

Morning Nourishment

John ...Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he
3:3 cannot see the kingdom of God.

5 ...Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

14-15 ...As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.

The kingdom of God is not only the reign of God, but also the realm and sphere of the divine life. In order to participate in the reign of God and to be in the divine realm, we need the divine life. Only those who have the divine life can be in the divine realm and share the divine kingdom in which God reigns. Thus, we need to be regenerated that we may have the divine life which enables us to enter into the divine realm and participate in the divine kingdom. Even if we were not fallen or sinful, we would still need to be born again and receive the divine life, because regardless of how good, pure, and clean our human life might be, it cannot qualify us to enter into the divine kingdom. Only the divine life qualifies us to enter into the divine realm. Only the life of God meets the divine requirements of the kingdom of God. Regeneration is the unique entrance into the kingdom of God. (*Truth Lessons—Level One*, vol. 2, p. 176)

Today's Reading

God's kingdom is God Himself, and God's kingdom has God as its content. Moreover, this content is Jesus Christ, who is God incarnated to be a man and who is God Himself as the reality of the kingdom of God. John 3:3 says, "Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God." God's kingdom is a divine realm, and man must have the life of God to enter into it. As we said before, life itself is a kingdom, a world, and a regulating element. Similarly, God's kingdom is God Himself, and God Himself is life, having the nature, ability, and shape of the divine life, which forms the realm of God's reigning. (*The Economy of God and the Mystery of the Transmission of the Divine Trinity*, pp. 44-45)

The kingdom of God is an organism constituted with His divine life, and this kingdom becomes the realm of life for His ruling. He reigns in it by His divine life and expresses Himself in His divine life. It began with the Old Testament saints and is realized in the church in this age. It will be completed in the New Jerusalem in the millennium and ultimately consummated in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth. (*Truth Lessons—Level One*, vol. 2, p. 188)

This kingdom has its reality and this reality is the living of the divine life. Matthew 5 through 7 is not a matter of morality or a high standard of ethics but the living of the divine life by the believers. The living of the divine life is the expression and the practicality of the divine life, so it is the kingdom in reality. (*Elders' Training, Book 2: The Vision of the Lord's Recovery*, p. 49)

The believers, who are born of God by regeneration to be His children in His life and nature but not in His Godhead (John 1:12-13), are more in God's kind than Adam was. Adam had only the outward appearance of God without the inward reality, the divine life. We have the reality of the divine life within us and we are being transformed and conformed to the Lord's image in our entire being. It is logical to say that all the children of God are in the divine realm of the divine species.

Thus, in regeneration God begets gods. Man begets man. Goats beget goats. If goats do not beget goats, what do they beget? If God does not beget gods, what does He beget? If the children of God are not in God's kind, in God's species, in what kind are they? If they are not gods, what are they? We all who are born of God are gods. But for utterance, due to the theological misunderstanding, it is better to say that we are God-men in the divine species, that is, in the kingdom of God. (*Crystallization-study of the Gospel of John*, pp. 123-124)

Further Reading: Truth Lessons—Level One, vol. 2, lsn. 23; *Elders' Training, Book 2: The Vision of the Lord's Recovery*, ch. 4; *Crystallization-study of the Gospel of John*, msg. 12

Enlightenment and inspiration: _____
