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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world- he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.."* Acts 16:31a And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Romans 10:9,10 *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13 *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

October 2007 Newsletter

The Father

A. Definition - πατερα

1. Physical relationships

- a. The head of a house.
- b. An ancestor, progenitor, forefather, grandfather, or male pro creator.
- c. Descent in a clan from the same father.
- d. The man whose seed brought about your physical existence.

2. Means of Address

- a. Initiator of an occupation, trend, or group.
- b. Title of respect or honor.
- c. A means of addressing a venerable old man.
- d. Servants addressed their masters as *my father*.
- e. A title of honor for priests and prophets.

3. Education

- a. The philosopher who had a group of followers.
- b. The teacher who had students.

4. Mystery Religions

- a. The one who conducted the initiation ceremony in the mystery religion.
- b. Your personal initiator in the mystery religions.
- c. The act of *regenerating* by the *deity* in the mystery religion made the deity that person's father and they his son.

5. God

- a. A name given to God.
- b. God becomes our Father through spiritual birth.
- c. He is the one whose spiritual seed brought about our spiritual existence. 1 Peter 1:23
- d. Because God created our human spirits he is now our Father.
- e. There is a father of our flesh and there is a father of our spirit. Hebrews 12:9
- f. He is the Father of the humanity of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 1:5
- g. We have an heavenly father and the proof is because we have a spirit!
- h. God chose to give us birth as his sons. James 1:18
- i. God gave the children he created to his Son, Jesus Christ. Hebrews 1:13
- j. We commune with the Father and the Son through the spirit. 1 John 1:4
- k. God is both our Creator and our Father.
- l. He is bringing the sons he created to glory. Hebrews 2:10,11

B. God is the Father of our human spirits. Hebrews 12:9

“Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them

reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?
Hebrews 12:9

The context tells us that God is dealing with the problem of sin in believers in Christ. It then goes into the matter of how God deals with it through corrective discipline. Corrective discipline differs from punishment in that it is discipline designed to correct the problem, rather than merely punish one for a wrong act.

The writer then brings out the common experience of how fathers punish their children for wrong doing, and if they do so, how much more does God chastise us. He then says that God chastizes us, not **like** a father, but **as** a father in Hebrews 12:6, “*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*”

It's not that our relationship to God is **similar** to a father and his son for a comparison, but **actually** is a father to his son! And the reason for this is **because God became our Father when he created us spiritually!**

Now some have translated the passages as, “*The Father of our spirits*”, from *τω πατρι των πνευματων*, “*The Father of the spirits*”, which is fine because the context tells us that God is the Father of our human spirits. This is not only a comparative contrast between the fathers of our flesh and the Father of our spirits, but it is also a declarative statement.

As we have seen in the world of the flesh, a man becomes a father in the physical world when his physical seed brings about the physical existence of a child. In the world of the spirit God becomes our Father when his *seed* brings about our spiritual existence.

And in the example of the mystery religions, after the initiate had gone through the various levels of initiation, the deity of that mystery system became the “father” of that man through *regeneration*, or what they call regeneration. It was through their process of initiation that the initiate's soul was changed, which they called regeneration.

Christians, however, do not go through a process of initiation to become regenerated, they are regenerated by God at the very moment they believe on Christ as their Savior. And **at the moment of their regeneration God becomes their Father.**

The doctrine on this matter is important to us to build up our faith, to give us faith. We need to know the truth on things that concern us. Maybe we knew our fathers, maybe we didn't. Maybe they were good fathers, and maybe they weren't. That's not important! What is important is that we know that somewhere inside of every true believer in Christ is a human spirit. And **these human spirits exist for the sole reason that God created them. And if God created them in us, then he has become our Father!** So, to all believers out there, wherever they live, and especially to the fatherless, we have a Father! And he is our heavenly Father because the one who created us lives in heaven!

C. The Eternal One chose to create us. James 1:18

“*Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*” James 1:18

Whenever there is an action, there is a will involved. We did not create ourselves, no more than any child created itself in the womb. And in the matter of us being born again it all goes back to the will of God, to a decision he had made in eternity past.

Back in eternity past God decided to bring into existence a people, a bride, for his Son. It was his will, his purpose and his plan. And for some 2,000 years now God has been, as a deliberate choice, creating a new species of humanity here on earth.

This God does, not by using the seed of man, that is the seed of the flesh, but by the seed of the Word of God. It is as people exercise faith in the gospel of Christ and believe on the Lord as their Savior, that faith in the Word creates the human spirit, through the power of the Holy Spirit, inside us. Peter puts it as the incorruptible seed, "*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*" 1 Peter 1:23

Now God has created many species of things both in heaven and on earth. And when he created the man and the woman and placed them in the garden, he created something wonderful and special, something never done before. But then they sinned against him.

But when we came down to the era of the Church Age, God decided to do something completely different and superior than anything that has ever existed before and will ever be in eternity. God decided to create a different species of humanity patterned after the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*" 2 Corinthians 5:17 The term for *new creature* is *καινη κτισις*. Now there are two words for *new*, each one having their own emphasis and each one used for the new man, or new creature.

