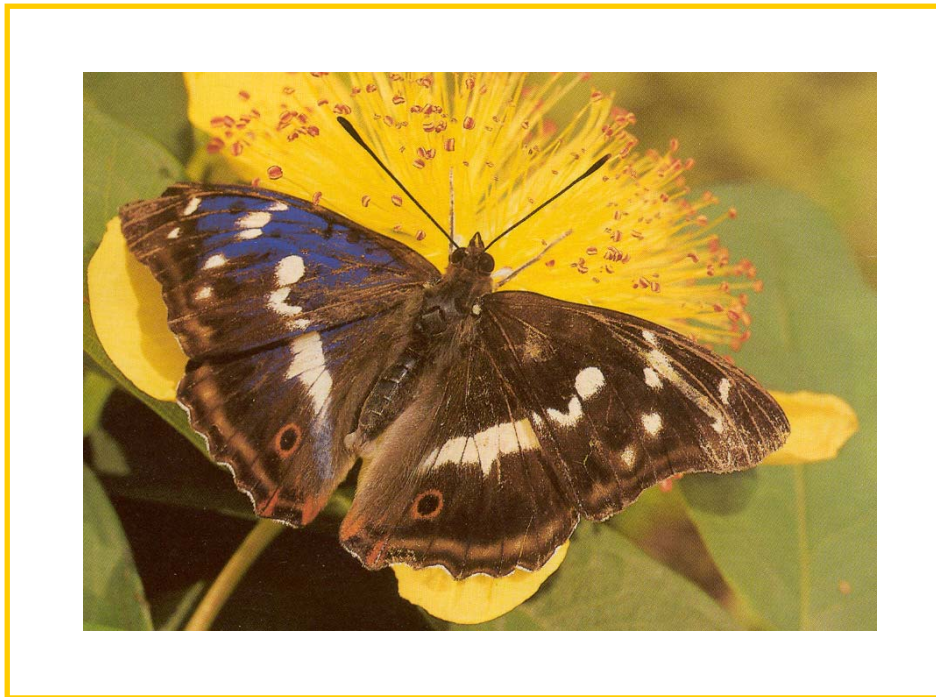
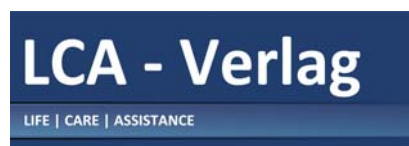


# The Miracle of Divine Procreation



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## The Storms at the End of Time

Whoever studies God's Word carefully and considers the news reported by the media in light of that testimony, he or she will easily ascertain that the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ cannot be far off. For Christians this means massive developments and preparation for **eternity**. The relationship of recent news to the testimony of Scripture has made me keenly aware that much in our spiritual life, both as individual believers and in fellowship with other Christians, is destined to collapse. Indeed all that is not **God-begotten**, all that does not proceed from God Himself will pass away. Therefore it is necessary once again to portray carefully to Christians just how divine procreation occurs and how it works in practice.

According to the latest scientific research, the temperature here on Earth will rise during the next century by at least 5° Celsius. Possible consequences include a sea-level higher by about a meter than the present-day level, which would be a catastrophe for coastal populations. The resulting scenarios are unfathomable.

Whether such projections prove to be true or not is yet to be seen. Already now, though, it is clear that the storms afflicting our planet have increased in intensity during the last few years. The connection between these storms and higher temperatures is evident. Something seems to be brewing up in nature.

Climate change and storm violence are but the mirror-image of developments taking place in the **invisible world**. In a certain sense the ever greater escapades of nature are but the logical expression of ever greater tension in the spiritual world. **Rev. 12:12b** testifies to this: *Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.* When the enemy notices that his time has nearly run out, the inevitable result is an increase in the intensity of atmospheric storms, for he is *the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2)*. Thus, natural events are but the logical expression of events in the invisible world. Behind the destructive power of nature lurks none other than the *principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this age, spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Eph. 6:12)*. In His earthly ministry, by the way, Jesus stood up against the diabolically inspired destructive power of nature, for example when He commanded wind and water to be still (Luke 8:22-25). It would be well for God's Sons to follow that example!

What do these storms in the invisible world ultimately mean for God's children here on earth? Tougher challenges, increasing pressure on their lives, struggles of greater intensity. That is why everything which is not divinely begotten in your life will **collapse** in the end.

In view of this it is clear what you need more than anything else: you need to be **begotten by God** (or by the Holy Spirit) on the **full biblical scale**. This alone guarantees survival and victorious entry into God's holy Presence when Jesus comes again. I shall demonstrate this with the help of **1<sup>st</sup> John 5:4** *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.* This is a key verse, please keep it in mind. (In your bible the verse may be somewhat different: instead of

“begotten” your bible will read “born”. Further on I will show you why the translation “born” is impossible.)

According to 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:4 **everything** which is God-begotten will overcome the world. This verse is an enormous promise! And what is meant by “world”? “World” is a concept encompassing the entire dominion of Satan, consisting of the activities of Satan and his cronies (spirits, demons etc.), sin, carnality, lust and all satanic machinations (harmful plans) and intrigues. For God’s children these are challenges of the most massive kind, wherever they may be.

Let us convert the verse into its negative form. It would then read as follows: Everything which is **not** God-begotten will be **vanquished** and will **collapse**. And precisely that is what I experience ever more often among Christians and congregations. Thus in the near future a great collapse will befall all persons and ‘Christian’ machinations or manipulations which are not God-begotten. Indeed, all of their religious achievements and activities will be revealed for what they are: meaningless. Therefore this collapse is urgently necessary in order to free all sincere children of God from any illusions they yet may have!

### **The New Coming into Being or New-Begetting of Man**

If I were to ask you what in your opinion the most important thing is that a Christian can experience, you would probably answer: “To be born again!” Indeed Jesus pointed in this direction in a nocturnal conversation with the top Jewish theologian Nicodemus (**John 3:3**) *Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

I’d like here to consider a word used in most translations of this passage: “born”. Let me say it in advance: the translation “born” is impossible, for it corresponds neither to the actual sense of the passage nor to the Greek word which occurs in the original. The Greek word mistakenly rendered by “born” is *gennaō* which means “**beget**”, “**procreate**”, or “**become**”.

