

SANCTUARY STUDIES

LESSON #3

MAN MUST ACCEPT DIVINE NATURE BEFORE SECOND COMING!

INTRODUCTION

All italics are in the original text. All other emphases are the authors unless noted. All Scriptures are from the K.J.V. Bible unless stated otherwise.

Many do not realize that there is a connection with the Father and His Son that is more dear and closer than they currently understand and experience or even know about. Most do not realize just how close this connection is. There is no understanding of the dimension to which God will elevate the truly surrendered child of God. I have come to realize it is a union with God that is equal to, or the same as, that which Christ had with His Father. We do not understand the position which God wants to exalt us to. Let us study and see what is the condition God's true children are destined to occupy or to become!

Let us pray:

Holy Father we need Your spirit to enlighten our minds so that we might comprehend the things which You desire for us to experience in our person. Please send Your spirit to give us wisdom and understanding of this subject. Please forgive all sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. You have promised to answer our petition if we ask in the name of Your Son's Jesus. And so, we do. Amen.

John 8:51-53. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, **If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.** Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall **never taste of death.** Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? And the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?"

Most Christians hold this text as applying to the second death saying, "He will never die the second

death." While this is true, we need to pay close attention to what John is saying and not change the meaning at all! John states "He shall **never see death.**" It is important for us to let Scripture be understood just the way it reads, without assuming anything except where a symbol or sign is used. So, what is the meaning of the word **NEVER**? "Not ever, at no time, not in any degree, not under any condition."

That definition is definite; it means you will not ever die. Not in the first death or the second death.

Believing that a person would never die was to me a hard saying, who can accept it. Then I remembered Enoch and Elijah and it began to dawn on me that this text could be literally true! And that it did not just apply to dying the second death only. The record states "Enoch walked with God" Gen. 5:25. In Heb. 11:5. We are told, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death.... he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Evidently Enoch kept the sayings of Christ and this promise was kept concerning not seeing death.

Elijah gained the same victory because we know that he was also translated. It is interesting that a type of Elijah will be manifest in the last days. "I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD." Mal. 4:5.

It is apparent that God intends to have a group of people in the "spirit and power of Elijah" to proclaim the three angles messages in the last days just before Christ's return. Not only that, they will be translated without seeing death just as Elijah was.

"If a man keep my sayings he shall never see death." The Jews understood Christ as speaking of death because they brought up Abraham, if anyone should not see death surely it would be Abraham. Notice, Christ

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did not say one word to suggest that they were wrong in their understanding of His word.

Like Enoch and Elijah, how are we to walk with God?

There are seven conditions that must be realized in the born-again Christians life to enjoy this promise of never seeing death. We all know that seven is the number of completeness and perfection and is used in the Bible to identify the characteristics of God's people that make up His kingdom. In John 15 there are seven verses that identify these characteristics.

John 15:1-7.

1. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." Step 1—believing in Christ the vine and the one true God, the Father.
2. "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." Step 2—we must expect chastisement from the Lord for fruit bearing.
3. "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." Step 3—we must live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God and allow that Word to cleanse us!
4. "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." Step 4—we must remain connected with Christ if we are to be victorious.
5. "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." Step 5—we must witness for the truth which we have accepted and be faithful unto the end!
6. "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." Step 6—those who are unfaithful

will be severed from the Israel of God or the commonwealth of God.

7. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Step 7—we are one with God: we ask and it is done because we do not ask amiss of God's will.

NOTE: Verse 4 makes abiding simple to understand "abide in me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine: no more can you, except ye abide in Me."

Having this union with Christ is the only way we can bear fruit of which overcoming sin is a part, verse 5 states "for without Me (Christ) ye can do nothing."

John 15 reinforces these seven conditions that must exist in every true follower of Christ for victory.

John 15:10-14. "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

NOTE: These two texts must be considered together, they are inseparable. We must have union with Christ before we can keep the commandments of the Father. When we keep the commandments, we abide in Christ's love. We then ask what we will and it is done. Why? Because the mind of Christ is within us and we do not ask for things amiss of the will of God.

Philippians 2:5-8. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness

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of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and **became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**”

NOTE: What are the characteristics of the mind of Christ?