Neos is the word used when one wanted to emphasize that something is new in time. We just started a new business! Or we just bought a new house. Or we have a new addition to the family! *Kainos* was used when one wanted to emphasize new as to quality, where the idea would be one of being different.

Even though *kainos* is used here, *neos* is used in other passages referring to the new man. What this tells us is that our new natures, which God created in all believers in Christ, are **new as to quality**, that is, vastly superior to the natures of Adam's race, and that they are **new in time**. Never before in the history of angels or men has God created anything like the human spirit found only in believers in Christ. Therefore believers need to really think about and appreciate what is living inside us. We have a human spirit in us created by our heavenly Father in the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

D. God gave the children he created to his Son. Hebrews 2:13

"And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me." Hebrews 2:13

Recently we have been on the subject of how Christ had to live his life by faith in the Father's plan, power and provisions, and how that type of faith becomes the mandate also for all Church Age believers as well. If the Son had to trust the Father, so do we! Christ had to trust, that the Father's plan concerning him was a perfect plan. And so, he had to follow every aspect of that plan to its fulfillment.

Even in the midst of his greatest trial ever, when he was hanging on the cross, rejected by the Father, and facing the depths of Hell, Christ trusted the Father implicitly. Afterward the Father raised him up out of Hell, gave him a resurrection eternal body, (the prototype of the Christian's resurrection body), and exalted him to his right hand in heaven.

God chose in eternity past to give his Son a bride, a people, that would reign with him forever and ever. This was not an after thought of God after the fall of Adam, but something that God had determined long before anything ever existed. And so here we are today. **We exist as new men because God created that new man!**

We need to see that we are not just objects of his saving grace, but that we are also part of a grand plan that existed in the mind and heart of God from eternity past! Christ stated this when he was here on the earth when he talked about those that the Father had given him. *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”* John 6:37

It was not by chance that we came to Christ; it was not by our will or effort that we came to Christ. We came to Christ because the Father had given us to him back in eternity past! And it was the Holy Spirit who drew us to Christ in accordance with the Father's will.

We are true children of God in every sense, not only by adoption, but in that when God created our new natures he took of himself and placed it in us. The new man is spiritual because its origin is from the spirit. The new man is eternal because it was taken from the eternal. The only thing that we don't have at this time that is eternal is the body. We will get that at the resurrection. But what is inside of us right now, the new man, is eternal!

When one wants to grow something, whether a turnip or a tree, one starts with the seed. In the DNA of that seed is the sum and substance of what the tree will be. And when it grows up, *voila*, there it is! And so it is with the new man inside of us. When God saved us, when he regenerated us, he planted that spiritual seed in us. And that seed is spiritual, it is truth, it is eternal and it is from God himself.

And that new man inside us is us! It is who we are now, who we really are, and it is who we will be forever and ever. And it is this new man that the Father has given to his Son for us to be with him forever and ever.

E. God is the Father of the heavenly lights. James 1 :17

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17

The Word tells us that God is light and that there is no darkness in him. *“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.” 1 John 1:5

If God, therefore, is light, then it only follows that all these sons that he is creating and taking into glory with himself will be light in their being also! Paul talks about our resurrection bodies as being bodies of glory, or radiated light. (See my On line studies on the Resurrection.)

*“There is one **glory** of the sun, and another **glory** of the moon, and another **glory** of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in **glory**: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:” 1 Corinthians 15:41,43*

The **essence** of the new creation that God created in every believer in Christ, the new nature, is **spirit, truth and light**. And whenever believers metabolize the Word of God by faith it brings more light into it. These new natures will radiate light for all eternity. The brilliance of this radiated light is determined by the amount of the Word of God that the Christian has metabolized and is in the new nature.

Now we can't see the new man in us, nor its brilliance, but we know that it is there due to several reasons. **But knowing that it is there tells us that God has created it in us. Therefore we know that we have a Father, and we know that we are saved, and we know that we will live forever!**

God is light. Now we don't know exactly what kind of light it is, but we do know that it is the radiated manifestation of God's purity, righteousness and holiness; in other words it is the radiance of his essence. *“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.” 1 John 1:5*

God lives in unapproachable light. Only those humans who are righteous and holy can approach God. Jesus Christ is presently seated at his right hand. *“Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.” 1 Timothy 6:16*

Fire, light, brilliance and glory are with him. *“And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.” Ezekiel 1:27, 28*

Christ shared this glory from all eternity. *“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” John 17:5*
Christ now has both a resurrected body and a glorified body. *“Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.” Philippians 3:21*

Christ's body is the prototype body that all believers in Christ will have. *“And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment*

down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.” Revelation 1:13-15

God gives us this eternal body as he has determined. The resurrection body, which all believers in Christ will receive, is a body that has been specifically designed for each one. It is patterned after the body of Jesus Christ, but will be a perfect compliment and counterpart to their human soul. The Father not only creates our new natures he also creates our new bodies. *“But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.” 1 Corinthians 15:38*

Our spirits will be perfected. God wants our spirits, (the new man), to be completed in this life, (true Christian growth), through faith in the Word, the filling of the Holy Spirit, but once we go over to the other side, all human spirits will be perfected or completed. *“To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,” Hebrews 12:23* You notice that those referred to here were already righteous through faith in Christ in this life, now they are being made perfect or complete.