In Greek there is another word, *tikto*, which correctly translated means “to bear” or “give birth to”. Surely you will agree that there’s a big difference between begetting and giving birth. One is the starting point, the other is the final result.

Far from being mere hair-splitting, this points to a profound truth. If something is begotten, biologically speaking, then the begetting’s result is openly related to its **origin**. In other words, the result contains the **hereditary factor** and **inherited qualities** of the begetter. To be sure, new life, once conceived, grows in a **dynamic** which is intrinsic to itself and indomitable. From the moment of begetting, it germinates independently and is invested with the power to arise, to build itself up and to live in autonomy. Above all, though, that new life contains the entire genetic inheritance of him who begot it. By begetting, therefore, a **process** is set in motion which, in the case of human beings, is called “pregnancy”. After conception follows pregnancy and, at the end of pregnancy, birth.

It should now be easy to see that Jesus was talking to Nicodemus not about birth, but about **new-begetting**. That is why He uses the Greek word

*gennao* and not *tikto*, for that which begins is not your birth, but rather your investment with a new hereditary factor and a new genetic inheritance. To be exact: you are invested in that moment with the **hereditary factor of Jesus Christ!** Begetting induces new life with a new hereditary factor (among humans, that of the parents). Birth, on the contrary, is merely the consequent act of delivery, merely the final result, so to speak, of begetting. -So much for our little excursion into biology.

It is supremely important that you grasp these ideas, because they are necessary in order to understand the actual Gospel of Jesus Christ. For with few exceptions it is the word meaning “newly beget” or “newly become” which we find in the New Testament.

### Divine Definitions

John 3:3 has already been cited above. Two verses later we read the following, related passage – **John 3:5** *Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*

With these words the matter is narrowed down and becomes radical! For whosoever has not been “begotten anew by God on high” **cannot enter God’s Kingdom!** No other interpretation is possible. Furthermore the passage contains a precondition: a person need be newly begotten of water and spirit, otherwise he cannot enter God’s Kingdom. This is the only precondition.

Please note: Jesus does *not* say that you have to belong to this or that church or congregation in order to be saved. Nor does He specify religious observances to be carried out or indeed any other precondition for salvation whatsoever. All He says is that one need be newly begotten of water and spirit from above, i.e. from God, otherwise one cannot enter God’s Kingdom.

Thus you have to understand exactly what it means to be newly begotten “by God”, “by the Holy Spirit”, or “from above”, and what the logical **consequences** of a true begetting by God are. It is so glorious, miraculous and above all so ingeniously *simple* that it may surpass any other spiritual information you may ever have heard. The main reason for this is that an **inner dynamic** arises which simplifies decisively ones life as Christian and above all allows it to function convincingly.

Do you know who **God’s true children** are? At first glance the question seems delicate, even sectarian. The divine answer, though, is simple: they alone who are **begotten by God!** Thus we read in **John 1:11ff**: *He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

They therefore are God’s true children. This is only logical. Not membership in one church or another or in one religious group or another procures for you this status, no, what you need is simply a **second father!** And just as you carry within you the hereditary factor of your earthly father (the hereditary factor of Satan, spiritually speaking: sin with all its fatal consequences), after being newly begotten by God you will carry His **divine hereditary factor** within you. Is that not wonderful?

Following natural procreation a child develops. In God's Kingdom it is no different. Only the heavenly Father begets God's children. And to be saved, supernatural begetting is necessary: otherwise you'll never get to know heaven from within. At the Last Judgement, when salvation is at stake, it is the hereditary factor of Jesus which will be searched for in you (cf. Mt. 7:15-23).

The argumentation of God's Word, though, will become even more narrow, strict and logically consistent – and, in its consequences, even more prodigious! For in **1<sup>st</sup> John 3:9** we read: *Every one who hath been begotten of God, sin he doth not, because his seed in him doth remain, and he is not able to sin, because of God he hath been begotten* (Young's Literal Translation YLT).

For years this passage gave me a bad conscience and worse. Every sincere person will necessarily be plagued by huge problems when he or she learns of the apparent impossibility of committing sin. The underlying idea is easy to understand: if a person is indeed newly begotten by or of God, he or she will (consciously, deliberately) sin no more. The reason for abstention from sin lies, on one hand, in the divine begetting, and on the other hand in the presence of the "Seed" in our life (a genetic word similarly affined to begetting occurs in the Greek original!).

A sincere Christian however will soon notice that this does *not* correspond to his daily life experience. I in any case soon observed that I continued to sin non-stop – even though I condemned sin from the bottom of my heart. No matter how hard I tried to resist sin, no matter how often I got myself together and tried to vanquish it with one trick or another – I had to recognize the pitiful fact that in spite of all my efforts I sinned and sinned again. The verse quoted above, though, says unmistakably and provocatively: *Every one who hath been begotten of God, sin he doth not, because his seed in him doth remain, and he is **not able** to sin, because **of God** he hath been **begotten**.*

At first I sought to excuse myself by assuming that 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:9 must have been mistranslated. After all, I told myself, all the Christians I know are blithely sinning away, even though they deny it with self-righteous hypocrisy or seek to hide it. In myself though and in the Christians I knew, the reality was different. Therefore I came to the conclusion that I either had misunderstood something or that there was something I hadn't yet experienced.

The assumption that 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:9 had been mistranslated left me no peace of mind. Something deep in my soul led me to suspect that a fascinating secret is embedded in John's words, the decipherment of which would make me immune to sin – at least on the conscious level.