1. We can aspire to be like God in character. Not as Lucifer who wanted to be God.
2. Must not seek after reputation but must empty self and become a servant.
3. We must accept the likeness of God’s character as our character.
4. Become obedient, even unto death, that is death to self and maybe even physical death. Remember, Paul was faithful when he was about to be offered.
5. Must eradicate all pride in any of its forms. Pride goeth before a fall.
6. Obey all the law of God including the statutes and judgments and ordinances.
7. Have the mind (the spirit) of Christ combined within our mind.

2nd Timothy 4:6-8. “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

1st Corinthians 2:16. “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

John 14: 7-11. “If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in

the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.”

NOTE: Verse 11. “Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me”. It is evident that when we have Christ’s mind, we also have the Fathers mind for they are the same spirit or mind.

John 17:21. “**That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:** that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”

NOTE: How are the Father and Christ one? In that same manner are we to become one with them. All Christians are not one being. Neither are Jesus and the Father one being either. They are one in mind, thought, character, and purpose. They think the same thoughts and perform all things in concert. In this same manner are all to be one in Christ and the Father. We can have the same mind dwelling within yet we are separate individuals with our own personalities.

Philippians 2:5. “Let this **mind be in you,** which was also in Christ Jesus.”

What is the Mind of Christ?

We are told in the Spirit of Prophecy in:

ISM 21:2. “The divine mind and will is combined with the human mind and will. {ISM 21.2}.

ST September 4, 1884:15. “**God's law is a copy of his mind and will.** The sins forbidden there could never find a place in Heaven.” {ST, September 4, 1884 par. 15}.

NOTE: Is not that amazing? The Lord places the Divine mind within His true Children! They are to have “Christ to live in His human agents!”

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MB (Thought from the Mount of Blessings) 94:1. **“Christ is to live in His human agents and work through their faculties and act through their capabilities.** Their will must be submitted to His will; they must act with His Spirit. **Then it is no more they that live, but Christ that lives in them. He who does not give himself wholly to God is under the control of another power, listening to another voice, whose suggestions are of an entirely different character.” {MB 94:1}.**

1SM 223:2, 3. **“Christ in the courts of heaven had known that the time would come when the power of Satan must be met and conquered if the human race was ever to be saved from his dominion. ...As the Babe of Bethlehem, He would become one with the race, and by a spotless life from the manger to the cross He would show that man, **by a life of repentance and faith in Him, might be restored to the favor of God.** He would bring to man redeeming grace, forgiveness of sins. *If men would return to their loyalty, and no longer transgress, they would receive pardon.* {1SM 223.2}**

“Christ in the weakness of humanity was to meet the temptations of one possessing the powers of the higher nature that God had bestowed on the angelic family. But Christ's humanity was united with divinity, and in this strength He would bear all the temptations that Satan could bring against Him, and yet keep His soul untainted by sin. **And this power to overcome He would give to every son and daughter of Adam who would accept by faith the righteous attributes of His character.**” {1SM 223.3}.

NOTE: Whatever power Christ used in overcoming sin that same power is promised to us in our struggle with sin!

“If we will only submit (surrender) to God, He will take our minds and fashion them after His divine mind.” This is the law or mind of Christ combined or written in the heart of man.

OHC 138:5. **“The law of God given from Sinai is a copy of the mind and will of the Infinite God. It is sacredly revered by the holy angels. Obedience to its requirements will perfect Christian character, and restore man, through Christ, to his condition before the fall. The sins forbidden in the law could never find place in heaven.” {OHC 138.5}.**

1SM 223:4. **“Christ proved that it is possible for man to lay hold by faith on the power of God. He showed that the sinner, by repentance and the exercise of faith in the righteousness of Christ, can be reconciled to God, and become a partaker of the divine nature, overcoming the corruption that is in the world through lust.” {1SM 223.4}.**

NOTE: How do we “become a partaker of the divine nature”? “By repentance and exercise of faith in the righteousness of Christ” listen! Just as Christ took on man’s fallen nature of which He had no part, so must we take on the divine nature of which we had no part before conversion! Once again this is the law of God, or His mind written in our mind.

Repentance is the process of feeling sorry for our sins and **TURNING** away from them through the power of Christ. Faith means to trust God to carry to completion His promises of righteousness in our lives. This faith leads to the placing within ourselves of the divine mind of God!

