

#7 Being Renewed in the Spirit of Our Mind for the Practical Existence of the One New Man

(The One New Man Fulfilling God's Purpose in Creating Man) 2019/12/23-29

Overview: Christ has already created the one new man on the cross, but for the existence of the new man, there is the renewal of the new man (I, II). To be renewed is to add the element of God into our being, and our old element is then replaced and removed (III). Renewal is to have our mind renewed in the spirit inwardly, putting off the old social life, and putting on the new church life outwardly (IV). The renewing Spirit is first mingled with our regenerated spirit, and become one mingled spirit. It then spreads through our mind, by the revelation of the Scriptures and renewing Spirit, our philosophy, thought, concept, and psychology (these are built up in the mind according to our nationality and culture) concerning the universe, mankind, God and etc., are completely changed and renewed (V). The purpose of renewing the mind is for the complete and practical existence of the one new man (VI).

I . In Colossians 3:10 there are the creation of the new man and the renewal of the new man; the creation of the new man was completed on the cross, but the renewal of the new man is still going on.

Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

II . The new man was created by Christ, but the believers need to partake of this creation:

Eph. 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace.

A. To bring forth the new man, first Christ's creating work on the cross was needed, and this has been accomplished.

B. In order to partake of this creation, every day we need to put off the old man and put on the new man through the renewing. Eph. 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

Mon

III. To be renewed is to have God's element added into our being to replace and discharge our old element:

2 Cor. 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

A. Newness is God; therefore, to become new is to become God: 1. God is forever new, and He infuses His ever-new essence into our being to renew our entire being. 2. The Spirit of God renews us by infusing our inward parts with God's attributes, which are forever new, can never become old, and are everlasting and unchanging.

B. The renewing Spirit imparts the divine essence of the new man into our being to make us a new creation.

C. God arranges our environment so that little by little and day by day our outer man will be consumed and our inner man will be renewed.

D. We are renewed by the renewing capacity of the divine life in resurrection. Phil. 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Tue

IV. According to Ephesians 4:23, which is vital and crucial to us, the key to putting off the old man (the old social life) and putting on the new man (the new church life) is in being renewed in the spirit of our mind:

Eph. 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

A. A regenerated spirit is a renewed spirit; this renewed spirit must be strengthened to invade, subdue, and occupy every part of our soul. Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.

B. Christ as the life-giving Spirit is now in our spirit, and these two spirits mingle together to form the spirit of the mind: Phil. 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, 1. Our mind is being renewed through the realization that Christ as the life-giving Spirit is mingled with our regenerated human spirit. 2. When the life-giving Spirit, who dwells in and is mingled with our regenerated spirit, spreads into our mind, this mingled spirit becomes the spirit of our mind; it is by this mingled spirit that our mind is renewed.

Wed

C. To be regenerated in the spirit of our mind is inward and intrinsic: 1. The renewing in the spirit of our mind revolutionizes our logic, philosophy, thought, concept, and psychology. 2. Renewing is to have our mind changed in our religion, logic, and philosophy concerning the universe, mankind, God, etc., by the Spirit of truth with the revelations in the Scriptures, even to have Christ's mind replacing our mind through the consuming work of the cross.

D. The only possibility of God's purpose being fulfilled in this age is that we would all be willing to be renewed in the spirit of our mind.

V. The renewing Spirit is mingled with our regenerated spirit as one mingled spirit to spread into our mind in order to renew our entire being as a member of the new man by putting off the old man and putting on the new man:

A. To put off the old man is to deny and renounce our old self. Matt. 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

B. To put on the new man is to apply what Christ has accomplished in creating the new man.

C. Whereas the cross is for the putting off our old man, the Spirit is for the putting on of the new man: 1. In order to put off the old man, we must apply the cross to ourselves.

