

All Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

October 4, 2010

A New Creature

Part 4

Printed for:

HANDS FOR JESUS

P.O. BOX 18655

MILWAUKEE, WI 53218-0655

For more information visit our Web sites at:

www.handsforjesus.org

www.handsforjesus.cc

2010 by Merle E. Koepke

All rights reserved

Introduction

This Mini-Book is a continuation of other Parts of this series of Mini-books. It is very important that Christians understand what was written in the other Parts. The other Parts can be downloaded freely from our Web sites.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”**

Many Christians today do not know what 2 Corinthians 5:17 is talking about. They read the Scriptures, they quote the Scriptures, but they do not have spiritual understanding of what the Scriptures are saying.

In John 1:1, speaking of Jesus, it says, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”**

In Genesis 2:7 it says, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”**

Then in John 1:12,13 speaking of Jesus it says, **“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name...Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”**

By being born again, man and God became one (1 Cor. 6:17). The first man was called **“Adam,”** the Second man was called **“Christ.”** Therefore, God and man became joined together in one man, called **“Christ.”** Adam was in the flesh, but Christ is in the Spirit. Romans 8:9 says, **“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”**

Christians have two lives. They have soul life (called psuche in the Greek). They also have spirit life (called zoe in the Greek). Christians were born into this world with soul life (in Adam) and when they became born again they received spirit life (in Christ). Now they must choose which life will be in control of what they do while here on the earth?

In many places, the Bible uses terms like the “inward man or the outward man,” or “old man or new man,” or “born of the flesh and born of the spirit,” etc. These are all talking about two births, an old creature (in Adam) and a new creature (in Christ).

Jesus said in John 3:6, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** In this life here on earth we still have both lives, and we must choose which one we will follow, the flesh or the spirit. In Romans 8:5 it says, **“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”**

Romans 8:5 is talking about Christians. Which life will Christians choose to follow? Will they choose the life of the flesh (psuche), or will they choose the life of the spirit (zoe)?

In Romans 12:2 it says, **“...be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”** God’s perfect will is that we are no longer conformed to this world.

Before we were born again we were conformed to this world. Those who are still walking after the flesh are still conformed to this world. Those who are walking after the spirit are no longer conformed to this world.

When Christians are no longer conformed to this world, they will operate in the same anointing that Jesus operated in. Jesus was in this world, but He was not of this world.

In John 17:15,16, Jesus said, **“I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil...They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”**

In the new birth (born of the Spirit), *“Christians are in this world, but they are not of this world.”* We still live in a body of flesh and bones. We are still in this world to do the will of God the Father. Now, we must learn how to do the will of God the Father from our spirit, rather than from the flesh.

To do the will of God the Father, we must know what it means to be **“in Christ.”** Many Christians today do not have any idea of what it truly means to be “in Christ.” Knowing what it means to be “in Christ” should transform our lives that we will no longer live like the world lives (Rom. 12:2).

Christians are **“new creatures”** in Christ. When we were born again, we became **“a new creature.”** All things became new. The problem that Christians have is in understanding what the Scripture is talking about when it says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, **“...all things are become new.”**

Renewing Your Mind

Christians need to renew their minds on the Word of God. What the Word of God says is truth, for God cannot lie.

Christians must understand the difference between walking after the flesh and walking after the Spirit. When we walk after the flesh we walk the same as the world walks. The world lives according to the natural things which they can see, hear, smell, taste, feel, and understand in their natural mind.

What Christians do not understand is that God does not operate according to what we can understand in our natural mind. When Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, the world began to operate by the knowledge of good and evil. Along with the knowledge of good and evil came sin and death. Along with sin and death, came sickness and disease, and infirmities.

Now we are living in a world where sin and death have been causing many things to happen that are not of God. God is for living not dying. God is for health not sickness and disease. God is for walking in the likeness of Jesus Christ, His Son, not for walking in the likeness of Adam.

When Christians understand God and how to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh, they will be able to walk in the likeness and image of Jesus Christ. There has been too much teaching in the Body of Christ on how to live and prosper while still walking in the flesh.

In these teachings they do not know that is what they have been teaching. They think what they have been teaching is of God. They think they can live a godly life following the examples of those in the Old Testament.

What they do not understand is that in the Old Testament they were living under the Law of sin and death. (The Law of sin and death was in the world until Jesus came and fulfilled the Law of sin and death for all those who will believe).

