### Nuggets and Gems from the Bible

THE REPRODUCTION OF THE GOD-MAN

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Living Stream Ministry

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## THE REPRODUCTION OF THE GOD-MAN

In this booklet we shall consider the reproduction of the God-man. As we shall see, the reproduction of the God-man requires that we be reborn of the pneumatic Christ in our spirit, that we be transformed by the pneumatic Christ in our soul, and that we live Christ as the Godman.

# HOW THE LORD BECOMES THE LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT

The Lord Jesus was both God and man. For thirty-three and a half years He lived the life of a God-man; that is, He lived a human life by the divine life for the expression of God. After living this kind of life, He died on the cross as the all-inclusive One; therefore, He died an all-inclusive death. After His all-inclusive death, the Lord was resurrected by God. In resurrection Jesus Christ became an extract of Himself, and this extract is the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45). Because this life-giving Spirit is the extract of the all-inclusive

Christ, this Spirit also is all-inclusive. This Spirit includes the element of the Lord's wonderful life of expressing God. The Spirit also includes the element of the rescued, restored, recovered, improved, polished, sanctified, strengthened, empowered, and uplifted human virtues.

Christ's becoming the life-giving Spirit is related to the reproduction of the God-man. How can the God-man be reproduced? The answer to this question is that the God-man is reproduced by the all-inclusive Spirit. Seeing this, we now need to find out in what way the God-man is reproduced by the all-inclusive Spirit.

### BORN OF THE PNEUMATIC CHRIST IN OUR SPIRIT

The first step in the reproduction of the Godman is that we be reborn of the pneumatic Christ in our spirit with His divine life and nature. Since the Spirit in John 3:6 is the extract of the all-inclusive Christ, He is actually the pneumatic Christ. In this verse the Lord Jesus does not speak of being born of the Spirit of God or of the Holy Spirit; He speaks of being born of the Spirit. The Spirit introduces us to the pneumatic Christ.

What is the pneumatic Christ? The pneumatic Christ is Christ after resurrection being

the life-giving Spirit. We have been born of the pneumatic Christ in our spirit with His divine life and nature.

# TRANSFORMED BY THE PNEUMATIC CHRIST IN OUR SOUL

After we have been born again, born of the Spirit in our spirit, we need to be transformed. We need to be transformed by the pneumatic Christ in our soul with His divine attributes to uplift, strengthen, enrich, and fill our human virtues for His expression in our humanity. Concerning this, Paul says in 2 Corinthians 3:17 and 18, "The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting as a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit." Both "the Spirit" in verse 17 and "the Lord Spirit" in verse 18 refer to the pneumatic Christ. As we behold and reflect Him, we are being transformed into His image. Furthermore, the Lord Spirit is actually the Spirit in John 3:6. The Spirit in John 3:6 is for regeneration, and the Lord Spirit in 2 Corinthians 3:18 is for transformation. To be regenerated, reborn,

is a once-for-all matter, but to be transformed is a life-long matter. Hence, Paul says that we are "being transformed." The word "being" indicates a process. We are undergoing the process of being transformed.

#### A METABOLIC SALVATION

It is rather easy to understand the meaning of regeneration, but it is not easy to understand the meaning of transformation. In 2 Corinthians 3:18 the King James Version even uses the word "changed" instead of "transformed." The use of "changed" in this verse is not adequate. Although transformation is a change, it involves more than a mere outward change. Transformation involves a metabolic change, an inward change in life. Such a metabolic change requires the working within us of the element of the divine life. This produces a change not only in appearance and behavior, but also a change in life, nature, and intrinsic essence.

### FOR THE LORD'S EXPRESSION IN OUR HUMANITY

We are reborn in our spirit, but we are transformed in our soul. Regeneration is with the divine life and nature, but transformation is with

the divine attributes to uplift, strengthen, enrich, and fill our human virtues for the Lord's expression in our humanity.

Regeneration and transformation are two steps in the process to reproduce the God-man. The Man-Savior as the God-man is the unique prototype. God intends to reproduce, or mass produce, this prototype through regeneration and transformation. This reproduction takes place by the regeneration of the pneumatic Christ in our spirit and through the transformation by this same pneumatic Christ in our soul. Through these steps we become the reproduction of the God-man. This reproduction is the mass production of the unique prototype. Praise the Lord that we have been regenerated once for all and that we are now in the process of being transformed!

### LIVING CHRIST AS THE GOD-MAN

Those who are the reproduction of the Godman should also live Christ as the God-man (Phil. 1:20b, 21a). Christ lived on earth as a God-man for thirty-three and a half years. Today we, His reproduction, should live Him as the God-man.

Christians often quote Philippians 1:21a: "For

to me to live is Christ." Paul's life was to live Christ. Christ was not only his life within but also his living without. He lived Christ because Christ lived in him (Gal. 2:20). He was one with Christ both in life and in living. He and Christ had one life and one living. They lived together as one person. Christ lived within him as his life, and he lived Christ without as his living.

