**BIBLE DISCOURSE**

**03/09/2023 & 24/09/2023**

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(Voice of the Last Day Ministries Inc.), Toronto, Canada

**Topic: CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION TEACHINGS (2): NEW LIFE IN CHRIST**

**Text: 2Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:4; 7:6; Gal. 6:15; 4:24; Col. 3:10**

As was stated in the last topic on this series, titled “SALVATION”, we are dealing with these topics so that the hearts of saved people who may be experiencing some confusion/doubts could be stabilized. The studies are also intended to facilitate the salvation of the unsaved, who may have thought that they are saved, just because they are in the midst of the people of God.

Already, we have seen “SALVATION” as the first and fore-most experience. In our treatment of the subject, we both defined it and showed how it is experienced.

Let us now survey the next step, “NEW LIFE IN CHRIST”, going through the following two sub-points- ***(1) New life in Christ defined; (2) Aspects of the new life.***

**1. NEW LIFE IN CHRIST DEFINED**

“NEW LIFE IN CHRIST” or “NEW LIFE THROUGH CHRIST” means “an entirely different and new type of life, made possible by the Spirit of Christ (or of God) which one receives when one is saved” (cons. Rom. 8:3-4; Eph. 1: 13-14). (The term new life in Christ is as compared to the life one was living before salvation or coming to Christ).

What happens is that, as soon as the Spirit of Christ comes into the man, the spirit/heart of the man becomes recreated, or renewed, or regenerated (Ezk 36:26; Col. 3:9-10; Tit.3:5). This is why the inner-man, that is, the spirit of the man is called ‘a new man’ (2Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; Eph. 4:24). The Spirit of God in the man now continually influences the man to live a spiritual rather than a carnal life.

**2. ASPECTS OF THE NEW LIFE**

The following aspects of the ‘new life’ will usually be found in those who have been genuinely saved:

**(a) Transformed Character**: Let us get the meaning of transformation from the following cases:-

(i). The demoniac was a restless man who continued to do things that inflicted injuries upon him, being under the influence of some evil spirits (Mk.5:5). But on meeting Jesus Christ and being healed, all the violence to himself stopped and he came back to his right mind (Mk. 5:15). This is the experience of many who now have transformed characters. They were doing things that satisfied their flesh and mind, but detrimental to their souls (Eph. 2:2-3; 1Pet. 4:3). But on coming to Christ they become saved and come to the right type of mind in the sight of God (cons. 1Cor. 6:11)

(ii) The Samaritan woman was one that went from man to man and also had nothing to do with the Jews in accordance with the tradition of her elders (Jn. 4:16-18 &9). But on encountering Christ, not only did her immoral manners change, she testified of Christ, a Jew (Jn. 4:28-29). This also is another aspect of transformation of character. The so transformed of today have dropped immorality, racial/class/ethnic prejudice or distinction and have become witnesses to Christ (Gal. 6:15).

(iii) Another form of transformation of character can be seen from Saul of Tarsus, a religious, but injurious and blasphemous man (Acts 9:1; 1Tim. 1:13). But when Christ met him, he became a loving and lovable brother among the redeemed (Acts 9:17; 21:20; 22:13).

(iv) The Philippian jailer’s experience is yet another form of transformation of character. He was a merciless man, who kept the orders he received without mercy (Acts 16:24). But when his spirit and heart were touched by Christ, he turned into a merciful and caring brother (Acts 16:33).

**b. New thoughts*:*** This is another aspect of the new life in Christ. Because of the newness of the heart/spirit the man’s thoughts are now changed from the things that are ungodly to the things that are godly both morally, materially and otherwise (comp. Phil. 4:8); from canal and worldly thoughts to heavenly ones (Col. 3:1-3).

**c. New Ambition/Interest**: Another aspect of new life in Christ is new interest in the things of God such as, Bible reading, and praying, Christian fellowship, witnessing for the Lord and ambition of making heaven at last (comp. Phil. 3:7-12).

**d. New Friendship and Fellowship**: New friendship and fellowship is yet another aspect of the new life in Christ. When one’s spirit and heart have been made new, it is natural to find one befriending those that have like mind with the one (cons. Acts 2:42; 4:23; 9:1-2 and 26-28). The one no longer takes pleasure in old friendship that discusses mundane and spiritually unprofitable things.

**N/B.** Generally speaking, “new life in Christ” makes one’s conscience alive to God, to godliness and to being in heaven at last. This consciousness is what keeps those who have it from “willful sinning”, as found in those who do not have new life in Christ.