The Old Testament Law of Moses was given for those who were not born again to know how to live under the Law of sin and death. If they did what God said to do in the Law of Moses, God could help them overcome sin, which helped them to overcome the works of the Devil in their lives. If they did not do what God told them to do in the Law of Moses, they would suffer defeat by their enemies in this life here on earth.

When Christians learn the difference between the flesh and the Spirit (the old man in Adam, and the new Creature in Christ), they can be taught by God how to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. To overcome the world and sin and death, we must walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh (Rom. 8:1-8).

Walk Like Jesus Walked

Jesus was in this world, but He was not of this world. John 1:4 says, **“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”** Jesus had the very life of God within Him.

Today, everyone who is born again into the Body of Christ has the very life of God within them. They are “one Spirit with the LORD” (1 Cor. 6:17). They are joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17). They are born of the Spirit and the Word of God (John 3:6, 1 Peter 1:23). They have eternal life abiding in their spirit.

Now, Christians must get their minds renewed on the Word of God so they know how to

walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. Being we are joined with Christ in a new creature, we must learn to understand spiritual things. These spiritual things can only be understood by those who are born again and are taught by God (John 3:3, 6:45).

In 1 Corinthians 2:12-14 it says, **“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God...Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual...But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”**

Understanding Spiritual Things

God is a Creator of all that is good and perfect. God creates things from that which cannot be seen. God speaks His Word and it comes to pass. What God speaks produces what God says.

God is eternal, having eternal life within Himself. Eternal life overcomes eternal death. Eternal life is in God's Word. When God's Word is spoken it brings into existence that which was not seen.

God's Word was established in the world over the years of the Old Testament. God spoke His Word and it came to pass. Being eternal, God spoke things that did not exist at the time as though they already did exist.

If we go throughout the Bible we will see God speaking things that did not exist in the natural as though they were already there. That is how God walks in the Spirit, speaking those things that do not exist in the natural as though they were already there.

Let us look at a few of these things that God spoke as though they already existed in the natural when they had not as yet happened. In Psalm 2:7 it says, **“I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”** This is speaking of Jesus Christ when God raised Him again from the dead to become the Head of the Body of Christ. In Psalm 2:7, it is speaking as though it had already happened. Yet, it did not come to pass until after Jesus came into this world as a man in the flesh. After living about thirty-three and a half years, Jesus died and then was **“begotten”** by God. Therefore, God was speaking in Psalm 2:7 things that were not as though they were.

In Psalm 110:4 it says, **“The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”** In this Psalm, God is speaking of Jesus as a Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Jesus did not become a Priest until after He arose again from the dead. God had already declared it as done. It was years later before Jesus became our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.

In Isaiah 44:24 it says, **“Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself.”** The LORD said He was **“thy redeemer.”** Redemption comes by the Blood of Jesus Christ that was shed for mankind on the Cross of Calvary. Jesus had not shed His blood at the time of Isaiah, the Prophet. The LORD was speaking things that were not as though they were.

In Isaiah 43:25 it says, **“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own**

sake, and will not remember thy sins.” This was spoken in Isaiah, declaring their transgressions were already blotted out. Their transgressions were not actually blotted out until Jesus shed His Blood on the Cross of Calvary. The LORD was speaking things that were not as though they were.

All throughout the Old Testament the LORD was speaking things that were not as though they were. In Isaiah 55:11 it says, **“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”** God’s Word must first be spoken before it can accomplish that which God has said. God speaks His Word and then it comes to pass. Whatsoever God says will come to pass. It does happen “after God has spoken it.”

This is the difference between walking after the flesh and walking after the Spirit. The natural man speaks according to that which already exist in the natural realm. God speaks that which is not as though it is already done.

If Christians are to walk after the Spirit they must learn to speak those things which are not as though they are. Christians must believe in their heart that what they speak will manifest (after they have spoken it). When Christians speak of things that are already manifesting they are walking after the flesh. But, when Christians speak things that are not as though they are, it will come (they will manifest in the natural).

This is the difference between walking after the flesh and walking after the Spirit. In the flesh, people believe in only that which they can see, hear, feel, smell, taste, and understand in their mind. God does not go by what already appears. God goes by His spoken Word, what God says will come to pass after that God has said it. God calls things that are not as though they are (Rom. 4:17).