An important matter for us to realize is that the Christ in Philippians 1:21 is the God-man. This can be proved by Paul's word in chapter two of Philippians. In 2:5 Paul says, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Then Paul goes on to say in the following verses that Christ subsisted in the form of God, but did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped. Instead, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave and becoming in the likeness of men (vv. 6-7). In verse 8 Paul continues his description of this God-man: "And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross." From this description we see that the Christ in Philippians 1 is the God-man in Philippians 2. Therefore, to live Christ is to live the God-man.

## BY THE BOUNTIFUL SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST

We live Christ as the God-man by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:19). The Spirit of Jesus Christ is not merely the Spirit of God before the Lord's incarnation, but the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit with divinity after the Lord's resurrection, compounded with His incarnation, humanity, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection. The Spirit of Jesus is mainly for the Lord's humanity and human living; the Spirit of Christ is mainly for the Lord's resurrection. To experience the Lord's humanity, as illustrated in Philippians 2:5-8, we need the Spirit of Jesus. To experience the power of the Lord's resurrection, as mentioned in Philippians 3:10, we need the Spirit of Christ.

## TAKING THE MIND OF JESUS CHRIST THE GOD-MAN

If we would live Christ as the God-man, we need to take His mind. In Philippians 2:5-8 Paul encourages us to take the mind of Jesus Christ, the God-man. This is the mind that was in Christ when He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, and humbled Himself, being found in

fashion as a man. To have such a mind requires us to be one with Christ in His inward parts (Phil. 1:8).

In Philippians 2:14 Paul says, "Do all things without murmurings and reasonings." Murmurings are of our emotion, and reasonings are of our mind. Both frustrate us from experiencing and enjoying Christ. Can you say that in your daily living you have no murmurings or reasonings? Perhaps you have experienced a considerable change in life, but you still need to be saved from your murmurings and reasonings. We certainly need to be saved from murmurings and reasonings by the living Christ, by the living God-man.

We are not saved from murmurings and reasonings by a divine arm that reaches us from the third heaven. What, then, is effective to save us from murmurings and reasonings? We are saved from these things by the indwelling Christ, by the indwelling God-man. Today this indwelling God-man is the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit with the bountiful supply. By the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ we are saved inwardly from our murmurings and reasonings. This is related to living Christ. To live Christ is

to live the God-man, who is now the pneumatic Christ.

### **FOUND IN CHRIST**

If we live Christ as the God-man, we shall be found in Christ (Phil. 3:9). As one who was the reproduction of the God-man, Paul desired to be found in Christ by all his observers. He aspired to have his whole being immersed in Christ and saturated with Christ so that all His believers would discover him fully in Christ.

#### **EXPRESSED IN OUR HUMAN VIRTUES**

When we are found in Christ, living Him as the God-man, He will be expressed in our human virtues. Paul's word in Philippians 4:8 indicates this: "For the rest, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is righteous, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is well-spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things." Here to be true is to be true ethically, not in matter of fact. To be honorable is to be venerable, worthy of reverence; it is also to be noble and grave (1 Tim. 3:8, 11; Titus 2:2). The word implies the idea of dignity, which inspires and invites reverence. To be righteous is to be right (not just) before God and

man. To be pure is to be single in intention and action, without any mixture. The word "lovely" in Philippians 4:8 means to be lovable, agreeable, endearing. The words "well-spoken of" are the translation of the Greek word that means sounding well. As used here, the word implies being of good repute, renowned, attractive, winning, gracious. In this verse "virtue" is excellence, that is, ethical energy exhibited in vigorous action. The word "praise" indicates things worthy of praise, as the companion of virtue. The point we would emphasize here is that these are human virtues in which Christ is expressed.

### IN DOING ALL THINGS

In Philippians 4:13 Paul says, "I can do all things in Him who empowers me." Paul was a person in Christ (2 Cor. 12:2), and he desired to be found in Christ by others. Here he declares that he could do all things in Christ, the One who empowered him.

For Christ to empower us means that He makes us dynamic inwardly. Christ dwells in us (Col. 1:27). He empowers us, makes us dynamic, from within, not from without. By such an inward empowering Paul could do all things in Christ.

In particular, Paul could have all the virtues in Philippians 4:8.

The book of Philippians speaks of the reproduction of the God-man. Whoever lives Christ, the God-man, is His reproduction. Whoever lives Christ is a duplicate of the unique God-man, a reproduction of the prototype.

In Luke we see how Christ was incarnated and lived the life of a God-man. In Philippians we see how Christ is lived out from us in order to have many duplicates of Himself. All Christians should be duplicates of the unique Godman.

How can we be such duplicates, such reproductions? First, we need to be reborn of the pneumatic Christ in our spirit, and then we need to be gradually transformed by the pneumatic Christ in our soul. Then spontaneously we shall live Christ, the God-man, by the bountiful supply of His Spirit, taking His mind and shining the word of life as luminaries reflecting His brightness. We shall also be found in Christ with Him as our surpassing righteousness, in the power of His resurrection, and conformed to His death. Then we shall express Him in all the human virtues created by God for man. With the divine attributes of the God-man these virtues

are strengthened, enriched, and filled. I trust that the Spirit will speak more to you concerning this.

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