1SM 224:2. **“He who repents of his sin and accepts the gift of the life of the Son of God, cannot be overcome. Laying hold by faith of the divine nature, he becomes a child of God. He prays, he believes. When tempted and tried, he claims the power that Christ died to give, and overcomes through His grace. This every sinner needs to understand. **He must repent of his sin, he must believe in the power of Christ, and accept that power to save and to keep him from sin.** How thankful ought we to be for the gift of Christ's example! {1SM 224.2}.**

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NOTE: That gift of Christ's example is the totality of His life on this earth for 33 1/2 years are what is given to us by the ministration of the holy spirit!

ISM 408:1, 2. "It was a solemn reality that Christ came to fight the battles as man, in man's behalf. His temptation and victory tell us that humanity must copy the Pattern; **man must become a partaker of the divine nature.** {ISM 408.1}.

"In Christ, divinity and humanity were combined. Divinity was not degraded to humanity; divinity held its place, but **humanity by being united to divinity withstood the fiercest test of temptation in the wilderness.** The prince of this world came to Christ after His long fast, when He was an hungered, and suggested to Him to command the stones to become bread. **But the plan of God, devised for the salvation of man, provided that Christ should know hunger, and poverty, and every phase of man's experience.** He withstood the temptation, **through the power that man may command.** He laid hold on the throne of God, and there is not a man or woman who may not have access to the same help through faith in God. **Man may become a partaker of the divine nature;** not a soul lives who may not summon the aid of Heaven in temptation and trial. Christ came to reveal the source of His power **that man might never rely on his unaided human capabilities.**" {ISM 408.2}.

NOTE: During the night of Jacob's trouble, what was his response when the angel said, "let me go for the day breaketh". Jacob said "I will not let the go except thou bless me."

This must also be our response when we have come to the point of desperation for victory over sin. When we know there is no way we can obtain victory without divine aid.

It is our refusal to give up sin that keeps us chained to Satan's prison house. Our love for sin is the cause of our downfall and death. Satan's power is broken

if we will just believe and accept Christ's victory for us that He won while on earth as a human. Now there is a way of escape and a way to fulfill Christ's command, "be ye therefore perfect, even as you're Father which is in heaven is perfect" Matt. 5:48. Will you believe and exercise this faith for victory?

ISM 252:1. "After the fall of man, **Satan declared that human beings were proved to be incapable of keeping the law of God,** and he sought to carry the universe with him in this belief. Satan's words appeared to be true, and Christ came to unmask the deceiver. The Majesty of heaven undertook the cause of man, and **with the same facilities that man may obtain,** withstood the temptations of Satan **as man must withstand them.** (These facilities are those that Christ developed while living on earth as a man) This was the only way in which fallen man could become a partaker of the divine nature. In taking human nature, Christ was fitted to understand man's trials and sorrows and all the temptations wherewith he is beset. Angels who were unacquainted with sin could not sympathize with man in his peculiar trials. Christ condescended to take man's nature, and was tempted in all points like as we, **that He might know how to succor all who should be tempted.**" {ISM 252.1}.

NOTE: "To succor" Christ gives to all His children the same experience of His life while on earth in His battle to conquer sin and Satan.

Just as we have been partakers of the nature of Satan through sin, so also are we through repentance and God's promises, to become partakers of the divine nature to aid us in our struggle with sin. Jesus kept the commands of His Father by His constant union with Him. Jesus overcame by doing always what pleased the Father. This is our pattern.

1st Corinthians 2:16. Last part. "We have the mind of Christ."

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Colossians 2:9-11. “For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: **In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.”**

NOTE: What is it called when we have surgery? An operation. Well, this is **brain operation by God** to correct the sin problem in the mind.

AG 196:4. “The Lord Jesus acts through the Holy Spirit; for it is His representative. Through it He infuses spiritual life into the soul, (or mind) quickening its energies for good, cleansing it from moral defilement, and giving it a fitness for His kingdom. **Jesus has large blessings to bestow, rich gifts to distribute among men.** He is the wonderful Counselor, infinite in wisdom and strength; and **if we will acknowledge the power of His spirit, and submit to be molded by it, we shall stand complete in Him.** What a thought is this! **In Christ "dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.** And ye are complete in him" (Colossians 2:9, 10). Never will the human heart know happiness until it is submitted to be molded by the Spirit of God. The Spirit conforms the renewed soul to the model, Jesus Christ. Through the influence of the Spirit, **enmity against God is changed into faith and love, and pride into humility.** The soul perceives the beauty of truth, and **Christ is honored in excellence and perfection of character.** As these changes are effected, **angels break out in rapturous song, and God and Christ rejoice over souls fashioned after the divine similitude.**” {AG 196.4}.

