

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

January 22, 2011

A New Creature

Part 8

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

2011 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.”** What is 2 Corinthians 5:17 talking about? Many Christians today read the Scriptures, they quote the Scriptures, but they do not have spiritual understanding of what the Scriptures are saying.

In 1 Corinthians 15:45-47 it says, **“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit...Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual...The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.”** This tells us that there are two creations of mankind. The first creation of mankind was man in the flesh, called **“Adam,”** meaning “mankind.” Then there was a second creation of man in the Spirit, called **“the last Adam”** also meaning “mankind.”

These are two different creations of mankind. The first Adam was **“a living soul,”** with a body of flesh and bones (created of this earth). **“The second man is the Lord from heaven,”** a life-giving Spirit (from heaven).

The first Adam was not spiritual, whereas the second Adam is spiritual. The first Adam was in the flesh, whereas the Second Adam is in the Spirit.

It is sad that so many are not teaching the truth that is revealed in Genesis 2:7 & 1 Corinthians 15:35-57. It has been in the Bible for almost two-thousand years. Still, there are many teaching another doctrine. If Christians knew the truth, their whole lives would change and they could walk like Jesus walked. In 1 John 2:6 it says, **“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”**

Adam was the first man created in Genesis 2:7. Adam was not spiritual, but was earthly of this earth with a “terrestrial body” of flesh and bones (which needs air to breathe).

Christ is the last Man, created by God the day that Jesus arose again from the dead, with a “celestial body” (spiritual body), that does not need air to breathe. In Christ Jesus, we have eternal life, the same life that God has (which is called “zoe” in the Greek). This is the very life of God, which was in the Father and the Son from the beginning. In this new life we can enter into heaven and spend eternity with God.

Why do Christians still want to live like the world lives, when they should be living like God lives? How sad it is that Christians have been so long deceived by the enemy, not believing the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God Sees Our Heart

In Ezekiel 36:26 it says, **“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”** This is a prophecy. It is prophesying of the New Covenant, which includes a new birth, born of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ (1 Peter 1:23; John 1:12,13; 3:5-7).

God had a plan for mankind right from the beginning. Before Adam was created, God had great plans for those who will believe His Word. Included in God’s plans for mankind were two creations of mankind.

The first creation of mankind was Adam (in the flesh). The second creation of mankind is Christ (in the Spirit).

From the time of the first creation of mankind in the flesh until Jesus came and redeemed us from sin and death, no one could enter into the kingdom of God. Even though many people walked with God in the Old Testament times, they could not enter into “the kingdom of God” without first being born again.

There were many great men in the Old Testament times that God used to accomplish His will here on earth. Among those were such as Enoch, who walked with God, and God took him to heaven (Gen. 5:22-24; Heb. 11:5). There was Abraham, who believed God and was called the father of all who live by faith (Rom. 4:11,16). There was Moses, who led the Children of Israel out of bondage from the Egyptians into the wilderness where God taught them His ways and plans for them.

Moses was called one of the great prophets of the Old Testament times. Jesus became a prophet like unto Moses (Deu. 18:18). There were many other great prophets in the Old Testament times.

Then came Jesus, born of a virgin and the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). Jesus was called the Son of God because God was His Father and Mary was His mother. Jesus became the first human being in which God was His true Father.

Jesus was one with the Father from before the foundation of this world. In the beginning, Jesus was called **“the Word of God.”** It tells us about Jesus as **“the Word of God”** in John 1:1-3, where it says, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The same was in the beginning with God...All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”** Then the Word of God came into this world as the Son of God as it says in John 1:14, **“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”**

Even though Jesus was with the Father from the beginning of time, He was not **“the Son of God”** until He became born of the virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit. As **“the Word of God,”** Jesus was with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning (1 John 5:7).

When the Word of God was conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary (by the Holy Spirit), a Child was born whom is called JESUS. By the birth of Jesus, He became the beginning of “a new creation of mankind.” This new creation of mankind became man and God united together as one new creature. (Never before in all of eternity was there a man united together with God).

It was by this uniting together of God and man that a new creation of mankind came into being. This new creation of mankind is called **“Christ,”** meaning **“the Anointed One.”** Christ is

the Head of the Body of Christ (which is made up of all who are **“in Christ”**).

