

Chapter 27. The Daily Renewal: His Image

"Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him." – Colossians 3:9-10

"If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him...that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." – Ephesians 4:21, 23, 24

In every pursuit it is important to have a clearly defined goal. It is not enough to have movement and progress; we also have to aim in the right direction to hit the target. When we are in partnership with another person, on whom we depend, we need to know that we both aim at the same target. If we want to attain our goal of daily renewal of the inner man, we need to know and hold on firmly to the purpose of our pursuit. *"You have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge."* The Divine life, the work of the Holy Spirit within us, is not a blind natural force. If we are to be co-workers with God, our co-operation is to be intelligent and voluntary.

*"The new man is being renewed day by day **in knowledge**."* The natural understanding can draw knowledge from the Word, but spiritual knowledge brings life and power, real truth and substance. It is the renewing by the Holy Spirit that gives true knowledge, which does not consist in thought and conception, but in an inward **tasting**, a receiving life from God, not mere words and thoughts.

*"The new man is **renewed** in knowledge."* However diligent our Bible study may be, true knowledge cannot be gained unless one experience spiritual renewal. The *"renewal in the spirit of the mind,"* alone brings true Divine knowledge in the life and inward being.

The true aim of the spiritual knowledge is that *"the new man be renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him."* The true aim is nothing less than the image, the likeness of God. It is the one goal of the Holy Spirit in His daily renewing; and it must be the aim of the believer who seeks to be renewed.

This was God's purpose in creation: *"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."* (**Gen.1:26**). How seldom do we consider the infinite glory of these words? The reason for which God breathed His own life into man, is that it might reproduce in earthly humans a perfect likeness of God in heaven. That image of God was revealed in Christ and seen in human form and likeness. We have been predestined, redeemed and called to be conformed to the image of the Son. We are being taught and transformed by the Holy Spirit, to be imitators of Christ, and to walk as Christ walked. We cannot profit from the daily Bible study and prayer, nor receive the daily renewal, unless we set our heart on what God has set His heart on, *"that the new man be renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him."*

In the second passage quoted in this chapter, we have a similar thought expressed somewhat differently. *"Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."* (**Eph.4:23,24**). Righteousness is God's hatred of sin and upholding of justice. Holiness is God's indescribable glory, in perfect harmony of His righteousness and love, His infinite exaltation above created beings, His desire to be in union with man. Righteousness in man includes God's perfect will for us, our response to Him and our fellowmen. Holiness is our personal relationship to God Himself. As the new man has been created, so it has to be renewed daily, *"according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."* It is to secure this, that the power of the Holy Spirit is working in us. It is to secure this, that He waits for us to daily yield ourselves to Him, to receive His renewing grace and power.

The daily morning hour is the time to secure the daily renewal work of the Holy Spirit, moulding us into the image of God, in true righteousness and holiness. We need meditation on the Word and prayer to get the heart set upon God's goal, and to get a true vision of the wonderful possibility: *"(Our) being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."* (**2 Corinthians 3:18**). Christian! Let this be your aim, your satisfaction, your aspiration: The image of God, the life of God in you, His likeness seen in you. Do not separate God and His likeness anymore. Approach Him, trust Him, find Him, and let Him work His likeness into you by the renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Let this be your daily prayer, to be renewed into the image of your Creator.

Prayer: Holy Spirit of God, I desire to be renewed into the image of my Creator, into the image of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I surrender myself to You to do this work in me, in true righteousness and holiness.