2. To put on the new man is to live and magnify Christ through the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Phil. 1:19-20 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

Thu

VI. The renewal of the mind is for the full existence and real practice of the one new man:

Col. 3:10-11 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all. (Fri)

A. Our mind needs to be renewed not only for our spiritual conduct or for our personal, ethical behavior but also for the existence of the one new man.

B. The focal point of our being renewed in the spirit of our mind is the one new man.

C. Throughout our life, our national and racial mentality has

been built up, and for the existence of the one new man, this mentality must be renewed: **1.** Our natural and national mentality was educated and built up according to our racial and cultural background; this is the greatest hindrance to the existence of the new man. **2.** In order for the one new man to come into full existence, we must experience a thorough renewal of our mind, which has been built up according to our nationality and culture.

D. The only way that the one new man can be realized practically is by our mind being renewed:

Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect. **1.** We need to be renewed in the spirit of our mind actually and daily in our living: otherwise, there is no way for the Lord to have the new man. **2.** The one new man cannot be realized by our being corrected or taught but by the Spirit of God permeating our mentality. **3.** In our prayer we need to have a desire to enter into the practicality of the one new man, and thus we need to ask the Lord to renew our mind and transform our inward being. **4.** Daily we need to put off the old man and put on the new man: for this we need to drink of the one Spirit that we may be renewed in the spirit of our mind in every area of our practical, daily life. **5.** When we drink of the Spirit, He saturates every part of our being: **1 Cor. 12:13** For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.^a As we drink of the Spirit, the first part of our soul that He saturates is our mind. **b** If we drink of the Spirit, we will be renewed in the spirit of our mind, and this renewing will make us all into one new man. **6.** When our mind has been renewed, the one new man will come into existence in a practical way, and Christ will truly be all and in all.

Fri/Sat

Crucial Point(1):The saved ones put on the new man by putting their mind on the spirit and getting renewed in the spirit of the mind.

OL1: To bring forth the new man, first Christ's creating work on the cross was needed, and this has been accomplished. **OL2:** In order to partake of this creation, every day we need to put off the old man and put on the new man through the renewing.

OL3: God arranges our environment so that little by little and day by day our outer man will be consumed and our inner man will be renewed.

According to Ephesians 4:24, the new man is created in righteousness and holiness of the reality, but according to Colossians 3:10, the new man is being renewed. How can the new man be both created, which has nothing to do with anything old, and renewed, which is related to something old? ... From Christ's side, the new man has already been created. But from our side, our experience, the new man is being renewed. According to the new creation, the new man has been completed by the work of Christ. But according to our experience, the new man is in the process of being renewed daily....This renewing is actually the putting on of the new man.

Our former manner of life, our heritage from Babel, and even the Jewish ordinances have been abolished in the flesh of Christ by His death on the cross. Instead of

treasuring our heritage, we should disown it. On the positive side, we need to see that the new man has already been created and, by regeneration, has been put into our spirit. The need now is for our spirit to become the dominant part of our being. This means that our spirit mingled with the Spirit of God must become the spirit of our mind. If our spirit is the spirit of our mind, then all our living will be by the spirit. Whatever we do will be according to the spirit. This spirit of our mind will then become the renewing spirit.

We may be strong in our habit and strong in what we are. ... We may discipline [our children] according to our disposition, our being, and our habit. God, therefore, uses the environment to put us into "prison." Then we are reminded to pray and the eventual outcome of our prayer is not merely that we get corrected but that we get renewed.

Sometimes God may allow the church to pass through a "storm." God may allow this "storm" to occur because He wants us to be renewed. The tragic thing is that while we are suffering in the "storm," we would remain the same with no renewing.... We have to pray, "Lord, I don't want to remain the same. I do not want to remain the same this year as I was last year. I want to be renewed day by day."