God speaks the end from the beginning (Isa. 46:9,19). God lives in the eternal realm of the Spirit. Natural man lives in the earthly realm of temporal things. The temporal things will pass away, but the eternal things will continue forever.

The earthly things are of the earth, which will pass away. The eternal things are from heaven above which will endure forever. Adam was a man of the flesh, created in the flesh (which is temporal). All flesh will die and return to dust. If we put our trust in the flesh, we will perish with the flesh.

Christ is of the Spirit, created of spiritual substance (which is eternal). Eternal things will continue forever. If we put our trust in eternal things we will live forever. Eternal things never cease to exist, they are eternal, not temporal.

God is Eternal

God is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. God has not changed and He will not change. In the Old Testament God spoke things that were not as though they were. In the New Testament God speaks those things that are not as though they are.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”** God says it is already done. God says **“all things are become new.”** Is that true according to the natural mind, natural thinking? If it was, then Christians would already have immortal bodies, which have no death in them. A body like Jesus had in the resurrection.

In Jesus’ resurrection body, He had flesh and bones, but He did not need to get up and walk

out of the room. Once the disciples knew it was Jesus, He just vanished out of their sight (Luke 24:31).

When Jesus appeared to His disciples the same day He arose again from the dead He did not need to open the door to enter a room (Luke 24:36). Our immortal body will not be subject to natural things. It can appear and disappear at any time. Yet, it is a physical body of flesh and bones (Luke 24:39).

In Corinthians 15:51-53 it says, **“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed...In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed...For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”** Has this happened in the natural realm already? Do you have a mortal body or an immortal body? Has your body that was mortal already been changed to an immortal body?

In John 17:14-16 Jesus said, **“I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world...I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil...They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”** Here Jesus was praying to the Father before He went to the Cross and died. Before Jesus arose again from the dead as the firstborn from the dead, Jesus said, **“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”**

Was Jesus speaking the truth? According to earthly time, they were still of this world. They were not born again, they were still in Adam. They did not become born again until the evening of the same day that Jesus arose again from the dead. On that day, Jesus appeared to them in the evening. It says in John 20:20,21, **“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you...And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.”** That was when the disciples were born again.

We must see as God sees. We must believe as God believes. We must walk as God walks. We must talk as God talks.

In Galatians 3:13 it says, **“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”** The words **“hath redeemed”** are past tense, meaning it is already done. In Colossians 1:14 it says, **“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”** According to this, we already have redemption through His Blood.

In Luke 21:27,28 Jesus said, **“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory...And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”** That is talking about something happening in the future. In Ephesians 4:30 it says, **“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”**

Out of the verses above, some are talking present tense and some are talking future tense. Which ones are true? They are all true. God cannot lie. We must continue until the end to receive all that God has for us, speaking those things that be not as though they were.

Therefore, we must renew our minds that we are no longer conformed to this world but transformed to walk in the Spirit, and live in the Spirit as God says we should. We must be taught by God to know the difference between the flesh and the Spirit.

God says it is already done. Are we going to keep on speaking like the world speaks? Or will

we become transformed by the renewing of our mind to believe as God believes and talk like God talks? How can two walk together unless they agree (Amos 3:3)? How can we walk after the Spirit if we do not believe “it is already done?”

When we talk like God talks, and walk like God walks, then we will see the results manifest in the natural. But, first we must believe in our heart and then speak it out of our mouth. When we do that on a daily basis, we will see the power of God working in our lives.

God is eternal. God’s Word is eternal. God speaks according to eternity. In Colossians 3:1,2 it says, **“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God...Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”** If Christians are born again, then they should talk like God talks. They should believe like God believes.

In Isaiah 33:24 it says, **“And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity.”** When Christians agree with God they will say, “I am healed.” Not according to what we see, feel, smell, hear, or think. But according to the written Word of God, we are healed by the stripes that Jesus bore for us on the Cross of Calvary.

When Christians say they are sick, they are agreeing with the world, and the god of this world. They are walking after the flesh and not after the Spirit. When Christians say, “I am healed,” they are agreeing with God.

Why not agree with God and be healthy, and live a long life here on earth. Why agree with the Devil and suffer pain and infirmities and die before our time?

It is up to each one individually, who will they believe, the natural or the spiritual? Who will they walk after the flesh or the Spirit?

