

Becoming The New Creation

I. Introduction

Last month our theme was Jesus Christ came to set us free. I encourage you to read and study my program notes on this theme,. You can find them on our web site: www.kairosministries.us. Jesus Christ came to set us free from something. What did He set us free from? What did He make possible for us to be free from? Key to this lesson, is that Christ set us free from the law of sin and death that works through our Adamic nature, and he set us free from having to follow and obey the Old Covenant, the law of Moses. He fulfilled all of the law for us, and He also took upon himself the curse that belonged to us for our failure to keep all the law of Moses. He paid the price for us. And thereby obtained our release from the law. At the same time he gave us another way, a new and living way, a better covenant.

II. Born Again, Receive An Uncorrupted Seed

Through His son, Jesus Christ, we can be born again and receive Him, who is the “uncorrupted seed”, into our heart; we can become united with Him in baptism, then we are able to break free from the “law of sin and death” that holds us in captivity.

Once we have received Jesus (by faith), we have received a new seed, one that has no corruption in it, and this righteous seed joins with me and brings about a “new creation”. I now have become united with the Christ, and His life (that is indestructible and eternal in nature)wants to touch every part of my being and bring about a growing freedom and wholeness within me. Today our them focuses on becoming this new creation.

A. *We are born-again of the Spirit*

...Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God....I say to you unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (John 3:3-8).

For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is through the living and abiding Word of God (I Peter 1:23).

...to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away...(I Peter 1:3).

B. *What happens in the born-again experience?*

We come to a place where get a breakthrough and touch Christ or where God touches us in a very, very spiritual way. We call it a born-again or conversion experience, but it is a spiritual breakthrough. After that, everything feels different.

Perhaps it feels like a window opens and we see and understood things that we never saw and understood before. Our spirit is quickened or awakened, it comes alive to us. Whenever that birth takes place, something new begins to happen in our lives: We have the potential to become both spiritual and natural.

The first sign of the new birth is that we know God intuitively; for our spirit has been quickened; inspiration originates with the Holy Spirit in man's spirit. We have had a spiritual birth: the Spirit within us comes alive, is quickened and all of a sudden we become a new creation,

We can now function at the natural level with everyone in the world around us, as well as having the potential to function as a spiritual man, in touch with spiritual things and with God. We are able to see and hear God; see and hear spiritual things, experience and discern spiritual things. We become more fully alive and complete than we were before.

We become a spiritual being

...the first man Adam, became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthy (made of dust); the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.

The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord (Prov. 20:27a).

We become both a natural and spiritual being.

We have access to live 1) a real and important earthly life; 2) yet also have access to a real and ultimately important spiritual world, to the Kingdom of Heaven.

We have a new identity

- that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God (Rom. 8:19-21; See John 10:34; Psalm 82:6)
- But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God... (I Peter 2:9-10).
- ...for the revealing of the sons of God...that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God (Rom. 8:19-21; John 10:34; Psalm 82:6)
- Might become partakers of the divine nature...(2 Peter 1:4).
- To him who *overcomes* (subdue; conquer, prevail... I will give a white stone and a new name written on the stone (Rev. 2:17).
- When Christ is revealed, then you shall be revealed with Him in glory (Col. 1:3).

God's spirit fused with our spirit I Cor. 6:17 Prov. 20:27a

In the born-again experience, it is not just my spirit anymore, but God's Spirit becomes fused with my spirit, causing the new creation. Our spirit doesn't function very well, until it comes into union with God's Spirit; this is how we become sons of God. We have to see there's a clear definition between the Spirit of God and our spirit. We need to see that we are a spiritual Christian because we are in touch with the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God, not another spirit.

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit (with him) I Cor. 6:17

...you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another .

And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly (I Cor. 15:45-50).

You are *no longer a slave*, but a son (Gal. 4:7).

You have not received a *spirit of slavery leading to fear*, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons—saying "Abba! Father!" (Rom 8:15).

No longer have to be slaves to sin or corruption

That we should no longer be *slaves to sin* (Rom 6:6).

The creation itself will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God (Rom 8:21).

III. We Were Spiritually Dead

Both the Bible and Christian tradition hold the conviction that we human beings live a real and important earthly life and also have access to a real and ultimately important spiritual world, to the Kingdom of Heaven. We are both natural and spiritual, but yet, in effect, for most of us, spiritually we are in dead, for many years, totally out of contact with our spiritual being, even though the spiritual being is more important than our natural being. And yet, we have never been in touch with it, perhaps from the time we were born. So we feel that we are incomplete. It 's the spiritual part of our being that is missing, because that is half of what we are. We are natural and spiritual and so its half of what we are, so there is half of us missing, and that half is the part that puts us into contact with spiritual things and brings about a sense of wholeness.