Let us take another look at this verse, for it is actually as plain as day. You will discover the secret right away. It lies in the condition implied by the words *Every one **who hath been begotten of God...*** This allowed only one conclusion: in spite of repentance and several years of discipleship, I had not yet truly experienced this so-called 'begetting' by God, the heavenly Father, for otherwise I wouldn't still be sinning – at least not consciously and premeditatedly. And the logical cause, due to which one no longer sins, is stated right away in the same verse: *because his seed in him doth remain.* The Greek word for seed is *sperma*. It is immediately clear that this is a genetic word relating to procreation. And thus we return again to the subject of begetting. In the process of divine procreation it is the **essence** of God, it is His **life-**

**characteristics** and His **inherited qualities** which are implanted in a human being, and **that** is why – logically speaking – such a person can no longer sin! Surely you will agree that Jesus never sinned and in fact was incapable of sin. If by divine begetting He is indeed your life, it is His Presence which will prevent you from sinning!

Of course it is theoretically possible that a person who has been begotten by God could sin again; but there is something in his life which acts to prevent this from happening. That “something” is God’s life-characteristics laid up in us, or to put it more precisely: it is **Jesus Christ in our flesh** who keeps us from sinning! The Lord uses His Holy Spirit to prevent us from sinning. If Jesus Christ is truly become your life, which is exactly what happens in divine procreation, then there is someone in you who is *stronger than he who is in the world*. Someone lives in you then who on Golgotha’s cross has conquered sin for all time – for you. He, not sin, is then your life, and you are subject to sin no more.

Thus it is clear that “begetting from God” is one with the secret of **Christ in us**. And thus 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:9 is entirely correct. This verse is total and miraculous truth! In it lies one of the overwhelming secrets of the New Testament, a secret pertaining to the original malady of mankind and thus to the personal problems of our daily life. The logical consequence of 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:9 is a hitherto unknown relaxation or easing of tension. If the divine Seed truly is in you – and that is the result of divine begetting - , there then arises in you a lifestyle of enormous **dynamism**. It means too the end of every capricious, worthless religious achievement, condemned permanently to hypocritical self-deception and thus to failure. The life begotten in you by the heavenly Father is lived in you by someone else, by Christ in you through the Holy Spirit, who unfolds in you that inconceivable efficacy or virtue which prevents you, at least consciously, from committing sin.

Another passage relevant to this theme is 1<sup>st</sup> **John 2:29** (YLT): *if ye know that he is righteous, know ye that every one doing the righteousness, of him hath been begotten*. No doubt you recognized at a glance the glorious logic of this verse. If a person is begotten of God, he or she will then **automatically** accomplish justice! He or she then no longer needs to commit him- or herself daily to accomplishing justice and justice alone through his or her intensified religious achievement. That doesn’t work anyway.

Divine truth is far greater: righteous, just behavior and action are the logical result of your having been truly begotten anew from on high. Doing justice is something **automatic** then. It is this automatism which reveals that we are truly children of God, begotten from on high and carrying within us a new hereditary factor, that of Jesus Christ.

And now one last quotation from 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:18. The usual translations of this verse are complicated and, in places, incomprehensible. Let us take, for example, the New King James Version (NKJ). 1<sup>st</sup> **John 5:18** reads there as follows: *“We know that any one born of God does not sin, But He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.”* According to this translation, the verse is contradictory; thus the translation must be incorrect. If, however, you read it with Young’s Literal Translation in mind, and if you consider carefully the grammatical forms involved, you will arrive at the following rendition of the verse: *We have known that every one who hath been begotten of*

*God doth not sin, but he who was begotten of God doth keep himself, and the evil one doth not touch him...*

This leads immediately to a big, relaxing sigh of relief, for, translated thus, the verse contains essential elements of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Indeed it is not your determined fight against sin which helps you, but rather it is the state of having been **begotten from God** which **protects you!** This leads to full repentance. The secret of vanquishing sin lies not in religious top-performance, but rather it proceeds from the **miracle of divine procreation**. If you consider this carefully, all that remains is prayerful wonderment at God's incomprehensible grace.

You will probably now grasp why it is that Jesus, in conversation with Nicodemus, defines the experience of divine procreation as the most important basic-experience of all. Unfortunately most earnest Christians have not experienced in full measure this divine procreation and thus remain trapped in the pursuit of religious achievement, as meaningless and empty as it may be, in order not to be overtaken by sin and fall flat on their face. Surely a tactic like this is doomed to failure. We may persist in a state of hypocrisy and maintain the facade of a 'good Christian', yet sooner or later the fruits of such a life will overtake us and cause the house of cards we have built to collapse fatally. The only alternative is to get to know the secret of divine procreation and, above all, to experience it in practice.

### **Mary and the Divine Procreation of Jesus Christ**

In order to explain this secret effectively, I shall now discuss two passages of Gospel relating to the divine procreation of Jesus Christ in Mary's womb. The two passages contain in principle the entire prototype of divine procreation.

**Matt. 1:20-21** (note carefully the words chosen, the exact sequence of events and the logical result): *But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for **that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit** and she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."*

The key phrase is YLT: *for that which in her was begotten {is} of the Holy Spirit*. This indicates the following sequence of events: the **heavenly Father** begets, via the **Holy Spirit**, something into Mary's womb. That which He "begets into" contains **God's entire hereditary factor**. The result is a **Son of God** – in this case Jesus Christ. Thus you see here all three Persons of the Living God in action, and the result is phenomenal. The Heavenly Father begot, via the Holy Spirit, His Son Jesus Christ into Mary. Jesus therefore was laid into the mortal flesh of a human being, and the result was a person who manifestly possessed God's hereditary factor. You now know all the important facts of our present theme.

Passage number two is **Luke 1:35** YLT: *And the messenger answering said to her, 'The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee, therefore also the holy-begotten thing shall be called*

*Son of God.* The Holy Spirit is here called the “power of the Highest or Most High”. Again, the ‘result’ is defined: the **Son of God**, Jesus Christ.

