

# “The Essentials Of Our Faith”

## Session XVIII

February 13, 2011

### “IDENTIFICATION” TRUTH: “Rest” – The Result Of Reckoning!

“Thank God for our needs! They are the primary impetus toward His abundant life. Remember the wretchedness, agony, and frustration we knew, with very little hope or assurance that things would ever improve? We were overwhelmed by problems, and not yet aware of His answer to them. But we continued on in desperation, for deep within our spirit there was the constant yearning for freedom from struggle and rest in His life. Our striving ebbed and flowed, but there was never a moment of rest. During our enslavement by sin and self, the faithful indwelling Spirit did not let us give up.”

*“Leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity (full growth).” Hebrews 6:1*

“As hungry and growing Believers, we press on – but we do not press to ‘produce’. The Holy Spirit instills within our being a determination that will not be denied, a hunger that must be satisfied. Our ‘pressing on’ to His very best is fostered by the fact that we will never be satisfied in ourselves, but we will always be satisfied in Him. We are ever being drawn forward because of our realized need for freedom and growth.”

*“This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus,”*  
**Philippians 3:13-14**

“When the Holy Spirit has brought us into the depths of Romans 7 (‘struggle’), we have learned enough about self to acknowledge that it brings forth nothing but death (Rom. 7:24). Then it is that the Spirit centers our attention anew on the Lord Jesus, and we realize that He, not our futile struggling, has provided freedom from our bondage.”

*“Who shall deliver me . . . ? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*  
**Romans 7:24,25**

“Thus, when our reliance is wrenched away from self and every other broken reed, the Spirit has us prepared to rest on the written Word and in the Living Word. By means of the identification truths, the Spirit shows us the finished work of the Cross and our life in Christ, and we begin to reckon.”

--Miles Stanford

***“But how to get faith strengthened, not by striving after faith, but by RESTING in the faithful One.”*** --Hudson Taylor

“What a difference our new reliance on the Truth makes! We press on with more determination than ever, and with a greater hunger for His best. But now, the wonderful contrast is that in the midst of our pressing on, there is rest; **the struggle is gone**. We have entered into His rest because we know the facts; we know our **position** of freedom through the Cross, and **Life** abundant in our risen Lord. Now we have the assurance that, as we reckon on the truths, the Holy Spirit will cause us to grow in them daily. **There is rest in the midst of growth!**” --Miles Stanford

**Note:** *“We have entered into His rest because we know the facts . . .”*

## **Helpful Application**

### **A. Application One: Daily taking our “Position” → “Union with Christ!”**

*“By considering the **old man** to have been crucified at Calvary, he is ‘**put off**’ daily (Rom. 6:11a). By considering ourselves as newly created in the risen Lord Jesus, we ‘**put on**’ the **new man** (Rom. 6:11b). As we escape self’s reign of death, we enter into Christ’s reign of **life**.”*

#### **1. Put Off the Old:**

**a. Fact:** Positionally, we are separated from the old Adamic nature in our identification with Christ on the Cross, Rom. 6:6; Col. 3:9.

**b. Faith:** By faith in our new, sanctified position, we turn from, we consider as crucified, the principle of sin and self within. We count ourselves to be new creations in Christ, having died to sin and self. That is our part in ‘putting off’ the old man that God “put off” at the Cross, Eph. 4:22.

**(c. Say It: “I am no longer ‘in Adam’ as my source of life!”)**

#### **2. Put On the New:**

**a. Fact:** At our new birth we were recreated in Christ, and our Christian life is now ‘hid with Him in God,’ Col. 3:3,4.

**b. Faith:** By faith in the positional fact that our Father has placed us in His Son, we abide in Him, we acknowledge our place in Him. By faith, we stand in the position He has already given us, Rom. 13:14; Eph. 4:24; 6:14”

**(c. Say It: “I am now ‘in Christ’ as my source of life!”)**

--Miles Stanford

## B. Application Two: The essential “steps” to Effective Reckoning.

*“The **reckoning that counts** is made up of three essential steps. Most Believers stop at the first, many stop at the second, but none can **know** the true results of **reckoning** apart from all three factors.”* --Miles Stanford

### 1. **“Know” and “Reckon”:**

*“ . . . our knowledge becomes a set ‘**heart attitude**’: I have died to sin; I am alive in Christ to God (Rom. 6:11)”* --Miles Stanford

*--Our experience in spiritual “growth”:*

*“ . . . always delivered unto **death** . . . that the **life** also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh (body),” II Cor. 4:11.*

*“Life-out-of-death reckoning results in our becoming a living sacrifice. Such a one is always delivered to **death** – but, out of that daily death, **new life** is constantly manifested. . . . This taking up our Cross renders us a ‘grain of wheat’, and results in our losing our old life. The Holy Spirit buries us here in this situation and there in that location, so that we might not abide alone but that there may be a rich harvest of golden grain ‘for Jesus’ sake’. It is comforting to realize that the same process of the **Cross** that holds the old man crucified, causes the new man to be manifested. The burial of the ‘grain of wheat’ makes the old life powerless, and the new life fruitful (John 12:24,25). . . . Some of the ‘**graves**’ out of which His sacrificial life arises are the ministry, the mission field, the home, the school, the hospital, and the place of employment. Are these not the very places in which His **resurrection life** must be manifested, where His **poured-out life** needs to be shared and received? **It is as we RECKON on our heavenly POSITION that we are able to REST in any ‘grave’!**”* --Miles Stanford

