

## THE BABY STAGE

*John 3: <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

To enter into an intimate relationship with God, It is absolutely necessary that we be born again. Unless our spirit is born of His, we have no common life. When we were born the first time, we received a human life from our parents. We were born a baby, and we began to grow and become aware of our human existence. That which is born of flesh is flesh.

That which is born of Spirit is spirit. We must be born a second time, we must be born of God. When we are born the second time we receive a divine life from our Heavenly Father which is called eternal life. We are born a baby, and we begin to grow and become aware of the life of God and develop in it.

The life of God grows inside us, as we learn how to tune into it, as we learn how to become aware of it, as we learn how to appropriate it, how to abide in it and move in it.

Just like we received a human life from our parent's, we must receive a divine life from God the Father. We receive the life of God through the word of God.

The word of God is living. It contains His eternal life and spirit. When God reveals His word to us we experience the life and spirit that is contained in it.

When God reveals His word to us, He commands light to shine in our heart, it is the light of His life, our spiritual eyes and ears are

opened. The entrance of His word produces the light of His life. To see in the spirit is to experience His life. Revelation is the inflow of His Spirit opening our eyes to see things through His perspective.

Our spiritual sight starts out by our perceiving the unseen realm. It becomes real to us as the revelation gate in our spirit opens and we begin to be aware of the thoughts and emotions of God flowing into us. This is the kingdom of God within.

As revelation begins to flow into our spirit, then as we learn how to open the imagination gate in our soul we begin to get pictures on the screen of our mind.

As we begin to experience the different gateways of spirit, soul and body where they are open and flowing which takes time to develop, we can come to the place where we can actually begin to see the unseen realm around us, this is the fruit of being born again, where we become grown up or a fully mature male or female son of God.

There are basically four stages of growth with God mentioned in the bible. We begin a baby and grow up into a fully mature son. The lord relates to us differently in each stage of our growth, just like a natural father relates to his natural children as they are growing up. We have a relationship with God in each stage of our growth. He relates to us when we are a baby and we carry this relationship with us into the next stage of our development.

There are four main words in the Greek describing our growth in God and each word means something completely different in our relationship with Him.

As we grow up to be a fully mature son, we are still going to be a much loved child. We will always have things that we are learning that we have never done before, so we look to the Lord for help. In each new situation we start out as a much loved child, and we go through the different stages in the development of growing in each situation.

In the development of our growth in God we will still feel like a child in the new things that we go through. We feel like a child in the context of who God is for us in this situation.

There are four main stages in the Greek of our growth in God. The first one is the baby stage; the word baby in the Greek is Nepios. We are a baby until we come off of milk. The next stage is called Paidion, and this is like a young infant or little child. The Teknon is the older child through adolescence, going through youth to a young man. The final stage is Huos which is a fully mature son.

When we are a baby we are totally dependent, we do not know how to do anything in the spirit, so we have to learn how to see, how to hear, how to talk, how to walk with God. A walk with God is our participating in the divine nature so that all our activities are the result of the Spirit of God living and moving through us.

When we are a baby, every day is about receiving something. To grow up into his image we are going to have to receive a lot from God. Every day we should experience new revelation, and impartation. Revelation must not be just knowledge in our mind, but something that we absorb in our spirit and soul so that we experience the divine nature. To be conformed to his image and to move in his fullness requires growing in the divine nature and receiving the gifts of His Spirit.

To move in his fullness and abundance, we are going to have to be given a measure of the fruit and abilities of His Spirit to begin to move and develop in. Every day we have to receive something from God and we have to receive it consciously. It has to flow into us, where we become conscious of it and then it has to flow out of us to the world around us. God likes to give us something every day so that it begins to build up in us.

What we are learning as a babe in Christ is how to get all of our needs met, not just blessings when we are doing o.k., but deliverance when we are not doing o.k.

The Christian life is impossible to live on a human level. As a babe in Christ we are powerless in and of ourselves to do the will of God. We are totally dependent upon our heavenly Father. Our growth in God is a participation in his divine nature.

Jesus becomes to us whatever we need. As we absorb His Spirit into us, we partake of His divine nature. As a babe we are learning how to drink of His Spirit, how to get His eternal life flowing into us.