Therefore, in a correct divine procreation, it is always Jesus Christ who is begotten into the mortal flesh of a human being by the power of the Most High. Thus the Son of God takes up residence in a human being, and that person is raised into the status of a Son of God. This is the secret of the **Sons of God**, the revealing of whom all creation awaits (Romans 8:19). Furthermore you now see the entire sequence of events. When a person is overshadowed by the power of the Most High, divine procreation is induced; ‘pregnancy’ follows (Christ in mortal flesh), and the result is a birth (transformation into the likeness of Christ; Christ, our life, will be revealed after the so-called ‘taking’ or ‘catching’ up, the resurrection from the dead; cf. Col. 3:4).

Further conclusions you can draw for yourself: True divine procreation is visible in its **effects**, in terms both of the **quality of personal life** as well as in **conduct** and **service**. In each of the passages quoted above you can observe a human vessel that is overshadowed by the power of the Most High. In that overshadowing the Heavenly Father begets, via the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ into the human vessel. In other words: God begets supernatural life into a mortal person. This mortal person carries the divinely begotten life in him- or herself until birth takes place. These are all the relevant aspects of our theme.

### **The Consequences**

Now I would like to show you the **effects** of truly being begotten from God. This will allow you yourself to determine your present condition. He or she who in truth has been begotten anew of the Holy Spirit, from then onward Jesus Christ dwells in his or her mortal flesh through the Holy Spirit. Consequently he or she carries within him- or herself the hereditary factor of God, i.e. **genetic characteristics analogous** to those we observe in Jesus Christ during his earthly ministry. This would mean that we experience the same life-qualities as Jesus, for having been begotten of the Holy Spirit we carry within us the life-substance of Jesus Christ. Thus we have the same Father as Jesus; we belong, so to speak, to the same ‘species’ and to the same family as Him, and we carry the same Spirit of Christ within us.

A logical consequence would be, for example, that we experience in daily life the so-called **sevenfold unity** of **Eph. 4:4-6**: “*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.* Thus we belong to **one** body, worldwide. And we are **one** people, **one** herd, and we have **one** shepherd – worldwide!

All this is prerequisite to the visible, unproblematic fulfillment of Jesus’ pontifical prayer in John 17 for the true unity of God’s children – i.e. without ‘Christian’ manipulation of any kind (ecumenical movement etc.). The fact is, though, that nearly all Christians are ‘chewing on’ John 17. Almost all Christian movements, churches and congregations are trying, via diverse religious ‘chin-ups’ (efforts), to reconcile the various Christian confessions. According to God’s Word, this will end in a terrible catastrophe, for the result will be the great opposite pole of the real Body of Christ: the great *Harlot Babylon* (Rev. 17-18). The



result cannot and will never be heavenly prayer-fulfillment. The unity of God's children can only be brought about among those who have been begotten anew from God. Never will it be the result of human effort; it will be the logical **fruit of true begetting from God**, of a **true position in Christ!** Unity of Spirit can never be attained by human means. It is ever the fruit and the result of individuals, having experienced divine procreation, possessing the **same prerequisite**. And that prerequisite is but one: one and **the same begetting from God!**

In the first period of church history immediately following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Christians experienced exactly this wondrous unity. Thus 3000 persons were *one heart and one soul* (**Acts 4:32**). The only plausible reason for this is: They had all experienced the same begetting anew from the Holy Spirit, through which the divisiveness inherent in their old nature had been removed. If we Christians today were to be begotten of God in a similar fashion, we too would experience exactly the same practical unity as in the days of the early congregation.

Of course we would then also experience the **lifestyle** of the earliest Christians – not because we had imitated them, but because the Holy Spirit, through the same begetting as back then, had impelled us to it. We would nurture within ourselves the same ambitions, the same longing for abundant, shared life without anyone cracking religion's whip. The longed-for way of life would just happen – all by itself. The *Acts of the Apostles* become, again and again, a living **checklist** of what happens when people are truly begotten of God and filled with the Holy Spirit. *Acts* in hand they could check up on themselves any time at all and see which spiritual level they had actually reached (or not reached).

Those who have been truly begotten anew of God are in the end led by the Holy Spirit into the same **communal life** once lived so dynamically and overwhelmingly by the first Christians. It would happen by itself – without the least religious manipulation. And our practical, day-to-day **quality of life**, personal as well as communal, would concur once more with God's Word.

Thus we would possess once again the same practical authority held by Jesus during His earthly ministry. Did He not say in **John 14:12** NKJ that: *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*

This deciphers finally the last spiritual secret pondered over so often in sincere circles: "Why were the early Christians able to act so authoritatively?" The answer is now clear: we, all of us, need the **divine procreation** experienced by early Christians as something completely normal. It would provide us, in principle, with the same prerequisites as the early Christians, who experienced intensely this very begetting. The intensity of their experience is evident in the words cited above that 3000 different people were *one heart and one soul* (Acts 4,32), i.e. without Peter having to run around resolving conflicts among the other Apostles...

As a result of this new begetting they all carried in their mortal flesh the new hereditary factor, the hereditary factor of Jesus Christ (cf. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 4:10-11). Thus they possessed the same Spirit, which led them inevitably into this glorious new way of life. There's no other way it could have taken place. And as long as they continued to listen to the voice of the Spirit, act accordingly, and

remain truly in Christ, exactly those divine plans laid down before Creation were put into practice. And so may it be today, at the very latest though at the consummation of His congregation and thus of the present age (cf. Rev.19:6-9).

### **Consequences for your personal life**

What are the consequences for your personal life and for your day to day quality of life when you truly have been begotten from God? Here again we can draw on insights from the field of biology. As soon as new life has been begotten it possesses its own **inner dynamic**. The force driving its life comes from within. You don't have to keep on starting it up again or checking whether it's alive or not. Newly begotten life has its own dynamic and keeps on living automatically. From a spiritual point of view these are enormous revelations for your life in Christ!

How does our daily life as Christians look like? We're under continual **pressure to achieve**. We think that nothing will happen unless we achieve a high level of religious performance. And of course we have to make sure we don't get snared and that the card house of our religiosity doesn't collapse.