7BC 907:3, 4. “(Hebrews 1:3.) **A Perfect Specimen of Sinless Humanity.** —**In Christ is gathered all the glory of the Father. In Him is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.** He is the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of His person. The glory of the attributes of God are expressed in

His character. The gospel is glorious because it is made up of His righteousness. It is Christ unfolded, and Christ is the gospel embodied. Every page of the New Testament Scriptures shines with His light. Every text is a diamond, touched and irradiated by the divine rays. {7BC 907.3}

“We are not to praise the gospel, but praise Christ. We are not to worship the gospel, but the Lord of the gospel. Christ is a perfect representation of God on the one hand, and a perfect specimen of sinless humanity on the other hand. Thus He has combined divinity and humanity (MS 44, 1898). {7BC 907.4}

(Hebrews 1:) “9, 10 (John 1:16; Hebrews 4:15). **Dwelling Upon Christ's Character.** —In Christ dwelt the fullness of the Godhead bodily. This is why, although He was tempted in all points like as we are, He stood before the world, from His first entrance into it, untainted by corruption, though surrounded by it. **Are we not also to become partakers of that fullness, and is it not thus, and thus only, that we can overcome as He overcame?** {7BC 907.5}.

“We lose much by not dwelling constantly upon the character of Christ (MS 16, 1890).” {7BC 907.6}.

NOTE: I hope this helps to understand there is a union that we must attain which is closer to God than any connection we have yet experienced. We must become the same as was Christ in His union with the Father while on this earth! This union is necessary for the overcoming of sin. Then we will sit with Christ in His throne. This has to indicate that the overcomer who sits with Christ would also be co-ruler with Christ in heaven!

What we have just studied proves that those who understand and believe and obey the truth of God are the true descendants of Abraham and are the modern Israel of God and heirs of the Promises made to Abraham. To make it possible to overcome God has

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made his new covenant to be written within the heart or mind of man.

Hebrews 10:16, 17. “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, **I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”**

NOTE: As this is fulfilled Christ will begin to manifest Himself within each in latter rain power. That is the glory that was manifested in the most holy place of the sanctuary, it is the Shekinah glory of God manifested in the most holy place of the mind of man!

When we have the mind of Christ and the Father, which is the spirit of Christ, or the law of the Father, we will be walking with God, and that is contagious for others will see the union and will be attracted to that sweet character. It is really possible in these last days of earth’s history to walk with God as did Enoch, and Elijah. **YES!** God wants to end this controversy, but first Elijah must come, that represents a people that turn from sin and the sophistries of Satan and will “walk with God” just as Elijah and Enoch walked with God. They must give the message of the loud cry of the fourth angel, and what is that message? That there are a people who are demonstrating before the universe and Satan that man can, through the unity of divinity within humanity, live a sinless life. Then when this has been demonstrated as a fact uncontested, Christ can come get us and take us Home. We have been counseled to strive to be in that group.

It is not as if God is watching a clock in heaven saying, “in two more minutes, then ready or not here I come”. No, no a better idea is that God’s people have so committed themselves to God that sin is no longer attractive to them and they stop sinning and there is **NO-MORE-SIN flowing into the sanctuary**. Then the sanctuary in heaven and in the soul of the victorious can be cleansed completely by the blotting out

of sin, both in heaven and in our memory and even God will not remember our sins! What a blessed promise. The bride will then have made herself ready and we go **HOME**.

Let us pray:

Holy Father, I thank You for Your love and salvation. Grant, I pray, that each one of your children will become closer to You because of what has been taught. Please forgive our sins and cleans us from all unrighteousness. May Your bride make herself ready. Thank You for answering this prayer for it is asked in the name of Jesus Your Son. Amen.

PS. It would be good before beginning the next study if all had an understanding of the twenty-three-hundred-day prophecy of **Daniel 8:14**. “And he said unto me, unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” You can understand about that prophecy in the book “**PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS**” BY ELLEN G. WHITE pages 368-432. May God bless you in your study?

Your brother in Christ

Virgil Prindle