relationship with the Father! Born-again believers need to begin to look at

themselves, as does our Father. Christ Jesus, our Lord, made it possible for His Father to have all the sons He desired and also made it possible for every born-again believer to have the Father they so desperately need!

*"And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one"* (John 17:22).

Christ Jesus, our Lord, gave us His Father to be our very own Father; and for this, I will forever be most grateful. Being Father is the greatest thing God knows how to be, so believers need to let Him be the Father He wants to be. *"My Father...is greater than all"* (John 10:29). *"I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son"* (Heb. 1:5). This pertains to the only place God can be Father to born-again believers, which is in Christ and nowhere else. The believer is in Christ, and that is the only place our Father looks to find the believer! *"Chosen us in him before the foundation of the world"* (Eph. 1:4) is where and who we are! The Creator did not exist; the Messiah did not exist; the Mighty one of Israel did not exist; the King of kings did not exist when our Father made this choice. Only a Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit existed when our Father made His in-Christ choice! Now it is up to each individual to make that same choice! †

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GOD IS FATHER ONLY TO THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST; HE IS NOT FATHER TO ANYONE OUTSIDE OF CHRIST! ABRAHAM, SARAH, ISAAC, REBECCA, JACOB, RACHEL AND MANY OTHERS HAD A FAITH RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND WERE AN EARTHLY PEOPLE.

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# THE THREE LEVELS OF UNDERSTANDING

By Warren Litzman

(A dear believer wrote me asking some very good questions about his need to grow into a deeper understanding of the Lord. His first desire was to stay with the understanding he had gotten from religion that God existed to make people happy on Earth and meet all their earthly needs; but this was not working in his life at the time. I was led to Scriptures in 1 John to give him some answers. The following is my letter of response. WL)

God often speaks to us in a trilogy. In 1 John 2:12–14, one of the most vivid examples of trilogy is, *“I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name’s sake. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one: I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him from the beginning: I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word God of abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.”*

You know you are very special to the Father who re-birthed you. Your questions have alerted me to the need we all have to continue learning Christ who already lives in us. I am trusting that the things I say to you here will help you come to the full stature that is yours in Christ.

In the three verses above, John gives us the latest message about how God speaks to us. John lived longer than any of the rest of the apostles; and his epistle was written about 30 years after all the other New Testament writers had passed on. In his epistles, John is able to give truth that embraces much of what was written previously by Paul and the other writers. This offers some later truth as he could see the Church (Body of Christ) operating over a period of time and Paul’s gospel and how it works in the world. As an example, John has come up with this information that is in our text. He says there are three distinctive levels by which God talks to us or deals with us. All by the Son in us

The first level of understanding is the child level; the second level is the son level, and the last level is the father level. When God is ready to say something to us by Christ in us, He will deal with us on one of the three levels. It is no one’s place or responsibility to point out what level another is on. John explains that he is to write to the Church by these three different levels of understanding, and he first writes to believers on the “little children” level saying two things: (1) Your sins are forgiven you; and, (2) As a believer on the child level, you have come to know Father.

John shows us these two things come to us on the child level. First, someone else has died for you and taken care of your forgiveness of sins. Second, the child-like understanding is where someone else does it all for you. Someone else takes care of us and is in charge, handling our life’s situations. The baby can do nothing of itself. He can’t feed himself or change his diapers; and if



he wants to go somewhere, someone else has to carry him. So, at the child level, someone else takes care of you entirely. When we are at the child level of understanding, one way the Father speaks to us, by the Son within us, is by recognizing our weaknesses and ignorance because we are babes in Christ. On this level, the believer needs someone else to teach him, explain the Scripture to him and to disciple him. That is what child level of understanding is all about.

Many Christians, who have been born again for months or years, are still living at the child level. They do not know or understand the three levels of understanding in God's plan for His offspring, His birthed children.

Christians who remain on the child level of understanding indefinitely believe God must be doing something for them constantly or else He is not God. This is clearly seen in the modern faith and healing ministries of which you have been a part. These ministries teach that God will give you whatever you need if you just ask for it. It is that simple, humanistic gospel that causes the child level of understanding to continue. This keeps believers from growing up into the fullness of Christ. Many do not have any understanding of Paul's gospel, much less knowledge that there is a higher level of understanding.

They, therefore, do not move on out of the child level; and as a result, they go along in life just believing that God will give them a miracle any time they need it. At no time in their life will they ever show an appreciable growth in the Christ within them and will probably never get out of the baby stage of Christian living. This Christian has no understanding of 1 John 2:12-14.