If we were really begotten anew of God or of the Holy Spirit, we'd be able to lay aside all these fears and meaningless acts of will. For as soon as Jesus Christ truly has been begotten into you by the Holy Spirit, He Himself begins to germinate within you of His own accord and His own dynamic! As long as you don't strangle (or abort or kill) this new life – through disobedience for example or through exaggerated lawfulness etc. - , it will continue to unfold according to its own glorious dynamic!

I advise people who newly have gotten to know Jesus Christ *not* to strive for religious achievement. Rather they should simply **remain** in Jesus Christ or on the vine, for as long as they do so, Jesus Himself will directly and automatically live His wonderful life through them. And He wants to live in you too! All you have to do is **to remain on the vine**. The indwelling Lord will do everything else through you.

You'll now have to admit that being a Christian is actually the easiest thing in the world; otherwise no child could ever grasp it. The wonderful life-characteristics of Jesus visible with help of the **fruit of the Spirit** (Gal. 5:22 – love, peace, joy, patience etc.) flow from Jesus Himself, as long as you remain in Him! Whosoever has experienced correctly this divine procreation can observe how these glorious traits emerge automatically and ever more powerfully. That is the sure sign of true begetting from God. We saw this above already regarding **justice** (1<sup>st</sup> John 2:29).

The life-seed planted in us by the Holy Spirit lives therefore automatically – as long as it is not **impeded** (hindered). I'd like now to show how this Seed (Christ in us) can be hindered by **worry**. In the parable of the sower and the four kinds of ground (Matth. 13:3-8; 18-23), worry is likened to *thorns* which *choke the Word*. Therefore, when a Christian worries all the time, he or she strangles the Seed (Christ in him or her). The germ of life is killed and the Holy Spirit's entire dynamic is blocked. Christians who worry all the time have to "play as a Christian" and thus get snared by resignation or illusion.

However, as long as the life of Jesus Christ unfolds unimpeded within them, it will live on automatically. The Holy Spirit will see to it that the **wonderful life-characteristics of Jesus** continue to grow. Just imagine how beautiful and simple such a life in Christ must be! Furthermore the consequences of such a life would equal those described by the Evangelists: Jesus Christ would again manifest His life in the same manner as it is described in Gospel.

When Jesus says in John 14:12 that belief in Him results in works the same as those done by Him, the idea is simple. To *believe in Jesus* means to be as **closely united with Jesus Christ** as possible. Whosoever is newly begotten from above and thenceforth is and remains closely united with Jesus Christ, thereafter he or she does the same works as Jesus, for those works ultimately are done by Christ Himself within! As long as you truly remain in Christ, He Himself will manifest His life through you. That means no less than the doing of His works! This is inevitable as long as the indwelling life of Jesus Christ is nourished in you by the Holy Spirit.

This development is, of course, an **ongoing process**, just as, biologically speaking, the germ from which life proceeds is at first microscopically small then grows continuously. The Christ in you, He too will grow step by step, like the grape on the vine. But, in order to grow, this little germ of life must first be begotten into you. You will recognize this analogy in the life of Mary. Jesus first was begotten into her by the Holy Spirit and then began to germinate to the point of full development. Birth was the end-result. For us, that will be the moment when we are visibly united with Jesus upon His second coming. That will be the birth, the visible end-result of spiritual 'pregnancy' – provided that the life of the Spirit (Christ in us) has been able to develop unimpeded and we are in healthy and unseparated communion with Jesus.

If you have indeed experienced this new begetting and remain in Christ, the life-characteristics of Jesus will unfold in you more strongly and powerfully from year to year. The consequences of the Cross emerge. Paul says that the message of the Cross or of Christ is the **Power of God** (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 1:18,24). "Power of God", as translated here, is weak. The Greek word for "power" is *dynamis*. *Dynamis* is an **explosive outbreak of power**, as occurs with dynamite. The message of the Cross or of "Christ in us" is an explosive outbreak of power. Thus, as soon as the Holy Spirit has begotten Jesus Christ into us, Jesus Himself begins to unfold His life with explosive power (combined of course with the experience of vital, close connection with the Holy Spirit or with baptism in the Holy Spirit.

If you think about these ideas, you'll probably be seized by great delight at so glorious and simple a Gospel. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was conceived from the very start as something plain and simple. You were probably quick to notice the problem. Most Christians, unfortunately, **live from themselves**. They try to be good Christians and thus, unconsciously and unwillingly, hinder this glorious life from Jesus Christ which otherwise they would carry in themselves in full measure. Sooner or later they are snared and end up inevitably in resignation or hypocrisy.

If Jesus Christ has indeed been begotten into you, He will immediately begin to manifest His works through you – irresistibly and more and more powerfully. This is how He manifests **His victory!** No longer must you laboriously

attempt to climb the ladder of divine victory only to fall backward a few steps at the next occasion. No! Jesus Christ Himself will unveil through you **His** victory which He won completely and once and for all on Golgotha's Cross. Always and at every opportunity! *Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 15:57). Or: *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.* (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 2:14). That is your **position** and **status in Christ** for the last 2000 years! In Christ you are immediately transferred to the position which Jesus, through Golgotha's Cross, has won for you. Therefore you have either **His** victory or none at all! If our wretched 'Christian' or religious victories are stolen from us, all of a sudden we're lying on our face covered with defeat! Whosoever, though, is truly begotten from God and lives and remains in Jesus, he or she will experience overwhelmingly that Jesus Himself manifests, day by day, **His** victory.

There is a huge difference between living from a victory bestowed and attempting every day anew to attain victory. Those victories which we fabricate for ourselves will do us, in the long run, no good at all. Jesus Christ's victory, on the other hand, is effective from the first moment onward. Whosoever is truly begotten from God experiences the whole day long the victory of Jesus Christ. Thus we read in **1<sup>st</sup> John 5:4**: *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith.* Your **faith** leads thus to victory.