All who are in the kingdom of God (also called the Kingdom of Heaven), are born again into the family of God. Before Jesus came into this world the Kingdom of God did not reign here on earth. The Kingdom of God was prophesied already in Daniel 2:44. But it could not reign until after Jesus became the firstborn from the dead. Jesus was put to death in the flesh and raised again from the dead by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 3:18; Rom. 8:11).

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, He became the King of the Kingdom of God (Rev. 19:16). Jesus also became **“the Head”** of a new creation of mankind, called **“the Body of Christ”** (Col. 1:18).

Even though there were great prophets throughout the Old Testament times, Jesus said in Matthew 11:11, **“Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”**

Why is it that those who are the least in the kingdom of God are greater than John the Baptist? None of those in the Old Testament times were born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

God had chosen the Children of Israel as His children. God worked with them, and even took some of them to heaven. But, they were not joined **“one Spirit with the LORD”** (1 Cor. 6:17). God did not dwell in them as He did with Jesus. Therefore, they were not new creatures in Christ Jesus.

To become a new creature in Christ Jesus a person must become born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. The Word of God is **“the Seed”** of the new birth as it says in 1 Peter 1:23, **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”** This is accomplished by the Holy Spirit causing the new birth in the spirit, as 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.”** The first birth of mankind is in the flesh. The second birth of mankind (a new creature), is in the Spirit.

This is the beginning of a new creation of mankind, whereby God and man are united together in one. As we study the Scriptures with the help of the Holy Spirit to teach us, we will see God’s plan for mankind from the foundation of the world.

God started with Adam, the beginning of mankind in the flesh. Adam was earthly, of this earth (Gen. 2:7; 1 Cor. 15:45-48). Then Jesus came into this world as **“the Son of Man,”** and **“the Son of God.”** Jesus was a man, born of Mary and the Holy Spirit. Being that the Holy Spirit caused Mary’s conception, Jesus is truly **“the Son of God.”** God was Jesus’s true Father.

Jesus is called **“the last Adam”** (1 Cor. 15:45). The word **“Adam”** meaning **“mankind.”** Jesus became the beginning of a new creation of mankind. This is all explained in 1 Corinthians 15:45-48, where it says, **“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit...Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual...The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven...As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.”**

The first Adam was not spiritual, but natural (earthly of this earth). The last Adam was spiritual (a life-giving spirit from heaven above). In the first Adam we have earthly life. In Christ Jesus we have heavenly life. These are two different types of life. The first one is earthly. The second

one is heavenly.

Being that Adam was earthly of this earth, mankind needed to become born again to receive eternal life in heaven. Man was created as “a living soul,” with a body of flesh and bones and a spirit within him. God’s plan for man never included “a new living soul.” It only included a new heart, a new spirit, and a new spiritual body.

In the new birth we do not receive a new living soul. We do receive a new heart, a new spirit, and a new spiritual body. We are still the same living soul, and God adopts us out of Adam into Christ (Rom. 8:9).

A New Heart

The word **“heart,”** used many times in the Scriptures means, “the innermost part of our being.” Our heart is not in our mind, and it is not in our spirit. Sometimes the word heart may be speaking of our spirit, and sometimes the word heart may be speaking of our physical heart in our physical body.

God looks at the heart, “the innermost part of our being,” when He determines our intentions. Our soul, which is psychic, contains our mind and is subject to the spiritual realm by the thoughts that come into our mind. Our heart is established by what we believe, as a result of what we do about the thoughts that come to our mind.

If we submit our mind to the thoughts that come from God, our heart will be established upon the Word of God. If we submit our mind to the thoughts that come from the Satanic realm, our heart will be established upon the thoughts of the enemy.

From the time that Adam and Eve submitted their thoughts to the words of the serpent our minds became corrupted by the Satanic realm. Man began to think like the Devil thinks.

The Devil’s thoughts and God’s thoughts are not the same. Therefore, the soul of man became corrupted by the thoughts of the Satanic realm. As mankind continued to receive thoughts that came from the Satanic realm their heart became hardened against the Word of God.