When God sees that it is time for the believer to move on to the next level, the young man level, the young believer will discover that some radical changes are in store for him. He will think: Something is wrong. God has always healed me. I've been healed over and over again for some twenty years; but I have an ailment, now, that God isn't taking care of. He doesn't heal me like he used to, so what is wrong? What is my trouble? I am doing everything I have always done; and I am trusting the Lord, but nothing happens.

At this point in that child-level believer's life, the Spirit is moving him out of the child level of understanding to the next level of understanding, the young man level.

Basically, faith and spirituality has to do with understanding—both having to do with what God says and how the believer understands what He says. Faith is taking what God says and putting it to work

in your life. Spirituality is showing forth of what God has said. Both of these are soulish things, functions of the mind. When the believer gets something fixed in his mind that is from God working Christ out in his life, he then has faith working and spirituality manifested. There always comes a time for every believer when God changes His method of dealing with him. Obviously, on the new level, God expects us, when praying for a healing, to grow in understanding and to move out of the child level. While we all know at this juncture that God can do anything—a knowing that developed while we were on child-level—He, as your Father begins treating you like a growing son. He may not give you what you want or need as in times past. This does not mean God has not ceased to be God, or has shut off His miracles and healings. He is just moving you to a higher level of understanding. He is getting you ready to see a new life, a life only He can produce. At first you are perplexed as God has always healed before and up to now you have always said, "God said it; and God will do it." But now He is not treating you the same. What you want is delayed, and you do not understand it.

God has moved you out of child level and is ready to bring you to new circumstances and situations that are going to require you to



CHRISTIANS WHO REMAIN ON THE CHILD LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING INDEFINITELY BELIEVE GOD MUST BE DOING SOMETHING FOR THEM CONSTANTLY OR ELSE HE IS NOT GOD.

move to the next level of understanding. The child level of understanding could not handle these new circumstances and situations. The child level is essentially a very simple level. It is where people can endure with the simple gospel; where God said it, and you will take it, and it will work. Having been through that, you are ready to move on; the child level was just a starting place, an experience builder. But God's intention for your being on the Earth is that you move through the schoolhouse of this world into a deeper understanding of who and what God is. Also, the Father wants you to move into the understanding of what His plans were from the beginning, before the foundation of the world (Eph.1:4). God will intensify your life as the C & S gang (your circumstances and situations) continue to move you up from one level to another to increase your understanding of who you are in Christ and what His plan is for you.

You already have Christ in you, and God is speaking to you by his Son (Heb. 1:2), and now the Son is ready to start saying something more advanced from God's mind. The child level was very important because at that level you, as a new believer, reached out for God and experienced God's love, His salvation, and so on. There are many more child level

ministries that are necessary and have their rightful place in God's plan.

The Christ-life calling is for people who want to come to a higher level of understanding. They are hungry to know God, and they are unable to stay where they are because God has called them out. You, too, are one of those "called out believers." This is called the remnant ministry. This has always been God's way of dealing with hungry believers. This often irritates those in religion who are locked into one place of understanding. But you are one of those who want to grow in the Lord and cannot stay where child-level understanding is the criterion.

A good example of that is when Israel was in the wilderness and a million of them died right there. What happened? They'd never reached their goal to satisfy the ultimate intention of God for them. They never reached what God had designated them to be. Now, there are people whom God deals with to move on into a deeper relationship with Him, but they will not listen to Him. These people will stagnate wherever they are. Those believers who chose not to go into Canaan literally died in the wilderness.

This is where so many of our friends and loved ones are. They are locked into child level understanding where God takes care of it all, and they find

they are working themselves to death to keep up the church program. This is all right if God has called them for it. Even if a believer is to stay in the child-level ministry, he still needs to grow spiritually; and a lot of them do. You will find that a lot of those working in child-level are growing personally, as unto the Father. But this is not common.

The next level of understanding is the son level, or young man level. In the text verses, John points out that the young men have "*overcome the wicked one*" and "*that ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you.*" These three things identify the young man-level of understanding. For one, they are strong, which does not mean they are Herculean, as in physical strength, but that they are full of zeal, determined in what they are going to do in the Lord's name. The very Word of God is working in them, and they have seen the workings of the Devil, and they have overcome the wicked one.

When you first come to know God, child level, you are taught by others. But, after a period in that level, God begins to move you away from what others are saying. You begin to realize that if you are really going to learn about God, you are going to have to teach yourself. Finally, you come to the ultimate level where the Holy Spirit is your only

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THE CHRIST-LIFE CALLING IS FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO COME TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING. THEY ARE HUNGRY TO KNOW GOD, AND THEY ARE UNABLE TO STAY WHERE THEY ARE BECAUSE GOD HAS CALLED THEM OUT.