What does this mean in practical terms? It means that you accept in childlike faith the status or position in Christ which in principle you have possessed for some 2000 years, that is: His victory over the world and all its pleasures and appetites. As long as you remain in your childlike faith in Christ, the victory is yours – regardless of emotion or reason. From now on, in Him and with Him, you are able to experience Christ's victory non-stop. That is God's will! You haven't attained this victory through intense and persistent struggle, on the contrary: you simply **rest** in the victory which Jesus has attained for you, and you experience it daily in every life-situation.

If the Holy Spirit has begotten Jesus Christ into you, then His life will be manifested in your mortal flesh. Then you find yourself right at the center of Paul's glorious and profound assertions in **2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 4:10-11**: *always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.* I repeat this marvellous sentence: *that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.* Exactly that is the result of divine procreation – the **life of Jesus manifested in our mortal flesh!** And its manifestation is to be **now**.

Now we are able to define the life of a Christian: a Christian is someone who watches daily how Jesus's life manifests itself in his or her mortal flesh. *You watch!* *Jesus* manifests His life through the Holy Spirit in your flesh! If you are able to grasp and experience this with childlike faith, it is the glory of God in your daily life. From morning until evening you live from Christ – not from religious achievement, but by resting in a consummate work of salvation and watching how Jesus manifests His life in or through your mortal flesh. You will

see that those around you experience Jesus in a very real way. More about this later.

As in a pregnancy, this life which has been begotten into you **grows** continually. A result of this is that something inside of you is **transformed**. That is another great secret of the spiritual life in Christ. For God's Word foresees that you are *transformed into the likeness of Jesus*. The Greek word for "transform" is *meta morphoo*. You'll recognize this word from biology class. There it is used as a noun: metamorphosis. Through this miraculous procedure an 'ugly' caterpillar for example changes into a beautiful butterfly.

Precisely that is what happens to you when you have been newly begotten from above. You experience a continuous metamorphosis – day in, day out. Your ugly "old nature" or "old self" is transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ, the "new nature". And when Lord Jesus finally comes again, that which was begotten into you will manifest itself instantly. Then you shall see Jesus as He is, and *you and He together shall appear in glory (cf. Col. 3:4)*. In principle, Jesus will be unfolded in you. That will be, so to speak, the end-result of the pregnancy: birth!

This transformation corresponds to something which takes place in the process of **sanctification**. Sanctification is effected day in, day out by the Holy Spirit, which continually lays its finger on the things in your life and nature which are to be put aside and which need to be purified by Jesus's blood. If you obey the Holy Spirit step by step, all the rotten things will be removed, one after another, from your life, and you will be transformed by the Holy Spirit, step by step, into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

If you remain in Jesus Christ and obey the Holy Spirit promptly, the Lord Jesus Christ will grow continually in you – just as an embryo grows in its mother's womb. But what is it exactly that grows in you? **Fruit of the Spirit**, for example. This means that you experience and convey ever more love, peace, joy, patience, humility etc. Those are exactly the glorious things to which so many Christians reach out – in vain, it seems.

How often people wonder how to attain more *fruit of the Spirit*. The secret has just been decoded! Whosoever has been truly begotten anew from God, in principle he or she has only to sit back and watch how Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit continually increases the *fruit of the Spirit* – as long as you remain in Him. This leads to ever greater works and to ever better quality of life, totally **independent of emotions and external circumstances**. It is the logical result of the fact that Jesus Christ lives in you through the Holy Spirit, it is never the result of your intense, religious, 'Christian' achievements and exertion.

I shall give you a brief illustration from God's Word. In Acts 16 Paul and Silas are thrown into jail for having freed a man from the demons which had been tormenting him. There they were tormented and scourged, and it's important to know that the leather of Roman scourges contained sharp bits of bone. The result therefore was bloody, torn-up backs and extreme pain. Furthermore, Paul and Silas were thrown into the remotest depths of the prison and staked down. Such treatment usually led to lament, rebellion and total collapse. Paul and Silas, though, reacted completely differently. **Acts 16:25: *But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.***

This is a clear revelation of miraculous, **supernatural, spiritual life!** The two apostles were people like you and me, but inside themselves they possessed supernatural life – the life of Jesus Christ, because they were begotten anew from God. Christ was their life (Phil. 1:21). The emergency situation led to no less than the manifestation of Jesus Christ's supernatural life in their mortal flesh (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 4:10-11). That will always be the case with those who truly are in Christ.

Thanks to the Christ indwelling in them, those who have been begotten anew from God will automatically react correctly in emergencies. Among Christians today the opposite is usually true. In emergencies the religious house of cards collapses and with it ones 'Christian' busyness. Those who have been begotten anew from above, on the other hand, will manifest in emergencies that which they carry in themselves, and that can be only the **Lord Jesus Christ** through the Holy Spirit. When men and women of the spirit are at the end of their rope, the LORD will manifest Himself and act accordingly.

Since, according to the opinion of many children of God, the "Last Days" are now upon us, everything will be much more dramatic. The pressure will increase from day to day. Whatever is not truly begotten from God or the Holy Spirit will collapse. Self-made religion and personal achievement lead to failure. I see this ever more clearly and dramatically in many Christian environments. We are heading for a great collapse. And yet there is a positive side to such a collapse. For sincere children of God will recognize that much is wrong in their lives and in their Christian environments and that something decisive either is missing or their experience of it is defective: **begetting from God** or from the Holy Spirit!

### **Consequences for Effectiveness and Service**

I have discussed above the consequences of divine procreation for ones **personal life**. Now I would like to talk about the consequences of divine procreation for your effectiveness as a human being and for your daily life. Once again, they are overwhelming. If indeed Christ is **your** life and if indeed the Holy Spirit marks your life, that will emerge clearly in your **daily life**. No longer do you then need to make big decisions every morning, for example that today you are going to pull yourself together, love the people at work, or no longer suppress your frustration. Such decisions, of course, are totally futile. They result only in exhausting acts of will, in resignation, or in hypocrisy. Believe me, I speak from experience! If you're sincere, though, the Lord will one day relieve you of all illusions and startle you terribly. How hypocritical we Christians can be in daily life! I in any case had to face up to this fact under the worst of circumstances.

