

‘GROWING-UP INTO HIM’

Let us look a little more closely into a familiar scripture ...

PAUL'S INSIGHT: Eph 4:15 *But speaking* (thinking alone is not enough) *the truth* (Christ is the truth ... therefore we speak from that life within) *in love, may grow up into Him* (Christ-Truth) *in ALL things* (= everything), *which is the Head, even Christ* (the Head ... the Source of all life ... word made flesh. In the head is the mind of Christ, which we have). Remember that the Source (Father) and the Expression (Jesus Christ, Son) are in us as one. (John 14:23).

John 12:32_ *and I, if I be lifted up from the earth* (here ius an additional look at the ‘earth’ that Christ is lifted up from), *WILL DRAW ALL MEN UNTO ME*. In the Greek original, the actual meaning shown in bibles as “draw”, means “drag”!

GROWTH: There is a basic principle of growth and progress revealed here via nature ... the higher kingdom realm draws the lower expression up into itself changing its essence towards a higher potential.

Col 1:16 *For by him were ALL things created . . . all things were created by him, and for him:* Thus God is the highest order or ‘kingdom’. All things pertaining to all kingdoms lower than His, will be drawn up into Himself ... changed from glory to glory ... each expression of Divine life is glory.

FROM CREATION: Let us look at this pattern in creation. First the natural, being a parable of the spiritual, will lead us into a clearer understanding of what the Spirit in us is achieving. Each part is destined to give up its own life and comfort-zone to be raised. There are minerals in the (our) earth that are in our form from the beginning.

THE LOWEST KINGDOM = **THE MINERAL KINGDOM** . . . there is LIFE and potential in the soil that are in mineral limitations ... but are essential for growth. {the second part of this writing will parallel these stages of growth to our walk in Christ}.

THE NEXT KINGDOM = **THE VEGETABLE KINGDOM**. The plant life will reach down into the soil and draw its life up into itself changing that important aspect of life and potential into ‘plant life’. The result is that the plant can now grow some more because it has an increase of life.

THE NEXT KINGDOM = **THE ANIMAL KINGDOM**. The animal (say a ‘sheep’, as an example) will reach down and eat the plant life, albeit grass, and take it up into itself changing/digesting the expression of that essential lower life into ‘sheep life’ ... with new expectations and new potential.

THE NEXT KINGDOM = **THE HUMAN KINGDOM**. Man will take of the animal life that is produced. . . milk, fats, and meat (the animal itself) . . . and take that form of life and bring it up into itself and change its form into human life. Regarding the ‘meat’ aspect, the animal will lose its life in order to express a higher life — human.

THE HIGHEST KINGDOM = **THE DIVINE KINGDOM** (God's Kingdom) or GOD HIMSELF. God Himself in the form of Christ-Jesus, came to mankind and died for him so that He might take mankind up into Himself. In so doing, He changed 'man-level' of life into God-life. This highest 'kingdom' gives visibility to the invisible God.

Watch this principle in the words from Jesus:

John 6:44 NO MAN CAN COME TO ME, EXCEPT THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME DRAW HIM: *and I will raise him up at the last day.*

John 12:32 AND I, if I be lifted up from the earth, WILL DRAW ALL MEN UNTO ME

Song 1:4 DRAW ME, WE WILL RUN AFTER THEE:

2 Cor 5:17 THEREFORE IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATURE (= CREATION): OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW.

The lower expression of life can do nothing of itself to become a part of the higher expression of life. The Love of God reaches down and draws us up into Himself changing us into GOD-LIFE here on the earth.

2 Cor 3:17 Now **THE LORD IS THAT SPIRIT: AND WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS LIBERTY.** Better translation = **where the Spirit is Lord** . . . the lower expressions of the hidden life are to be experienced. They will bring forth a laying-down of that realm so that they can be changed into higher life. **(18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, ARE CHANGED INTO THE SAME IMAGE from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

THE FAMILY OF GOD

We have seen this principle in creation; now let us look at the GROWTH pattern in the Family of God.

The beginning: **A BABY** — Gk. *brephos* which means 'first-breath'. In our bibles it is rendered *babe, young child, infant*. It is found in scriptures . . .

2 Tim 3:15 *And that from A CHILD thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

When a babe was born, one of the very first things that happened was a locket was placed around the neck of the babe. In this locket there were written scriptures. Therefore it is easy to see that from a babe, Timothy was 'close' to the scriptures.