An example, the hardening of the heart of man can be clearly seen in Genesis 4:3-8. Cain would not listen to the LORD God concerning the thoughts that had come to his mind. Cain received the thoughts that came from the Devil. Therefore his heart was established upon the thoughts of the wicked One (1 John 3:12).

God does not look at the outward appearance of man. God looks at the heart of man. In 1 Samuel 16:7 it says, **“But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.”**

Knowing the hearts of mankind, God included **“a new heart,”** in the new birth. This was spoken of in Ezekiel 36:26, saying, **“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”**

What is God talking about when He said He would **“...take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh?”** Sin had corrupted the hearts of mankind. Mankind in general preferred themselves before others. Mankind in general always looked upon their own desires and needs before they looked upon the desires and needs of others.

By not looking at the needs of others first, man’s heart was similar to that of Lucifer before he was cast out of heaven (Isa. 14:12-14). God’s heart always looks at the needs of others before His own needs. God knew the need of mankind to be delivered and protected from the works of the Devil. In Genesis 3:14,15 the LORD God said to the serpent, **“...Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life...And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”**

Therefore, God sent Jesus to redeem mankind from the works of the Devil. Jesus came into this world as a Man, born of the Holy Spirit and a woman. Jesus’ life came from God and His body

came from the womb of a woman. In Hebrews 10:5-7 it says, **“Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me ..In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure...Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.”** “The Word of God” received a human body born of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary.

The Word of God became flesh, and took upon Himself the all our sins, iniquities, infirmities, sickness, and diseases. God saw our need, and delivered us from all our destructions. This is the Gospel that needs to be preached to the whole world, that those who will believe in their heart will be saved.

All throughout the Old Testament times mankind in general was not willing to submit to God completely, and let God do His will in their lives. Over and over, mankind always preferred themselves before others. Man always looked for ways to obtain for themselves what they desired first. Each one, went their own way.

In Romans 3:10-18 it says, **“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one...There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God...They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one...Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips...Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness...Their feet are swift to shed blood...Destruction and misery are in their ways...And the way of peace have they not known...There is no fear of God before their eyes.”**

This was the condition of mankind from the time sin and death entered the human race. The hearts of people were selfish, and they did not love God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength. Mankind loved themselves more than they loved God. Their heart was not right before God. They needed a new heart, that would seek to please God and prefer others before themselves.

The born again experience needed to be more than just a religious operation. Unless a person’s heart is changed, they will only become religious with an outward appearance of Godliness but lacking the power thereof (2 Tim. 3:5).

In the new birth, God did not remove the corruption that was in our soul. But, God did give us a new heart, whereby we could know the will of God, and do the will of God.

In Jeremiah 31:33 it says, **“But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”** In Hebrews 8:10, it says, **“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people”**

When a person is truly born again, there should be a change in the desires of their heart. In their heart there should be the desire to study the Word of God and seek those things which God desires for us (not the things of this world). There should be a desire to do the will of God (not the will of the flesh). There should be a change in the way they think.

The Apostle Peter wrote it this way, **“...ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light...Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy...Dearly**

beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:9-11).

When a person is truly born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, they become different from those who are not born again. To the world, Christians become **“...a peculiar people...”** True Christians do not do things the way the world does things. They, **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world”** (1 John 2:15). The love of God the Father is in them and they love the Word of God more than they love the world or the things of this world.

They have received of God **“a new heart”** which results in a new desire within them. The desires of their heart are no longer for the world or the things of this world.

Let us see this change in the heart of an individual in type and shadow. When Adam was first formed of the dust of the earth, he became earthy (of this earth) (Gen. 2:7; 1 Cor. 15:45-48). Adam’s body came from the earth, but his living soul came from the breath of the LORD God. The earth became as Adam’s mother and the LORD God became as Adam’s father. Adam belonged to the earth, for he was created of the elements of the earth. Adam belonged to God, because his life came from the LORD God.

Now, let us look at the “new birth.” In 1 Peter it says, **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”** Just as Adam’s body came from the earth, in the new birth, our spiritual body came from the Word of God. The Word of God is the seed of our new birth in the spirit.

In John 3:6 it says, **“...that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”** Just as the living soul of Adam came from the breath of the LORD God, our life in the spirit came from the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we are born again of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is like our Father and the Word of God is like our mother.