Become aware there is something more to life than we have

In most people there is a desire that, "I want to be whole; I know I am not whole, and I want to be whole, I want to be." We come to sense that there is something missing in our life, something more to life than what we have. There is a *knowing*; We have to become aware of the fact that there is something more that we don't have a hold of. We may see it in others who are more *complete* than we are. They have something more to their life, a different realm, they are *bigger*. We become convince that whatever it is they have, we want it or need. It becomes quite obvious after awhile, once we become aware of the fact that we are *lacking* something. And that awareness has to come first, of course, but then once that comes, we are aware that we are lacking something, then the search begins.

Begin searching

In the early stages, we look at the people around us, and say, oh, this person, has what I want and we may become followers of individuals. "He is in touch with something that I am not. And I want to get in touch with that." And so we find, we see that in a certain individual and we are attracted to it. We see that something more is available to us and that there is a source for it, even though we may not know exactly how to reach the source.

The role of suffering

Suffering seems to be essential because somehow through suffering we first try everything the world has to offer to alleviate it and it doesn't work, no matter what route we go. We can go to pain pills, drugs, but yet in time they don't work either because they haven't brought us any place except to a standstill. So then finally we began to lean to those spiritual things, and as we lean more and more to the spiritual, then we begin to get some healing, we can get some release, we begin to get some freedom that we could never get

any other way. So the suffering is essential to us, to bringing us, to making us to lean to the spiritual part, to bring alive that spiritual part of our being.

Without the suffering and the pain that is involved, no changes would ever come about. We would never come into the fullness of what God has for us without it.

Many people throughout deep sicknesses and illnesses in their family have brought an individual or a whole family alive to God in a whole new way. I know there were quite a few things in my own life that did it. It is through the pain that really forced me on into this spiritual journey to find some relief in my life or to make my life more full and complete than it was.

See our sad condition and accept responsibility for it

At some point we see clearly our sad condition: mind, emotions, being, that we are in a very sad, poor condition. We cry, "What a mess! I have failed. Even with all my struggling and everything, yet actually I'm a failure. I failed my parents, I failed the church, failed a teacher, but I failed... We take responsibility for ourselves for our own life, instead of trying to blame the world, God, and everybody. When we finally take responsibility upon ourselves, all of a sudden a door opens us to us.

That is the point God is waiting for all along to that point, because it says, "when you come with all your heart, with all your mind..." and I had gone to Him in prayer many times before, but I had never been able to go completely. I wasn't able to because of the fact that I hadn't assumed responsibility for all of this. That is the turning point.

We are unable to receive life any more fully, because we fail to recognize our condition and accept and become responsible for it. We are unable to be liberated and set free because until we let go, and accept the truth that we are the problem.

Jesus talked about the parable about the rich man and the poor man, and it was so hard for the rich because they were rich... what do I need God for? blessed are the poor... because it's like they have the greater opportunity to enter the Kingdom simply because of their poverty and their need, because out of that, they respond to God. Where, with the rich man, well, I don't need God...

Repentance from dead works

It is called repentance from dead works in Hebrews 6. Repentance means that some major change has come about where we see things differently, where we act differently. It is a change of direction, a total reversal of our life. We begin heading in a new direction.

Dead works is works that bear no fruit. No matter how much we struggle and try, it doesn't do anything, it doesn't bring any change; it doesn't bring any help; it doesn't bring us any healing. It doesn't make any changes in the marriage. It is dead works. We say, "Oh yeah, I am going to quit smoking." And we don't. It is dead works, because it didn't amount to anything.

It takes tremendous pressures as a rule to bring us to change. We can say we are sorry easy enough, but yet being sorry isn't enough, because repentance is a change of direction. This is one of the basic things of Christianity. Jesus has come so that we can be different. He says, you will see the truth, and the truth will set you free: so all of a sudden you see something in a new way, an act of repentance comes about, and you begin to function in a different way.

We have to break the old pattern and function in a new way, a new way of doing things, whatever that might be. For each person it might have to be different. I think that every day we are involved in a certain amount of dead works, and as soon as we can see that there is truly no fruit in them, that they are truly not effective in any way or manner, then we can stop that, and begin a new way to walk.

For the most part, we do not see our own poverty. There are rich people in the world who are poverty stricken, and they are millionaires or billionaires, and they can't even see their poverty. Yet they are some of the poorest people in the world, because they are not aware at all of spiritual things, or things of God, or spiritual life, the things that are most important in eternal things, they are totally unaware.