*I corn 1: 29 that no flesh* (human nature, natural descendancy) *should glory* (boast, pride, talk about oneself) *in His presence* (the face of).<sup>30</sup> *But* (on the contrary) *of* (motion out of) *him are ye in* (intimate union with) *Christ Jesus, who of God is made* (specific point past, change of state) *unto us wisdom , and righteousness* (the essence of His standard in everything), *and sanctification* (the process and result of the Spirit's enablement to be holy, set apart exclusively for his use) *and redemption* (to let go free for a ransom, the recalling of captives from captivity, a slave set free, deliverance from the power and the consequences of sin). *That* (to the end that), *according* (implying manner) *as it is written* (completeness of action, to engrave), *He that*

*glorieth* (to boast), *let him glory* (boast) *in* (in intimate union with) *the Lord*.

As a babe our spirit has come alive to God and desires to do His will, but our soul-flesh desires what is contrary. So we are learning how to get all our needs met from the inside-out.

God becomes to us a fountain of living waters, to meet all our innermost needs and also to cleanse us of all unrighteousness. As we seek first his righteousness, all the things the world seeks independently of him are added to us.

Our human righteousness is filthy in comparison to His righteousness, so we are learning to no longer have any confidence in the flesh. Jesus becomes to us righteousness.

His righteousness flows into us, where we experience his thoughts and feelings and attitudes concerning any given standard (a level of quality or excellence that is accepted as the norm or by which actual attainments are judged).

He becomes to us wisdom, so that the thought of the pleasure of sin become foolish. And we look to him for satisfaction, instead of looking to the things of the world for enjoyment.

We do not become a new person by changing our behavior. Our obedience is a participation in his nature. We discover the person we already are in Christ, and then that identity begins to flow into us.

As a babe we are learning how to see who we are in Christ, so that as we grow we can begin to step into that identity.

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us- this is called placement. Every day the Holy Spirit is going to show us something more about what this place looks like, about whom we are in Christ and how God sees us in him.

Religion says it is all about your behavior. The father says it is not about your behavior, it is about our identity. This is who you are; I have placed you in Christ. This is your placement. I have put you in this place and what we are learning is how to partner with God by abiding with him in this place, that we begin to experience as a flow of His Spirit within us.

Placement is where we recognize we have been put in a very specific position as a gift from God. He has put us in this place and as the eyes of our heart begin to be opened we begin to experience it inside of us.

Our spirituality is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit. God is the one who causes the growth. The Holy Spirit is responsible for bringing us revelation of Jesus. He takes what is of Jesus and discloses it to us. The Holy Spirit takes responsibility for our spirituality, he is the source of it; we take responsibility for drinking of it and responding to it. Our responsibility is to respond to the Spirit of God working in us.

We struggle because we try to do what only God in us can do; we are living from our soul (self) and not our spirit-filled with God. God has put us in Christ and when he died on the cross we died with him. Dead people don't get worried; they don't get anxious because they are dead. We have been crucified with Christ; it is no long self who lives, but the Spirit of Christ in us. What we are learning is how to get out of ourselves, so that we are aware of the Spirit of God in us and respond to his moving in us. As a babe we are learning how to cast the whole of our care once and for all upon Him.

When God looks at us He doesn't see anything wrong with us, because everything that was wrong with us, He already put upon Jesus on the cross. When God looks at us the only thing that He sees is what is missing from our experience of Him and He is totally committed to giving us that experience.

God has given us the Holy Spirit as a comforter to help us through this process. Every day we need to be discovering something new about the Lord and then partake of that aspect of His nature and His Spirit

When our spirit is newly born in God, what are we learning? What does God want us to learn as a baby in the first stage of relationship with Him? He wants us to learn how to be secured in who God is for us. He wants us to learn how to get our needs met. God becomes to us what we need. We are learning how to respond to things in Him.

The Lord meets all our need with His riches in glory. This means all our needs. We are learning how to look to the lord to meet our need; we are learning how to have our needs met in God.

If we are struggling with something, what is our need? We first of all need to learn how to be at peace. Our need is to learn how to be with God in this situation. Life is going to present us with a need, and God says I would love to meet that need, and this is what we are learning, how to let God meet our need.

What we are learning in our first stage of relationship with God, is how to be confident in the love of God, how to be secured in whom He is for us. We are learning how to get all our needs met in God. God meets our needs because of who he is, a loving father. He does not meet our needs according to our behavior.

As we grow up in the Lord, God gives us more responsibility. He begins to give us the desires of our heart. Our needs and our desires are two different things. He rewards us as we diligently seek him and honor him, but when we are babies he always meets our needs, so this is what we are learning. We are learning how to trust in his goodness.

As a baby every day our primary thing is to learn how to receive. Every single day we are going to be faced with this lesson

There is a whole lot of provision that we have not yet received. If we are going to be the person that God wants us to be, then there are things that we need to receive from Him to enable us to be that. There are things that we haven't received yet and things that we haven't inherited yet.