Application to the new ones

All of you who got newly saved, please realize that the reality of the new man which was created on the cross by Christ is in you. You now need to put your mind on the spirit to make this new man spread from your spirit to your mind, emotion and will. **Rom. 8:5** For those who are according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but those who are according to the spirit, the things of the Spirit. **6** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Your keeping your anger toward your classmates, teacher, colleague and boss, or your trying to exclude people are actually to put your mind on the flesh. The sinful nature of Satan dwells in the human body and made it flesh. Put your mind not on the outward flesh but the spirit inside. Then you can have joy, peace and calmness in your heart. If you put your mind on the flesh, you will be filled with anger, frustration, fighting within.

Gal. 5:19 And the works of the flesh are manifest, which are such things as fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, **20** Idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, divisions, sects, **21** Envyings, bouts of drunkenness, carousings, and things like these, of which I tell you beforehand, even as I have said before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** Meekness, self-control;

When you put your mind on the flesh, you tend to distort or exaggerate the small casual word that was spoken to you and feel discouraged and start hating the person who said that. This kind of distortion and exaggeration are from Satan. Satan tries to split people, make them hate each other thus keep you away from God's economy. For example, you invited the gospel friend or the newly saved brother or sister to a meeting. And they said they would come. But eventually they didn't show up. In such case, if you put your mind on the

flesh, Satan starts telling you that “they hate you” or “they are too sloppy and you don’t need to invite them”. In such case, please pray like this, “Oh Lord Jesus, the mind set on the flesh is death but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace. I need to put my mind on the spirit to talk with the Lord, and not putting my mind on the flesh to converse with Satan, to put on the new man. Let me learn, even in the small things in the daily life, to turn from setting my mind on the flesh to setting the mind on the spirit. When I set my mind on the spirit, my mind will get renewed. Hallelujah! Thank the Lord”.

Crucial Point(2): Human religion, logic and philosophy are composed of negative thoughts injected by Satan.

In order to renew our mind, we need to wear the helmet of salvation.

OL1: When the life-giving Spirit, who dwells in and is mingled with our regenerated spirit, spreads into our mind, this mingled spirit becomes the spirit of our mind; it is by this mingled spirit that our mind is renewed.

OL2: Renewing is to have our mind changed in our religion, logic, and philosophy concerning the universe, mankind, God, etc., by the Spirit of truth with the revelations in the Scriptures, even to have Christ’s mind replacing our mind through the consuming work of the cross.

The way of renewing lies in prayer and in reading the Scriptures, because for us to be renewed in our mind is for us to get rid of all our old concepts concerning the things of the human life and be made new again by the teaching of the Holy Scriptures and the enlightening of the Holy Spirit. When you read the Bible and become familiar with it, the Holy Spirit will enlighten you and guide you. When the Holy Spirit comes to enlighten you while you thus pray and read the Word day by day, the mind in you is being changed from the old to the new.

Today our problem is due mostly to our mind. Brother Nee said that some people are afraid of others stealing their wallet from their pocket, so they are always feeling in their pocket for their wallet; he said that this is an indication that they have mentally stolen from others. This is to have a disordered mind. Sometimes when someone has something wrong in his mind, he begins to have wild imaginations. A wife may begin to weep when she indulges in wild imaginations. All these matters are related to the mind. God Himself has become our life, He is changing our disposition, and He is also renewing our mind. Thus, we can have the proper concepts and can pursue Christ in a proper way....Our disposition needs to be sanctified so that we may partake of God’s holy nature; our mind also needs to be renewed so that we may be transformed in our spiritual life.

We lack the perception that penetrates the barriers and coverings because we do not practice being daily renewed in the spirit of our mind. The renewing in the spirit of our mind always revolutionizes our logic, philosophy, thought, concept, and psychology. As a result, our perception in all things is different, and we have a deeper understanding of the people we meet. Even by the way they ask questions, we can know people’s condition. A natural man is a very shallow man, but if we are spiritual, we will be deep. If we are deep, we will know others, even though they will not be able to know us.

Second Corinthians 4:16 says, “Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying [is

consumed], yet our inner man is being renewed day by day”... Every day we are troubled from many directions. This trouble could be from our spouse, our children, or our co-workers. This trouble consumes our outer man, our natural man, so that our inner man can be renewed with the supply of the resurrection life.