The scriptures says, "repentance from dead works, and faith toward God." So there is a faith that is involved also. All of a sudden we lose faith in ourselves and in our own efforts, and we have to begin to look to another source for it, instead of relying upon ourselves, we begin to rely upon someone else. This is

repentance. Repentance is us trying so hard ourselves, and then seeing that we need to look to a different direction.

IV. Conversion or born again experience

We are brought to a place where get a breakthrough and touch Christ or where God touches us in a very, very spiritual way. We can call it a born again or conversion experience, but it is a spiritual breakthrough; we finally break through and experience God and He touches us. Some compare it to the feeling that all of a sudden, the windows open and they see and understood things that we never saw and understood before. So after that, everything feels different.

Something has to happen to cause our spirit to be awakened, to come alive, to be born again. We have to somehow respond to God so that we have the spiritual birth. We call upon the Lord, something wonderful happens in us and a new thing comes into being within us which is both natural and spiritual. It has the abilities for both. When we are first born-again of the Spirit, we are not able to function as a fully spiritual man.

Whenever that birth takes place, right from that point on is when something new begins to happen in my life. And it takes years after that to fully develop, but from that point on we have the potential to become both spiritual and natural. We can now function at the natural level with every one in the world around me, and now we also have the potential to function as spiritual men or women, in touch with spiritual things, and in touch with God; we are able to see God, hear God, see spiritual things, hear spiritual things, experience spiritual things.

Before we did not have those abilities and were unable to see the Kingdom of God, were unable to enter into it because that Kingdom is spirit. Once we are new creations, we have the abilities for both, and then it hinges upon how responsive we are to this teacher that God gives us, the Holy Spirit who is there to help us.

The Holy Spirit himself is sent to help us develop fully into being that new creation. This is his work and purpose. He teaches us how to begin to see spiritually, how to begin to hear spiritually, how to begin to speak spiritually, and how to begin to respond spiritually to the things of God.

In the born-again experience, it is not just my spirit anymore, but God's Spirit becomes fused with my spirit, causing the new creation. Our spirit doesn't function very well, until it comes into union with God's Spirit; this is how we become sons of God. We have to see there's a clear definition between the Spirit of God and our spirit.

We need to see that we are a spiritual Christian because we are in touch with the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God, not another spirit. The first sign of the new birth is that we know God intuitively; for our spirit has been quickened: inspiration originates with the Holy Spirit in man's spirit. We have had a spiritual birth: the Spirit within us comes alive, is quickened and all of a sudden we become a new creation.

We have to go to Christ himself because he was the firstborn of the new creation. A new creation happened when Jesus Christ was born into this world, because he was both spiritual and natural, a combination of both, and new how to function from both levels.

Now have the potential to function as a new creation

Now we have the potential to become fully what God created us to be— man and spirit combined into one new being. This one new being happens as soon as we have that conversion experience, but we don't come into the fullness of that until many years later— it is not something that happens overnight.

When we are first born-again of the Spirit, we are not able to function as a fully spiritual man. It takes years after that to fully develop. Just like when we are born of the flesh, it takes us years to mature. In the spiritual man, it is the same thing. It takes growth over time.

However, there is a cost involved; it is not cheap.

St. Paul paid a cost; everybody down through the ages that has chosen to walk that walk of the spiritual journey has paid a cost. us,

Need a Spiritual Teacher; i.e. the Holy Spirit is sent to help us develop fully

The growth depends somewhat upon how responsive we are to the Holy Spirit, this teacher who God gives us. The Holy Spirit is sent to us to help us develop fully into being that new creation. He causes the spiritual senses to flourish within us. He teaches us how to begin to see spiritually, how to begin to hear spiritually, how to begin to speak spiritually, and how to begin to respond spiritually to the things of God.

Requires division of soul and spirit

Hebrews 4:12 speaks about the need for the soul and spirit to be divided, because they are alike in their nature and activities. "The word of God is living, active, divides, separates, divides the soul and the Spirit, the bone and the marrow." This scripture shows a definite distinction there between the two. This distinction is very, very important in our spiritual growth, to be able to discern, see, difference between the spiritual person and the natural man.

The natural man has all the natural abilities to think and function in this physical realm. The spiritual person has all the spiritual abilities to function in the spiritual realm. The spiritual abilities are all the same as the natural abilities, only they are spiritual. We have natural thinking and spiritual thinking. We have natural emotions and we spiritual emotions. we have natural speech and spiritual speech; natural hearing and spiritual hearing—they are all the same, only one set of them is called spiritual and the others are all natural. For years all we have is the natural; we have nothing more to go on.