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teacher. It is important to point out that this is another trilogy: (1) we are taught by others; (2) we begin to teach ourselves; and (3) we are taught by the Holy Spirit. At this second level, the young man level, you can see that you are strong in the Word of God; you are zealous and can teach yourself now, and you have overcome the Devil.

This is the level that appears to be the perfect level, the ultimate. Invariably, God sees to it that you come to a place where you have come into strength and can do all things. But, let a man beware lest he fall. The very men who said things like "God said it, you can depend upon it," are being cut down. They are not cut down by God, but by their own devices in bringing their ministries to an end. At this level, those who fall have become do-ers of the Word rather than be-ers. Do not let *doing* become more important to you than *being* who you should be. Getting things accomplished and showing success has become more important to many on this son level than being who God had planned for them. You may think you have power over the Devil, and you do; but without Christ in you controlling the Devil, and you using your new level of understanding, you can be defeated.

The second level brings you into an understanding of the world that we are

living in today. Many believe that if they preach the Word, God will take all authority over disease, death and hard times, and that they will become more than conquerors. This transcends for many that they see themselves, not Christ, as powerful ministers. God is expecting at this level that you take some responsibility, and grow up in Christ. Don't forget, at child level he did it all for you.

With all this confidence and enthusiasm, anyone who just arrived in the son level has God's nature in him but does not have the understanding to go with it; but he is on his way toward that. He is coming to the place where he is going to see Christ alive in himself.

Before you can see Christ in yourself, you must come to the end of yourself? It is in the son-level of understanding that you can come to the end of yourself. You live out the first part of Galatians 2:20, "*I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me...*"

We see the son level is where God finally deals with our self because we thought we "knew it all"; we thought we had it all and we could put it over by ourselves. This is a devastating level. This is the hardest level of understanding there is. As a believer, you will come to the point where you see that you are not anything

within yourself. This is the entry into the son-level understanding where you have to begin to teach yourself. As a result, the hunger to know God increases and you will begin to study on your own. You will learn to depend on the Holy Spirit's teaching and guidance and reject all other untruthful sources.

The third level of understanding can be called the "fruit stage" where you begin to bear the real fruit. God moves you on, and you leave the son stage. Even Jesus moved from a vibrant son, full of power, able to raise the dead, to a dead lamb, hanging on the cross. This is the father stage. The father stage is an ultimate knowing stage. It is not a "doing" stage! See the word known in verse 13 of the text. Father believers are knowers, and not so much do-ers. They are people who are victorious because they know something. Paul said "*I know in whom I have believed;*" "*I know that all things work together....*" So, we see that the whole of spiritual depth rests on knowing. This is not how much you know about the Bible, not how many Scriptures you can quote, or how much theology you learned, but how much you know a specific thing given by the Holy Spirit. See verse 13: "*...fathers, because ye have known him from the beginning.*"

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THIS TRANSCENDS FOR MANY THAT THEY SEE THEMSELVES, NOT CHRIST, AS POWERFUL MINISTERS. GOD IS EXPECTING AT THIS LEVEL THAT YOU TAKE SOME RESPONSIBILITY, AND GROW UP IN CHRIST.

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WHATEVER HAPPENED BEFORE YOU WERE BORN AGAIN JUST DOES NOT MATTER TO THE FATHER WHO BIRTHED YOU, AND YOU MUST NOT ALLOW IT TO BOTHER YOU.

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Therefore, the father level of understanding is knowing Him from the beginning! This repeats again in verse 14, and it is now known what kind of knowledge a believer is moving toward. God is saying to us, by his Son in us: Know that which is from the beginning.

Nothing in this created world has anything to do with who you are in Christ. Nothing that happens to you can change or affect who you are in Christ. Who you are in Christ (see Eph. 1:4) was determined before the word was created. In the father level, the believer learns that who he is and his relationship with God were both determined before anything ever happened in creation. That means if you had a bad back ground, if your family treated you poorly, etcetera, that does not matter to God because when you were re-birthed, you entered into a relationship that is not predicated upon what happens in this world, but what took place before the foundation of the world was laid.

Moreover, the only reason you have problems with what happens to you in this world is because you have the world fixed in your mind. For instance, the only reason a young person could feel like he has been mistreated in life due to the way his mother or father abused him when

he was a child is not because that happened, but because it is fixed in his mind. The Scripture says that when we are born again, then nothing is the same. A change has taken place, and a new creation experiences the new things; old things are passed away.