Application to young working saints and graduate students

Eph. 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God, 18 By means of all prayer and petition...

FN “receive the helmet of salvation”: Receiving the helmet of salvation is for covering our mind, our mentality, against the negative thoughts shot in by the evil one. ...Satan injects threats, worries, anxieties, and other weakening thoughts into our mind. God’s salvation is the covering that we take up against all these. Such a salvation is the saving Christ whom we experience in our daily life.

In your office or laboratory, if you start thinking negatively about your colleagues, your boss or even yourself, it is a result of Satan’s injection of negative thoughts into your mind. Once the Satan’s negative thoughts are injected into your mind, it become very difficult to remove them. For example, because of your failure in your work, you got depressed and start thinking as “I am a no-good supervisor,” or “I am a no-good employee.” Such thoughts, in fact, come not from yourself but from Satan. In such situation, if you pray about your failure as “Lord, forgive my failure,” then immediately you can return into the fellowship of life and restart in positive way. You should not think that this is a foolish optimist’s thinking. But it is a way to move forward by faith. In the negative aspect, you need to eliminate thoroughly the negative thoughts from Satan about yourself, and in the positive aspect, you need to have thorough fellowship with the Lord using the Word, and wear the helmet of the salvation for your mind to be protected.

Prayer: “O Lord Jesus, in my mind, there are wrong and negative thoughts that cannot connect with the word of God. These thoughts actually are not the thought out of myself but the thoughts that came from Satan and are penetrated into my mind. I reject Satan’s speaking and thoughts, but instead I accept the Lord’s pure words and have fellowship with you according to your word. If I do this, I can wear the helmet of the salvation, renew my mind, and then put on the new man.”

Crucial Point(3): Cultural background is the greatest hindrance to the existence of the new man. The mind filled with cultural thoughts need to be renewed in the spirit of our mind for the existence of the new man

OL1: Our natural and national mentality was educated and built up according to our racial and cultural background; this is the greatest hindrance to the existence of the new man.

OL2: We need to be renewed in the spirit of our mind actually and daily in our living; otherwise, there is no way for the Lord to have the new man.

OL3: In our prayer we need to have a desire to enter into the practicality of the one new man, and thus we need to ask the Lord to renew our mind and transform our inward being.**OL4:** As we drink of the Spirit, the first part of our soul that He saturates is our mind.

The focal point of being renewed in the spirit of our mind is for the one new man. [According to Colossians 3:10-11],

in the new man Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, and free man have no place. The renewal is not merely for our behavior. The renewal is even more to get rid of our racial ordinances and to get rid of the natural persons. Not only is there no natural person in the new man, but there is no possibility, no room, for any natural person. In the new man there is room only for Christ. The new man is not Chinese, Japanese, French, English, German, or American. The new man is Christ. Christ is all and in all in the new man.

God created one corporate man. God needed that man to fulfill His heart's desire, but man fell and became divided and scattered. By being divided and scattered, man became useless in the hands of God. Look at today's situation. The whole world is a divided and scattered world.... The real situation of the world is that the nations of this earth are not united but divided. In every level of society there is division.

The building of the church depends upon the existence of the new man. If the new man comes into existence, no doubt, the built church is here. Regardless of the present situation of division, the Lord is going to get the new man. Everything that the Lord is doing in this present age is to usher in the practical existence of the one new man. To drop our natural, religious concepts, our mind needs to be saturated, permeated, possessed, and taken over by our mingled spirit.

Application to young people and college students

When you are a child, you must be raised in culture. Otherwise you will be a savage with no culture. Culture is used to protect you like a sheep enclosure when you are young. But when the Lord comes, He comes as your shepherd. The shepherd leads you out of the sheep enclosure and into the pasture. Similarly, you may not be mature enough, but will gradually learn to get out of culture and enter into Christ. Actually, when you are in culture, you are outside of Christ. Staying in culture is the greatest hindrance to the existence of the new man. Culture is good outside, so it can easily replace Christ, and they do not notice that Christ is gone.