Takes years to mature and fully develop

We have the potential to become fully what God created us to be— man and spirit combined into one new being. The one new being happens as soon as we have that conversion experience, the we don't come into the fullness of that until many years later— it is not something that happens overnight. When we are first born-again of the Spirit, we are not able to function as a fully spiritual man. Just like when we are born of the flesh, it takes us years to mature. In the spiritual man, it is the same thing. It takes growth over time.

However, whenever that birth takes place, something new begins to happen in our lives: We have the potential to become both spiritual and natural. We can now function at the natural level with everyone in the world around us, as well as having the potential to function as a spiritual man, in touch with spiritual things and with God. We are able to see and hear God; see and hear spiritual things, experience and discern spiritual things. Developing the spiritual part of our being, makes us become more fully alive and complete than we were before.

Christianity offers restoration

Jesus Christ makes something new possible. Through His life, water baptism, receiving the Holy Spirit, death, the cross and resurrection, and sending the Holy Spirit, He makes something new possible. Most religions of the world, teach that we can perfect ourselves. "If we try hard enough, have enough rules, if we belong to the right church, behave ourselves, then we can perfect ourselves." Yet in Christianity, there is the component of becoming a new creation, and somehow genuine restoration happens. The other religions and spirituality don't offer this— *you* do it, you make yourself a new creature.

In Christianity, God promises us that, if we allow it, if we go to him, he will cause something new to happen inside of us and we will be restored, the old things will pass away, and everything will become new. Restoration will happen, and it doesn't hinge upon our work and our efforts to do so: it hinges upon some power of God, because we are allowing it to work in our lives to transform us into a new being.

God promises us a new way of functioning after Jesus has finished his work on the cross. He couldn't do it before then, because he need to remove every hindrance that was in the way from God functioning within us. He says that after Jesus has finished his work on the cross, he will put a new mind in us and give us a new heart. "I will put my laws in their hearts and I will write them on their mind. We are going to be *new*."

Most of religion is about trying to be good, trying to be good is a struggle. Christianity offers us rest in Christ, not a struggle.

If we truly want be transformed, we must become more reliant upon the Holy Spirit to do wonderful work in us. We must rely upon him to receive revelation and all of the different things He has to offer us. The more we do this, the more we are transformed. Just the fact of relying upon this spiritual part of our being and responding and functioning from it, we literally are developing a new way of thinking, a new mind.

Our emotional being is not such a shipwreck anymore, something wonderful is happening in our emotions too. We are literally being transformed, and it is restoration.

The spiritual man has come alive, functions properly, restoring us and causing us to see differently. Restoration begins to happen in us and we become more whole and complete. When we learn to function from the inner part of our being, then we function with a new level of life: Out of our innermost being will flow rivers of living water. To me that means life, rivers, and that's where it has to be.

No long an island to ourselves... The parable of the man coming down from Jerusalem down to Jericho and getting and was waylaid by the side of the road. Why did this one man stop and the others go by? Because he had a heart. The others had no heart. One man had a heart, and that's the difference. God is looking to restore the heart of people so they will have a heart. When that happens all of a sudden our relationship with God, with the people around us, and with the world is different. It's no longer the same anymore. He promises to take the stony heart out of us and give us a heart of flesh..."I'll give them a new heart." This is part of the spiritual journey, perhaps the goal of it: to get a new heart. But so many Christian people don't have a heart.

Many people try to act like they are loving, but there is nothing coming out of the heart. This is one of the problems that gives Christianity a bad name, because Christian people have not yet experienced this heart development.

An Essential Truth: Our Adequacy Is In Him

We are not lacking anything when in relationship with Him. Between his gifts, his leading, his anointing, everything else, we are not lacking anything we I need. Even though basically, apart from God we are very inadequate people in every way, yet because of him and because of our relationship with Him, and functioning as a spiritual person, we are adequate to be able to handle whatever it is it God has before us, even though we are still in the natural part of our being, but yet in the spiritual, we are adequate and we can handle everything that comes along. Our adequacy is not in ourselves.

Apart from Jesus Christ, apart from us functioning from the spiritual part of our being, we are not adequate to do what God has called us to do. We are incapable of doing it.

Do what bible tells you, then you will learn to function as spiritual person

We need not just to read the Bible, but do what it tells you! When we begin to do what it tells us, then we get results. We can know the Bible end to end...and not done what it tells us. If we do what it tells is, we will get results. And we'll learn to function as a spiritual person. We will come alive spiritually and see some wonderful things happen in our life.