We will be presented to God in our perfect eternal soul and perfect eternal body. The word for faultless is *amomos*, which means to be without spot or blemish. And the reason why we will be without spot or blemish is because God is the one who created our new natures and our new bodies! *“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,” Jude 24*

All creation awaits our revealing to the Father. *“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.” Romans 8:19* *“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” Romans 8:22*

The Spirit of God bears witness to our human spirits that we are the sons of God. And at the same time there is the inner witness that God is our Father! *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:” Romans 8:23*

Knowing who our father is and knowing our father is very important to our souls, as any child who did not know their father can testify to. **There is something inside all of us that desires to know the one who brought about our existence.** Now we may never know our physical fathers, but we can know the one who created us spiritually.

F. God is bringing the sons he created into glory.

“For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” Hebrews 2:10

Many believers will go through times in their lives where they feel all alone, that no one loves them or cares for them, or that they have been abandoned by God. Some will even feel that they have lost their salvation. (An old trick that the devil ties to get Christians to

believe). Christians are susceptible to these things at any point in their lives, but even more so as they get older.

Am I saved? (Yes) Does God care for me? (Yes) Will God provide for me? (Yes) Has God left me? (No) All of these doubts and more are answered by the teaching of the Word of God, but there is something else as well. It goes back to the fact that God has created in us a new man.

This new man, this new us, is eternal, it is incorruptible, it will not die and it cannot die, and its existence is apart from the flesh man that covers it. One day the outer flesh will die and go back into the soil from which it came, but this new man lives on past the first death and the second death on into eternity! And something else about this new man; it exists in us because it was created by God! Now seeing that God created this new man in us, why would he abandon it? Why would he forsake it? And why would he not take care of the house that it's currently dwelling in?

God sought us out and brought us to Jesus Christ; he convicted us of our sins; he taught us about the saving work of Christ on the cross; and he gave us the faith to trust in Christ as our Savior. His Spirit indwelt our bodies and created a new nature inside us, a nature that is eternal, spiritual and righteous. And he is daily at work in us to bring us around in this new nature to conformity to Jesus Christ. And when his work in us is completed, when we have accomplished the will of our Creator in this life, then he is going to take us into glory to be with himself.

Referring to the Eternal God as Father is not titular, but comes from the actual fact that **he created our new natures!** Christ clarified this when he was talking to Nicodemus. He told him that everyone needed to be born again, *gennethe anothen*. “*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*” John 3:3 *Gennaio anothen* can be rendered as being *born again*, or as being *born from above*.

He then goes on to explain that there is natural human birth, being born out of the water, and then there is spiritual birth, birth originating out of the Holy Spirit, and this birth originates from Heaven. “*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of 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. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*” John 3: 5-7

This is important to us for so many reasons, but a main reason is because of the pressures and trials that we will all have to go through in this life. “*Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation, (pressure), enter into the kingdom of God.*” Acts 14:22

Perhaps you are at a point in time in life that all is going well for you, the marriage is fine, the kids are behaving and doing well, your health is great, your family is all alive and doing well, lots of friends, business is good, you just got the home of your dreams, you're having fun and enjoying life and the future looks great to you.

That's good to hear, but know this full well that the evil days will draw nigh to you at some point in your life – they do for all of us! “**Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;**” Ecclesiastes 12:1 This passage reminds us to develop good spiritual habits while we're still young: to live in the Spirit, to live in the Word each day, to spend time every day in prayer to God, so that when we come to those days we will be able to meet them from the perspective of the new man.

Death awaits us all, not only the death of those we know and love, but our own deaths as well. Sickness, disease, injury, failing health and infirmity are also awaiting us as we get older, even for some in their youth. Pressure, stress, crushing disappointments, emotional hurts, financial loss, business reversals, family members passing on, friends forsaking you and so many other things are all a part of this life. These are the pressures that we must go through before we enter into the kingdom of God.

And the experience for many believers is that, when they come to this time of their existence here on earth they will be alone! Their friends are gone, their children live in some other area of the country, and their family members and spouses are dead. So there they sit in their home, or a little apartment, or in a rest home all alone. Even if there are others with them, staff and other patients, they are still alone.

That's why it's very important to remember your **Creator** before the evil days draw nigh. You need to remember the one who created you; the one who created that new man inside of you! Who not only created you anew, but lives within you. And the one, the eternal God, who created that new man in you will never leave nor forsake his new creation.

We need to start training our minds to think upon the fact that we have a new nature, that God has created a new man inside of us, one that is perfect and eternal. And that this new man is composed of spirit and truth, hence also the need for living in the Spirit and living in the Word. And as we do so this new man is will be fed, encouraged, strengthened, stabilized and renewed, thereby giving us peace in our souls as we face each day. And we need to start learning to know the one who created us, our heavenly Father. And this entails spending time each day in prayer to him, our Creator/Father, fellowshiping with him each day, being filled with his Spirit and metabolizing his Word by faith.

Pastor Mike