We are learning how to be accepted in the beloved. We are learning the joy and the wonder of being in Jesus. We are learning how to let God love us.

This stage in our Christian life is all about enjoyment. We are not really going to do anything for God yet; God does not want babies doing things for Him. He wants babies learning how to receive, learning how to enjoy. This first stage of being in Christ is all about enjoyment. It is all about loving His presence. It is about the revelation of our being accepted in the beloved. It is about learning how to rejoice and give thanks, to celebrate and be grateful. It is to learn how to be continually happy in whom God is for us.

We need to learn the lessons of the Father's delight, he delights in his babies. We need to learn the lessons of how the Father sees us, he sees us perfect in Christ. We learn the lessons of how He wants to be

with us, because we will take these lessons into every other part of our relationship with Him. We are learning Christ.

We are learning the delight and the affection of God for us. We are learning how to relax in His presence. We are learning how to be joyful in all circumstances. We are learning how to abide in his presence.

We are learning dependency upon God, learning to receive; we are learning the delight that God has in us, the affections of God for us. We are learning how to be delighted in God; we are learning his nature, that he is good and kind and merciful. We are learning to embrace grace as a lifestyle. Learning these lessons is foundational to the person that we are going to become.

We have to learn the lessons at each stage of relationship and learn them joyfully. Each stage tells us who we are in Him and who God wants to be for us.

As a new born believer we are learning to see differently, we are learning how to engage with the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ empowers us into a new way of thinking about ourselves. God has a way of thinking that releases trust and faith. He sees something different than what we see and he thinks about it differently than what we think about it.

When our spirit becomes alive to God we begin to see things. When we are in Christ we are transferred into a kingdom where we see things, this is what the kingdom of light means, and we begin to see things in a new light. We are seeing who we are now and who we are going to become next. We are seeing what God wants to provide for us. We are seeing the outcome and the process. We are seeing the favor of

God, the grace of God, and we are thinking about it in exactly the same way that He does.

Our thinking, our perspective, our language all has to grow into this place of delight, into this place of the goodness and the kindness of God. We are learning the art of praise, we are learning how to give thanks, and we are learning how to bless the Lord.

What we are learning is that God has made such an incredible provision that we need to start relaxing and enjoy it. We are no longer on our own.

As a baby we learn how to drink of the Spirit so that we encounter him. It is in the moments of our encounters with Him, that we learn how to think like He thinks. We need to learn how to wait upon God, until we can begin to sense His Spirit.

We are learning that everything negative about us has been crucified with Christ on the cross. He wants us to give Him our anxiety, our fear that worry, that bitterness, that resentment. He died for it, He paid the price for it, so in reality it belongs to Him and He does not want us to be hanging on to it. The Lord is saying, give me back my stuff.

Insanity is all the moments when we have been anxious, worried, discontent, bitter, depressed and so on. Insanity is rooted in fear, of not having our needs met. Until we learn how to drink of the Spirit, we are not in our right mind, the mind of Christ.

We should not be having all these negative thoughts anymore, they are manifestations of self, and self died on the cross with Jesus. When we are receiving revelation from God we are being restored to sanity, and the Lord is smiling on us, we feel the light of His

countenance. It is like being saved all over again. It is the Lord embracing us and kissing us.

Being restored to sanity is the renewal of our mind. The Lord will look into our eyes and say, my beloved, if you keep taking this stuff back, you can never be the person I want you to be.

The joy that was set before Jesus that enabled Him to endure the cross was that He knew that through the work of the cross, He could take from us all the things that were killing us. He could take every negative out of our life. That He could remove from us any possibility of our being anxious or worried ever again. That we never would have to be bitter or angry or resentful again, He could take all those things away from us and we would never have to experience them again. That He would totally set us free from that way of thinking and seeing and speaking and living so that we could be continually filled with His joy, which is strength and power. The lack of power over our thought life is our dilemma. And we are learning how to think and feel by drinking of His Spirit.

God is calling us to put off all the things that are negative in our lives so that God can accelerate our growth. The peace of God accelerates us; the joy of the Lord accelerates us. We should find joy in everything, because it is an accelerant, it means we grow faster, we grow up quickly. Love is an accelerant.

When we know that we are accepted in the beloved, something happens to us, something changes in us, and we start to relax. We do not have to prove that we are worthy, and we do not have to live as unworthy if we are not doing well. We know that we are accepted in the beloved.

God meets all our needs in Christ, whatever they might be, so that when we need Him the most, He is right there to meet the need to open our eyes to the flow of His Spirit.