Key Issue: To Grow Up, Break Free...And Be Led By The Spirit

Jesus and Paul taught that we must learn how to be led by the Spirit, to come to know the spirit and to be led by the Holy Spirit. This is the key issue if we ever want to mature spiritually and grow up and break free...from man's religion and experience something deeper. It's only by the Holy Spirit that this can happen. If we don't have the boldness and courage to be led by the Spirit, and to listen to what Jesus taught and what Paul taught, and what these people who were trying to teach us and show us, if we're afraid to act upon those things, they will just never happen.

This is one of the key differences between man's religion and spiritual Christianity. In man's religion, we try to be good, to have a morality, but end up with no morality. The centerpiece of New Testament Christian spirituality is something to do with the Holy Spirit. It can't be separated from the Holy Spirit...

The Spirit came upon Jesus and anointed him to fulfill the work and ministry. The Holy Spirit led him all the time. He made that very clear, he is the example for us. It's not a matter of just knowing the stories about Jesus— its seeing this is what we're to do, this is the way we are to walk and live, this is how we are to function. Jesus said, I only do that which my father is telling me, I only speak the things he tells me to speak.

Jesus then told us to go and do the same thing. He sent his disciples out to do the same things. Then, of course, after He was lifted up and gone, the Holy Spirit came down. We need the Holy Spirit to come upon us...we need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to go into the world, to fulfill the Great Commission. We need the Holy Spirit to speak to us and tell us...

Need a Spiritual Teacher; i.e. the Holy Spirit is sent to help us develop fully

Before we did not have those abilities and were unable to see the Kingdom of God, were unable to enter into it because that Kingdom is spirit. Once we are new creations, we have the abilities for both, and then it hinges upon how responsive we are to this teacher that God gives us, the Holy Spirit who is there to help us. Takes years to mature and fully develop

The growth depends somewhat upon how responsive we are to the Holy Spirit, this teacher who God gives us. The Holy Spirit is sent to help us develop fully into being that new creation. This is His work and purpose. He teaches us how to begin to see spiritually, how to begin to hear spiritually, how to begin to speak spiritually, and how to begin to respond spiritually to the things of God.

I think it would be impossible to separate the work of God from that of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the God-head, is the One who is here on earth today. The Father is in Heaven, the Son is seated at His right hand in Heaven, and the Holy Spirit was sent to be with us. (Ralph Nault, *Out of Confusion*)

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the spirit of truth . . . You know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you . . . and I will disclose Myself to him (John 14:16-18)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your memory all that I said to you (John 14:26)

But when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak, and He will disclose to you what is to come. (John 16:13)

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There is a need for soul and spirit to be divided, because they are alike in their nature and activities. This scripture shows a definite distinction there between the two. This distinction is very, very important in our spiritual growth, to be able to discern, see, difference between the spiritual person and the natural man.

The word of God is living, active, divides, separates, divides the soul and the Spirit, the bone and the marrow, discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb. 4:12).

1) The natural man has all the natural abilities to think and function in this physical realm. 2) The spiritual person has all the spiritual abilities to function in the spiritual realm. The spiritual abilities are all the same as the natural abilities, only they are spiritual. We have natural thinking and spiritual thinking. We have natural emotions and we spiritual emotions. we have natural speech and spiritual speech; natural hearing and spiritual hearing—they are all the same, only one set of them is called spiritual and the others are all natural.

Watchman Nee

The spirit man or inner man has spiritual senses or capacities. It can speak; it has a voice: call it inward voice, intuition, inner guidance, or inward witness. It can see: call it visions, spontaneous images and pictures. (Watchman Nee). He conceived the human spirit as "an integrative unity consisting of communion, conscience, and intuition."

1. *Communion* has to do with a person's capacity to relate to the Ultimate, a relationship with a something transcendent, usually to a supreme being or to creation.
2. *Conscience* is a person's ethical guidance system that informs one what is just and fair.

3. *Intuition* has to do with the insights that come from within ourselves, giving us knowledge of information without conscious processing—hunches to act, impressions to pray, flashes of insight.

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Notes

Most of my program notes this months are excerpts from an interview with a Catholic lay evangelist for a research paper I am writing.

Please note that my program notes are not a treatise or doctrinal position on salvation, faith or the Holy Spirit. They simply reflect my understanding at this time. I encourage you to go to God, asking Him to bring revelation to your own heart. He will not fail an honest heart. If we desire to be of service to God and fulfill His purposes for us.