When we agree with God, we will have whatsoever we believe in our heart and speak out of our mouth. God’s prosperity and health comes when our minds are renewed. Our mind is the principal part of our soul (2 John 1:2).

When we agree with the flesh we will receive whatsoever we see, feel, smell, taste, etc., according to our natural ability and understanding. If we believe we are sick, we will remain sick. If we believe we can prosper we will prosper according to our natural ability.

In the flesh all things operate according to our natural ability. Those who have learned how to do things will gain more than those who have not learned certain things. This is the flesh realm that the world lives by.

In Proverbs 18:21 it says, **“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.”** It is up to us, individually, what will we speak, life or death? In Matthew 12:37, Jesus said, **“For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”**

What we speak is determined by what we believe. We speak what we believe, and we believe what we speak. Christians must renew their minds upon the Word of God and live after the Spirit, and not after the flesh.

Walk in the Spirit

In Galatians 5:25 it says, **“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”** To walk in the Spirit means, “to follow the Spirit of God within you.” The words “the Spirit” are speaking of the Holy Spirit Who is in control of all that the Father and Son have placed in His control.

When Jesus went back to be with the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to control all things here on earth. The Holy Spirit is God here on earth, working in us and through us to do the will of God here on earth. It says in Philippians 2:13, **“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”**

If Christians think they can do things in the spiritual realm without the Holy Spirit, they have been deceived. We are not God, but we are joined with God in Christ Jesus. Jesus is the head (firstborn) of the Body of Christ.

The word “Christ” means “anointed one.” Jesus became “Christ” when God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was in control of whatsoever Jesus did from the time He was anointed until He died on the Cross. When Jesus arose again from the dead, it was the Holy Spirit that brought Jesus back from the dead.

In Romans 8:9 it says, **“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”** If someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they are not born again. They are still in the flesh. Jesus said, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** Those who are born again are born of the Holy Spirit.

Then Romans 8:11 says, **“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”**

Your mortal body is the one you have now, the same body you had before you were born again. Mortal means, “having death in it, in the process of dying.” Death comes by sin (Rom. 5:12). Sickness and disease are elements of the process of death. It is the Holy Spirit in you that will manifest the Word of God, when you believe in your heart and speak with your mouth. Healing will come by a work of the Holy Spirit within you. Whatsoever you say will come to pass by the Holy Spirit working within you.

One day I had a woman come to me with pain in her leg. She said she had a stiff leg for about four years and at that time she also had pain in that leg. After spending time with her in the Word, I had her watch while the LORD adjusted the legs on another person. Then I told her, *“Just as easily as it was for the LORD to adjust this other person’s legs, He will also heal her leg.”*

Then I prayed for her, thanking the LORD for His love for her. How He loved her so much, and would manifest His healing power in her leg. Then I used the name of Jesus to command healing in her leg. I told her, from that moment on, whenever she felt pain or noticed stiffness in her leg to say, *“By Jesus’ stripes she is healed.”*

She walked out of the door saying, *“By Jesus’ stripes I am healed.”* The next morning, she called my house and left a message on my answering machine. She did not have any pain or stiffness in her leg. About a month later, she called to see if I was going to be home that day. When I told her I would be home, she came over to tell me she did not have any pain or stiffness since the night I had prayed for her.

The Holy Spirit is here on earth to manifest the Word of God whenever the Word of God in us agrees with the Father and the Son. The Word of God does not agree with the Devil and his demons. Therefore, if we are not in agreement with the Word of God, the Holy Spirit will not cause the Word to manifest in our lives.

Many Christians still have sickness or disease in their bodies because they have not come into agreement with the Word of God. To come into agreement with the Word of God, we must renew our minds on the Word of God. The more we renew our minds on the Word of God, the more transformed we will become to receive whatsoever God has promised in His Word. In 3 John 1:2 it says, **“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”**

Everyone who is born again has the Holy Spirit within them. But, that does not mean they have “the anointing and power to be a witness unto Jesus” (Acts 1:4,5,8). The power to do the works that Jesus did and be a witness unto Jesus comes with the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues. That is a separate gift of the Holy Spirit. This is a great help and blessing from God and every Christian needs the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

This is Part 4, in a series of Mini-books on **“A New Creature.”** For more information on this subject, get all of the parts to this series of Mini-books. For other help, you can also go to our Web sites on the Internet and download as many free books as you desire. Go to:

www.handsforjesus.cc

www.handsforjesus.org