When we use this as our example of the new birth as compared to the old man in Adam, we will better understand why Peter wrote we are **“...a peculiar people...”** The world does not know us, because they do not know Jesus, Who is the Word of God that dwells in us. We are born again of “the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.”

The desires of our heart have been changed. We no longer desire the world or the things that are in the world (1 John 2:15). We love God, for the love of God is poured out into our heart by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5).

God is our Father, and we desire to be like our Father. There is a desire in our heart to be holy as He is holy (1 Peter 1:15,16). This desire comes in the new birth, when we receive a new heart.

The Word of God is like our mother. Whereby, new born Christians love the Word of God with all their heart. Just as a new born baby loves its mother.

New creatures in Christ love the Word of God with all their heart. The Word of God is our life in the Spirit. We received our life in the Spirit from the Word of God. New creatures in Christ desire to live in the Word of God and by the Word of God.

What mother is there that does not love her children? Jesus is the Word of God and He loves those who are His own, born again of the Word of God (1 Peter 1:23). This love of God is in our new heart, and we love Him as He loved us.

Satan has come into the churches with another doctrine and another teaching. Satan has deceived many telling them they were born again in infant baptism, when they were sprinkled with water by someone who claims to be a Priest or Pastor. Yet, there is no evidence of the new birth with

a new heart. The desires of their heart are just like the world. They love the world and the things of this world. Where is the love of the Father (1 John 2:15-17)?

Some have been told they were born again by saying a sinners prayer, when someone prayed with them. If they were truly born again, their lives would be changed. Their hearts desires would be changed. They would love the LORD their God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength.

In the First Epistle of John it is clearly seen, who is truly born again? In 1 John 2:3 it says, **“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”** Those who are truly born again have a desire to keep the LORD’s commandments. Then in 1 John 2:4,5 it explains this by saying, **“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him...But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.”**

Religious people who claim to be born again cannot keep the commandments of the LORD. They have an outward appearance, but their heart has not been changed. The desires of their heart as still for the world and the things of this world.

In 1 John 2:6 it says, **“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”** Jesus did not come into this world to become like the world. Jesus came into this world so that those who would believe on Him would become like Him.

In Psalm 97:10 it says, **“Ye that love the LORD, hate evil...”** Whatsoever is not of God is of this world (1 John 2:15-17). If those who say they are born again do not hate evil, there is a question concerning their confession of being born again. If they are truly born again, the evidence should be in their lives.

The LORD Jesus Christ is the Word of God (which is the Seed of the new birth). The seed must reproduce according to it’s own likeness and image. Just as the Seed is, so is the new birth. Therefore in Psalm 97:10 it continues by saying, **“...he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.”** This is the example of the LORD Jesus Christ, and should also be the example of all those who are born of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. The Seed must reproduce in the likeness of itself.

Therefore, in 1 John 2:6 it says, **“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”** In 1 John 2:9-11 it says, **“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now...He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him...But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.”**

As we continue in the Epistle of first John, we will see clearly what the Holy Spirit requires of those who are Christians. The most important part is the fact that if a person is truly born again of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit they did receive a new heart in the new birth.

When we receive a new heart, it is expected of us that we, **“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life”** (Prov. 4:23). Jesus said in Matthew 12:35, **“A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.”**

Therefore in 1 John 1:5,6 it says, **“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all...If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.”** When God gave us a

new heart, He gave us the ability to do what He asks us to do in His Word.

As new creatures in Christ Jesus, we are to walk as He walked (1 John 2:6). If we miss it somewhere, we are told in 1 John 1:7-9, “**...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin...If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**”

Those who are not truly born again do not have the ability to walk in the Light as He is in the Light. Religious people can only walk according to the knowledge of good and evil. They do not have the power or the anointing of the Holy Spirit to enable them to keep the commandments of the LORD. They do not have the power within them to overcome the works of darkness.

Christians who are truly born again do have the ability to do the works that Jesus did (John 14:12). Christians who are truly born again have the ability to walk as Jesus walked. For they are members of His Body, and all that Jesus has is given unto those who are faithful to do the works that Jesus did. It is not by our own ability, but by the anointing of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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