*--**Question:** Do I have this “heart attitude” toward the sovereign “grave” God has given me for my growth?*

### 2. **“Abide” and “Rest”:**

*“ . . . we are a branch in the True Vine. By means of this **awareness** we learn to abide. We simply rest where we have been newly created – in Christ.”* --Miles Stanford

*--Our experience:*

*“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, so neither can you . . .,” John 15:4.*

*"All through the years of defeat, we have been slowly learning that the harder we tried to live the Christian life the deeper we came under the dominion of the law of sin. We tried be 'be', we tried to 'do', and there was nothing but failure year in and year out. . . . As long as we were dependent on our own resources, all we produced was sin; we hungered for life, and brought forth death. But in the midst of our wretched attempts to be delivered from the 'body of this death' (Rom. 7:24), our faithful Father was teaching us what we had to know for our freedom in Christ: self is our greatest enemy, Christ is our only hope!"*

*--Miles Stanford*

*"Here again we must be reminded that the power for deliverance from the law does not reside in the fact that we have died to it, but in our relationship to the risen Liberator, 'Christ the power of God,' I Cor. 1:24. . . . when we rest in our risen Lord we are more aware of His sufficiency than we are of the claims of law on us, and we are able to walk in the 'liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free,' Gal. 5:1."*

*--Miles Stanford*

*--Note:*

*"Not only is the 'written Word' to be counted on, but the 'Living Word' is to be rested in."*

### **3. "Depend" and "Walk":**

*"Deep within our spirit He (the Holy Spirit) abides forever, and there, through our study, He teaches us the truth of our position. Then, as we reckon on the truth taught, He applies the crucifixion of the Cross to the old man, and ministers the life of Christ to the new (man)."*

*--Miles Stanford*

*--Our experience:*

*" . . . walk by (depend upon) the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh," Gal. 5:16.*

*"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death," Rom. 8:2.*

*"There is actually a dual application in the truth of Romans 8:1-2. Concerning the future, the 'law of the Spirit of life in Christ' has freed us from the eternal condemnation of the law of sin and death. As to the present, the Holy Spirit ministers the life of the Lord Jesus within for our daily walk, progressively freeing us from the power of sin and the deadly influence it spawns. . . . Especially in our early years as Believers, most of us have felt that it was our responsibility, with the Lord's help, to live the Christian life. Our unqualified failure in attempting to do so has been the Holy Spirit's means of showing us*

that we cannot ‘produce’, nor are we meant to. Only the Lord Jesus can live His life through us; and He does this as we reject our own resources, to walk in reliance upon the Spirit of Life. . . . What it takes years for us to learn thoroughly is that the Holy Spirit ministers **ALL**. . . . It is especially important for us that He is the **Spirit of Life**. Even though we are alive in Christ Jesus, we have no POWER by which to live the new life; for that, as well as everything else, we must rely on the Holy Spirit. . . . There is only one true and adequate motivating power for living the Christian life, and that is the very life of the Lord Jesus – ministered within by the Spirit of Life Himself.” --Miles Stanford

--Note:

“Our reckoning becomes effective as we count on the Word, abide in the Lord, and walk in the Spirit.”

## **Concluding Observation:** **The Two “Ordinances” of the Church Picture Identification Truth!**

### **1. Water Baptism:**

“Actually, our water baptism is to be a testimony of our ‘reckoning’. We ‘count’ ourselves to have been baptized into (place in union with) the Lord Jesus by the Spirit, and therefore we died to sin with Him, were buried with Him, and arose in Him, Rom. 6:3-4. The testimony of this ‘reckoning’ is carried out in pictorial form by our being baptized in (placed in) water, which covers us in burial, from which we arise to ‘walk in newness of life.’ We are confessing that we died and were buried, as far as the old source of life is concerned, and now are risen as new creations to walk in the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. . . . Water baptism testifies to our ‘position’: we have died to the old life, and are alive in the new.” --Miles Stanford

**Summary:** The testimony of our Baptism is a once-for-all picture of our reckoning on Christ’s finished work, and represents our position.

### **2. The Lord’s Table:**

“The Lord’s Supper sets forth our ‘experience’ (‘condition’): we are being conformed to His death, so that His life may be manifested. We do not leave the influence of the Cross to live, but we continually receive the benefit of its emancipation for our walk in newness of life. --Miles Stanford

**Summary:** The Lord’s Supper is a continuous picture of our being conformed to His death, and has to do with our condition. We confess that we are continually participating in His death, via reckoning, that His resurrection life may be increasingly manifested in our bodies.