

A Life Giving Union

DEVELOPING A CONVERSATIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Where Have We Been?

- **We believe that God speaks. That His sheep know His voice and follow him. He calls them by name and they follow Him**
- **God speaks to us by the Holy Spirit interacting with our mind, revealing God's character and thoughts to us**
- **The Bible is a finite, written record of the saving truth spoken by the infinite, living God, and it reliably fixes the boundaries of everything He will ever say to humankind.**
- **What do a Plant, a Puppy and a Person all have in common?**
- **As a plant is dead to the realm of play, a puppy is dead to the realm of math and literature. When created by God, Adam lived in relationship with God, renewed daily**

Our Spiritual Need

- When they mistrusted God and disobeyed him, that cut them off from the realm of the Spirit. Though biologically alive they became dead in relation to the realm of the Spirit—much as a puppy is dead to arithmetic. This explains why things of God are foolishness to the world**
- It would be necessary for God to confer an additional level of life on humans through “being born from above” (Jn 3: 3).**
- This being “born again” or additional birth would enable us to once again to be alive to God, to be able to respond toward Him and to act within the realm of the Spirit.**
- With the additional birth, we can now live in 2 realms. We stand at the intersection of the merely natural and spiritual**

Our Spiritual Renewal

- It is brought about by God's word and Spirit, and it is spiritual in its effects. "What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit" (Jn 3:6).**
- "The sower sows the word" (Mk.4:14) of the kingdom. When this takes root in the heart and mind, a new life enters our personality and increasingly becomes our life as we learn to "be guided by the Spirit" (Gal.5:25) and "sow to the Spirit" (Gal.6:8).**
- He encourages us to "welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls" Ja.1: 21 What condition was the garden in? Parable of the sower explains this truth**

Our Spiritual Renewal

- The 2nd picture was that of Eph.5:25-27, where we are cleansed “with the washing of the word”**
- Christ is pictured as washing away the impurities and clutter that have permeated our person during our life away from God.**
- When we come to God, our minds and hearts are like a dirty shirt, cluttered with false beliefs and attitudes, deadly feelings, past deeds and misguided plans, hopes and fears.**
- These are the things Romans 7:14-25 is talking about as the “sin” waging a war against the Law of God .**
- So we find ourselves living in 2 realms that fight each other**

Our Spiritual Renewal

- We are born again into UNION with God**
- In the progress of God's redemptive work, communication advances into communion, and communion into union.**
- Jn.15 – The life in the branches is literally that which flows to it through Vine! It is the life of the Vine to which the branch is attached. It is the Union with Christ that brings salvation and Life. Rom.6:4-14, 2Cor.4:7-11, 5:17, Gal.2:20**
- It is not just about “believing”! We are to “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” Phil.2:12-13 We need to weed the garden!!**

Our Spiritual Renewal

- 1. An additional birth is necessary to have true eternal life**
 - 2. Only those who through Christ have entered into a vital relationship to God are really “alive”**
 - 3. It is the “union” with Christ that brings Salvation and Life**
 - 4. God is at work in us through the planting of the seed of the word of life, but we have the responsibility to “work out” the weeds of greed, worry and covetousness that will strangle that life and keep us from bearing fruit**
 - 5. Change is a process, not an event. Keep weeding!**
- 