You must come to understand Paul's message. What is Paul's message? His message is a message for the mind! He says you have been born again; you are a new creation in Christ Jesus, but your problem at the child level is that you do not know it. You don't understand. So, to be healed of an awful memory of child abuse or other happenings, a person need only to know what it really means to be born-again. If only a new, born-again believer could realize that all of the old had past away and has no bearing in his new life, unless he allows it in his mind. Psychiatrists say all children who were abused, when they become parents, also abuse their children. Statistics bare this out. Abusing parents were themselves abused. This cycle continues because the parent's mind has never been renewed, which only begins at re-birth. Whatever happened before you were born again just does not matter to the Father who birthed you, and you must not allow it to bother you.

You see, the third level is about knowing Him, which is from the beginning (see Ephesians 1:4).

*"According as He hath chosen us in Him [Jesus] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him in love."*

This verse certifies that God's whole projected plan for the human race was that we be in Christ. The father-level believer bases his decisions and judgments not on what is going on in his world now, but on who he is in Christ; and his "knowing" of the Father from the beginning. As he does this, his level of understanding will rise to the Father's desire for him. This is eternal life dwelling in you. It may be hard to feel eternal life in you because you are living in a temporal body. This is why the whole of the New Testament deals with the soul instead of the body. We are not body people, but rather soul and spirit people. We have eternal life dwelling in us right now; and though we do not feel eternal life, we know that it is there because we know the Father from the beginning, and that is fixed in our minds. My soul says that I am eternally alive unto God, just as I know that  $2 + 2 = 4$ . I just know it. All this is father-level understanding, knowing that we have eternal life dwelling in us. These are the things you will face as you move from

son level to father level, which is very difficult. At the son level, you will get miracles and healing; at the father level you get understanding.

You can only be an growing believer if you continue on in God's plan—not the plan so pre-

dominate in religion that says you are responsible; do good and it will all work out—not the plan in modern theology that completely missed Paul's in-Christ message—not the plan where multitudes become body-people with greater interest

given to emotions rather than to Christ living in the believer.

I think enough has been said for this time. I pray that you will have a revelation of Christ in you and all your problems, desires and needs will be met.

In Christ, Warren †

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(NEW LIFE—CONT'D FROM P. 7)

again is by a birthing and not by a Christian, with self-effort, trying to spiritualize good and evil.

### **Christ-life Is Only by Birthing**

The creation of a human being does not bring forth Christ. Christ comes forth in a believer's life only by a birthing. This distinction should be made in our understanding and vocabulary as we grow in the Lord. The things, which are created, are not part of God Himself, for He created

things outside of Himself by bringing them into existence by His Word. When Christ is birthed in us, that is not a creation, but rather God is taking a part of himself, His own seed, and placing it in us. It's a spiritual birthing. When we grow in this knowledge and understanding, and see Christ as all, we are now ready to face the issues of daily living. This means there is nothing in this world which can keep a Christ-person from overcoming and being victorious, for, as John says, "*As he is, so are we in this*

*world*" (1 John 4:17). Christ overcame the world, and so can we.

(Dr. Campbell has given himself to the Lord to minister to prisoners. His testimony is he is more fulfilled doing this than anything he has ever done before. He teaches several classes each week in jails and has won many to the Lord and to the Lord's message of the Christ-life. He takes the writings of Warren Litzman and transposes them into words that prisoners can understand. This article is one of those writings.) †

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(BIRTHING—CONT'D FROM P. 20)

John never saw, nor did Jesus of Nazareth comment on. When it was revealed to him that Christ was in him, the Apostle Paul saw it as a great mystery, which is truly what it is.

The religious world has thrown the term born again around without proper explanation. Paul said it is a mystery that goes far beyond comprehension; therefore, it would have to be revealed to you.

*"Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither has it*

*entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him, but God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit"* (1 Cor. 2:9-10).

In this article, I have brought out in John's writings what the birthing means, but that is not worth a nickel to you until you have a revelation of it. A preacher can say that we are born again, but that is not the gospel. The gospel is not something that happened to us as an experi-

ence. The gospel is Christ in us. Paul said we are in Christ 146 times. The final understanding of this must come through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works in our soul to bring our soul to understand Christ in us. That is why the power you receive when you are filled with the Holy Spirit is in this knowing. Jesus said He (the Holy Spirit) would not speak of anything but Christ when He comes. The birthing is what Christianity is all about. †

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**3.00 p.m. Thurs. 26 October - midday Sun. 29**

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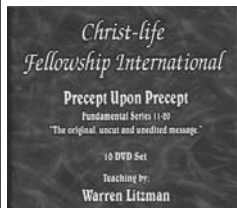
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