What are the reasons for this? No sincere Christian wants to do that which is wrong, rather he or she wants to do that alone which is good. And we all know God's Word. We stumble, though, by trying to **imitate** Christ. This is one of the worst mistakes. We confuse discipleship with the attempt to imitate Jesus. This is a mean distortion of Satan, for it will never work! God's work is the exact opposite. Our heavenly Father begets Jesus Christ into us through the Holy Spirit, and then **Jesus** will manifest Himself in and through us.

Where will He do it? Right in the middle of our **daily life**! Also on Sunday morning of course in our so-called “church services”, but much more clearly in the stress and in the challenges of daily life: at work, in the family, in the Kingdom of God. Whatever in these areas is not begotten from God will collapse. The family, for example, may be in a state of war. On Sunday the minister tells us in the sermon how things are supposed to be, back at home though it's not long before rebellion breaks out or someone takes off for a time-out. Thus our misery begins. Whosoever has been begotten from above, though, deals completely differently with the problems of daily life.

Everything that has not truly been begotten from God will **burn** and **collapse**. Ultimately, whoever lacks profound experience of this begetting will ceaselessly perform meaningless religious activities. Sure, it's all well meant, one goes to the limit and does ones best. For a variety of reasons, though, it's doomed to failure. Whom, for example, do our religious efforts or exertions **honor**? My religious achievements honor me alone, not the Lord. Thus I am already disqualified...

Then there's the question as to the **motives** of our busywork for the Lord. Whoever has not experienced this begetting from God lives for him- or herself alone. Thus we perform most of our activities in and for the Kingdom of God for the wrong reasons. The Lord showed me this in my own personal life in the most devastating way.

Why are our motives wrong? Everything that comes from our “old nature” is, according to God's standards of holiness, totally rotten, even if it appears to be noble and ‘Christian’. Our old nature is twisted and completely distorted, as Paul says in **Romans 3:10-19**.NKJ *There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.*<sup>13</sup>*Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”; “The poison of asps is under their lips”; 14 “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways; 17 And the way of peace they have not known.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” 19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*

In fact, in our old nature we are so rotten that we would disgrace a dung-hill if we were thrown on it. That in any case is more or less the point of “*gone wrong*” in Romans 3:12.

If the old, totally fallen nature in us does something for the Lord, then nothing good can come of it. The **motives** of our action will for the most part be bad. It is possible to work with total devotion and self-sacrifice somewhere in God's Kingdom and mistakenly believe that one is doing for the Lord. But in truth we are doing it ultimately for ourselves: in order to gain standing, in order to compensate for the complexes which have chased us our whole life long, in order to give our life meaning or value. As soon as the Holy Spirit gets hold of our life, all that collapses irrevocably.

If ones own performance is mixed into the equation, **stress** is the inevitable result. Or sooner or later resignation arises, because in the end we never experience that which God's Word promises. The so-called ‘spiritual’ life col-

lapses in bitter disarray. Nor will we receive eternal reward, as **1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 3:12-17** indicates. *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,* <sup>13</sup> *each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.* <sup>14</sup> *If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.* <sup>15</sup> *If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.* <sup>16</sup> *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?* <sup>17</sup> *If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. We won't necessarily be lost, but our way into eternity will be as through fire.*

### Things which prevent True Begetting from God

As we near the end of our discussion, I would like to think about a few reasons for the fact that you have perhaps never really experienced true begetting from God. Reasons for this are provided by the Word of God. I recommend that you consider them carefully.

For example there is the tendency to **trust** in ones own **strength**, theological **knowledge**, **intelligence**, or, as we've seen, in ones religious **achievement**. That is usually the case with new Christians. If you get caught there, though, you'll never get any farther.

Furthermore, one probably doesn't **get** all the way **to the end in this life**. You feel that you're still too good for death on the Cross, for you haven't yet realized your total lost and rottenness. As long as you haven't grasped the totally rotten nature of your own flesh, you'll stay constantly preoccupied with yourself. That, by the way, is a typical way of finding out whether one has really been begotten anew from above. People who are preoccupied with themselves are full of self-pity, sensitivity etc., which are typical products of the old nature and of human flesh. As long as Christians remain in these essential sins, they have not yet experienced divine procreation in depth.

A person who has been begotten from God is no longer preoccupied with him- or herself. Paul gives a wonderful example of this in **Gal. 2:20**: *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.* Unfortunately most Christians are still preoccupied with themselves and take themselves much too importantly. Then there's no room in them for the Lord. Christians who are preoccupied only with themselves will never get any farther. For actual salvation is devised such that our old nature is to be discarded together with Christ into the **condition of death**. That's why a Christian no longer lives, but rather Christ in him or her. That's why preoccupation with oneself is a typical indication that divine procreation has not yet been experienced profoundly. Whoever, on the other hand, is no longer preoccupied with him- or herself, has lots of room in his or her life for others and for God's Kingdom, because he or she leaves everything up to the Lord. That is a completely different style of life!

Take a careful look at yourself now: are you still sensitive, do you worry all the time, do you have trouble with people around you? You'll see that, in



practical life, much still revolves around your old Ego. That will continue to be the case until you reach the end of your rope and then have to recognize with Paul that *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.* (**Romans 7:18**). When you've grasped this, you won't waste another moment on your Ego, for there's nothing good in it!

You'll find the Good in you when Christ has been begotten into your mortal flesh and He is your life. That's why it is written: *They looked to Him and were radiant, ...* (**Ps. 34:5**) – or in **Hebrews 12:2a**: *... looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,...* Let us therefore **look up** unto Jesus, the Author and Accomplisher of faith! The idea is simple: you will discover Good in Jesus alone, not in yourself. Thus my suggestion: entrust yourself **entirely unto the Lord** and let go of everything else! This attitude will give you unimaginable freedom for your whole life! If you're no longer preoccupied with yourself, you experience a whole new quality of life. It is exactly the life that the Heavenly Father wishes to beget into you through His Holy Spirit. It is the life of Jesus Christ in you, who then takes care of all your concerns.