1 Peter 2:2 *As NEWBORN BABES (*brephos*), desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

A BABE needs milk to grow thereby. A 'baby Christian' needs *the milk of the word* to build into its life a security or assurance. Summarizing . . . **A BABE NEEDS ASSURANCE OF SALVATION** ... he can now be drawn up into the next phase of His growing-up.

The next expression of growth builds upon the former . . . as it were, swallowing it up and bringing it forth in a higher way.

The next expression of life is that of **A TODDLER** — Gk. *nepios* which means ‘not speaking’. In our KJV it is rendered as child, little child, children. References . . .

1 Cor 13:11 When I was a child, I spake AS A CHILD (nepios), I understood AS A CHILD (nepios), I thought AS A CHILD (nepios): but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

Eph 4:14 That we henceforth be no more CHILDREN (nepios), tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Toddlers in the natural realm, will walk (in a wobbly fashion) anywhere and believe anyone or anything. They are easy prey for cults and offbeat teachings. Everything is new to them and they don’t know any better having nothing in themselves to compare new things to. Careful feeding to strengthen these ones is imperative. These young ones in the natural need to be taught discernment . . . what is good and what is evil or bad. What they can touch and where the boundaries are because they can recognise the voices of their parents.

A TODDLER NEEDS DISCERNMENT ... he can now be drawn up into the next phase of His growing-up.

The next category is that of **A CHILD** — Gk. *paidia* and it means one who is *beastly*, from a root word *PAIO* = *to sting or hit*. This refers to a child around the ages of 3 to 12 years of age. The scripture shows this as ‘little children’ as in . . .

1 John 2:1 My LITTLE CHILDREN (paidia), these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

(13) I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, LITTLE CHILDREN (paidia), because ye have known the Father.

LITTLE CHILDREN . . . or a CHILD needs to be taught discipline . . . to be obedient to Father’s voice and desire (will). They need to be shown what their heavenly Father desires . . . they need to be instructed in *the ways of hearing His voice* and getting revelation from God’s Word. If they do not learn these basics, then they will move in rebellion and become unteachable — the result being that they do not grow.

A CHILD NEEDS DISCIPLINE ... he can now be drawn up into the next phase of His growing-up.

The next stage of growth is that of **A TEENAGER**. The Gk. word is *neaniskos* and mean *one fully of energy* and is rendered *young man* or *youth* in the Word. It will be found in . . .

1 John 2:12 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.

(13) I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, YOUNG MEN (neaniskos), because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

(14) I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, YOUNG MEN (neaniskos), because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

These young adults . . . growing but not yet mature . . . have boundless energy to do the things that they like. In the spirit, they need to see victory in their lives as they learn to rely upon the word of the Lord, and see Him come through as they yield to Him. If this does not happen, then they will become frustrated which will produce failure and their energies will be channelled into other things . . . probably not spiritual. It is essential that each one receives AND moves in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the

subsequent Gifts of the Spirit. This is their equipment for victory.

TEENAGERS NEED TO EXPERIENCE VICTORY ... he can now be drawn up into the last phase of His growing-up.

The last category or height to attain unto is that of **A FATHER**. The Gk. word is *pater* and means simply *father*. A 'father' is one who can reproduce the life that he has. In the spirit, we need to reproduce the life of Christ in others.

Found in the word in . . .

1 Cor 4:14 I write not these things to shame you, but as MY BELOVED SONS (pater) I warn you.

(15) For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many FATHERS (pater): for in Christ Jesus I HAVE BEGOTTEN you through the gospel.

Paul was a 'father' without doubt! 'Fathers' need to produce . . . sow seed, nurture it and see the harvest in young lives. If mature ones do not reproduce, then they will become full of apathy!

A FATHER NEEDS TO REPRODUCE THE LIFE THAT HE HAS ... or he will dry up. Our Father, El Elyon, is in the 'business' of reproducing His life in His mature 'sons'.

An interesting note on the word 'schoolmaster' in the KJV.

Gal 3:24 Wherefore the law was our SCHOOLMASTER to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

The 'law' is an instruction as to what should be done and how it is to be accomplished.

The word 'schoolmaster' is *paidagogen*. *PAIDA* as we have seen is **CHILD**: *GOGON* means **CONDUCTOR**. Thus the word means 'CHILD-CONDUCTOR' rather like our 'School-bus-drivers' that take the children to the instructors. When 'law' has accomplished its work in Christ, the instruction becomes a 'promise' whereby one does not 'have to' do it but 'wants' to do it.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

It is necessary for young children to be under 'law' so that they become disciplined to Father's voice . . . they will be 'free' to become 'His Prisoner'.§