For example, there is a thing in Japanese culture that "do not make trouble to other people." This cultural thought is not wrong, and it is good. Tourists from overseas are impressed by the cleanliness of the streets in Japan, where there is almost no garbage. This relates to "do not make trouble to other people." But when it comes to preaching the gospel and perfecting the believers, this cultural idea of the Japanese is a great hindrance. People who do not believe in the gospel will perish in the lake of fire. But if they believe in the gospel, not only can they escape from the judgment of the lake of fire, but also gain the eternal life of God and become part of one new man. This contrast is so great that when we preach the gospel, we need to forget the Japanese culture of "don't make trouble to other people," and pray and tell desperately. The Japanese culturally take it as the top priority that "don't make trouble to other people", losing sight of the whole picture and losing the importance of the gospel. As a result, cultural thought is more important than the importance of the gospel, and the gospel cannot be preached boldly. This is the major reason of difficulty in preaching the gospel in Japan.

Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but

be transformed by the renewing of the mind.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, regenerate my mind very day and save me from replacing Christ by "not trouble people" in Japanese cultural thought. In particular in preaching the gospel and perfecting the new ones, if I live according to the culture, I will lose sight of the importance of the gospel. I want to be a Christian, a Christ person, a witness of Christ, not a cultural person. And I hope I can preach the gospel boldly. Amen!"

The Mystery of Human Life(2):

The Miserable Situation of Human⑥: "Sickness"

- A. Our natural body, made of worthless dust (Gen. 2:7) and damaged by sin, weakness, sickness, and death. (Phil. 3:21 FN2)
- B. "every disease and every sickness" signifies spiritual illness. (Matt. 9:35 FN2)
- C. Sickness issues from sin and is a sign of man's abnormal condition before God because of sin. (Mark 1:31 FN1)
- D. Sins are the cause of sickness. The Slave-savior's word here touched the cause of sickness so that a healing effect could come. Once the sins had been forgiven, the sickness was healed. (Mark 2:5 FN3)
- E. This signifies that every fallen person is born in the death-sickness of sin is dealt with by the Savior's redeeming death, he rises up out of death into life. (Mark 5:25 FN1)
- F. Our body was created for the Lord, and the Lord within us is for our body. He feeds it with material food and gives it His resurrection life, which swallows its death element along with its weakness and sickness. (1 Cor. 6:13 FN3)
- G. Truth is also the remedy for and the rescue from the diseased and ruined situation. (2 Tim. 3:8 FN2)
- H. The content of God's New Testament economy ... ministers the life supply to the believers and heals the spiritual diseases. (Titus 2:1 FN1)

The Grace and Blessings from God⑥: "eternity"

- A. "As the world is passing away, and its lust, but he who does the will of God abides forever." (1 John 2:17)
- B. 'For "all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass has withered, and the flower has fallen off, But the word of the Lord abides forever." And this is the word which has been announced to you as the gospel.' (1 peter 1:24-25)
- C. "... unto a living hope ..., Unto an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, kept in the heavens for you." — Eternal life, with all the endless divine blessings...Incorruptible in substance, indestructible, not decaying; undefiled in purity, unstained; unfading in beauty and glory, not withering. These are the excelling qualities of our eternal inheritance in life. These qualities should be related to the Divine Trinity: incorruptible relates to the nature of the Father, which is like gold; undefiled, to the condition preserved by the Spirit's sanctifying work; and unfading, to the glorious expression of the Son. All these items of our eternal inheritance are related to the divine life, which we received through regeneration and which we are experiencing and enjoying throughout our entire Christian life. (1 peter 1:3-4 FN6 of v.3, FN2&3 of v.4)
- D. "Jehovah is the portion of my inheritance ... the inheritance is beautiful to me." (Psa. 16:5-6)