Another reason you haven't yet experienced this new begetting could be that you are not **completely dependent on Jesus**. This is a central spiritual secret. You can read about it in Paul's biography in 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 12:1-10. Paul recognized, among other things, that the weaker he felt from a human point of view, the more the life of Jesus Christ unfolded in him.

Therefore your "old nature" must be weakened in order that the life of Jesus Christ can break through. Your old nature, though, will resist this desperately. "Anything but weak" it will cry out. Thus, in order to be strong again, you dissociate yourself as fast as possible from all that is unpleasant and weakens you. As soon as things are under control again, you don't need Jesus anymore. For it seems that you can do everything just as well by yourself, if not better...

Paul discovered this spiritual secret of life: *When I (Paul's old nature) am weak, then I (Christ in me) am strong.* That's why he went on to say: *Thus I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ...* (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 12:10 RSV). Why do those things content him? Because they weakened him to such an extent that he no longer had anything to offer and thus the resurrection-life of Jesus Christ was able to break through. During the difficult circumstances of Paul's life the house of cards didn't collapse, but rather **Jesus Christ manifested His life**.

This is the reason that the challenges of life, the 'difficult experiences' etc. are so necessary and important. Through them you are weakened and broken until you get to the end of your rope. Then you can no longer depend on your own capabilities, but rather on the Lord Jesus alone. That is the point at which the laws of spiritual existence really come into play.

One more thing which can prevent a new begetting: deep down inside you **haven't yet recognized Jesus Christ**. In practical terms that means that you have not yet grasped your **miraculous position and status in Christ** and your **inheritance** from and in Him. Therefore you still live in a state of religious achievement based on wrong motives and in which everything boils down to human industriousness, instead of that Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, manifests Himself in and through you day by day.

A typical test-question: Who, in your opinion, builds in fact the community of the Lord? Most Christians speak of “**our**” community. “**We** build up a community” they say. Always this “we”, this “I”. Do you see that, if it is thus, everything will collapse? One alone builds the actual community, and that is Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Then we are built into it as members through which He will act. Everything, however, that we build ourselves will ultimately collapse and have no eternal permanence.

The previous discussion can be summed up in a single test-question, a question which however is very difficult for the flesh: *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?... (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 13:5)*. With this question you can find out exactly whether you have indeed been newly begotten profoundly and from above!

### Summary

Assuming that these thoughts have convinced you that you have not yet experienced the divine miracle of new begetting or not experienced it properly, what do you do next? My answer is the usual “back to the beginning”, “start over again”, “**return to Go**”!

The following prayer can be helpful for this purpose: “Lord Jesus Christ, I want now to be begotten from above **correctly**. I want You really to become my life – at Your tariff and at Your price – even if it costs everything. I stand before Your Holy Presence and start again from the beginning. I want to experience begetting from the Holy Spirit the way that You have promised it in Holy Scripture.”

Heaven always answers honest and sincere prayer, and this answer will be a deep experience in your **heart**. Turn around, repent and start again from the beginning – it’s nothing bad at all. Much worse is to carry on in hypocrisy and self-righteousness, for the collapse will surely come. And in the last days it will come sooner than most of us would prefer.

On the other hand, everything that truly has been begotten from God will **pass the test** and remain standing in the midst of the greatest challenges. The result will be glorious victories in daily life. Someone might step on your foot and you’ll feel love and heartfelt compassion for that person. You’ll shake your head and wonder “What’s come over me? In the old days I would have given him a punch in the mouth, but now I feel nothing but compassion!”

Something is completely new. In Christ you are *created anew*. And the new creation is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who manifests His life through you. That is supernatural, spiritual life; that is Christ in your mortal flesh, *the hope of glory* (Col. 1:27). So did the Lord promise it to you. Until you have experienced it in this manner, do not by any means be satisfied nor content with your life! For you have yet to experience the most important thing that life has to offer: the secret of **Christ in you**, the hidden life of Christ in you. *When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory (Col. 3:4)*.

It is necessary that you experience this new begetting *from water and Spirit* just as Jesus wanted to teach it to the leading theologian of His time. The theologian in question ought to have known from **Ezekiel 36:25-27** what it was

all about. *Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.*

We shall never know if he ever experienced it. With you it's different, though, the secret has now been presented to you. Being begotten by or from God **is** the most decisive experience of your life. Unfortunately many Christians have experienced this only partially or superficially. If they had experienced in full measure the begetting from above which I have described here, Jesus Christ would manifest Himself through them daily in the manner described in Gospel – not religious performance or achievement, but resting in Christ leads to the manifestation of His life.

What a wonderful Gospel! *How deep a richness of wisdom and of divine knowledge! How incomprehensible are His courts and untraceable His ways! For who has probed His mind, who has advised Him? From, through and for Him are all things! Glory be to Him forever and ever! Amen.*

*“Lord Jesus Christ, I thank You for giving us such a wonderful Gospel. Thank You for never even thinking that we should try to imitate You or to fulfill Your Word with our strength alone. Thank You, Heavenly Father, that You have given us Your Son completely, and that You have promised to beget Him into us in order that we never again lack any thing. Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, for the wonderful decree which Your new life be begotten into us – the life which You once lived here on Earth and which You now live in the presence of Your Father. Thank You, Heavenly Father, that in You we have a new Father and now can be Your true children and even Your Sons and Daughters.*

*I pray You, Lord Jesus Christ, that You encounter all who read these lines, that You meet them deep in their hearts and lead them to the place where they can see themselves for what they are, where they can repent and, broken-hearted and humble, come before You and beg for the miracle of divine procreation. I thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, that You shall do it and exclude no person who sincerely comes before You and knocks. Bless every person who has read these words! Amen.”*

**For further information:**

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