

Growing Up in the Faith

—*Thy Will be Done*—

Peter J. Scott . transcribed 2019

This week there were a lot of things that could have gotten me down. One was my dishwasher wasn't working again! Can anybody relate to this? It wasn't the drain. This time it was the drain pump. The check valved got clogged up and the hose needed cleaning but was too long for the snake. After I got it all done, it's working again, perfectly. I went out to inspect the dishes this morning and there wasn't even a crumb on top of the upside down coffee cup, nothing there. Clean. Ready to go again for however long the machine decides to work.

That's kind of like us when we come in to worship the Lord. We need a good cleaning out. We're clogged; my check valves are not working right. We think about the songs we sing, they are pretty basic Christian doctrine songs, nothing intellectual about them. Just, "*God, help us to walk. How do we even do that? We need faith; we look to You for things.*" You would think that we should be in a place where that's "old" for us. But it is not, is it? You wonder why it isn't that way. It is because we need our "check valves" cleaned out.

Going through the world systems, we get all gooked up. In 1 Corinthians 13 it says,

¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.

Do you remember Dale Rumble's teaching on "Nepios"? A Nepios is a baby. It is almost a derogatory term because it is a baby who isn't even able to use words yet. Scripture says we need to do something about that, to study, to show oneself approved, to climb out of this childlike thinking Listen to this in Ephesians 4:11-15.

¹¹ So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, . . .

On a side note, can anyone here tell us what our weakness is here at Fountain? Which one do we need most, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, or teachers? I'll give you a clue. I think it is the evangelists. Do you know who the evangelist is in our midst? Brad Gore! We need to look at that.

So why did God give us these ascension gifts for the Church?

¹² . . . to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

So that's the goal. Our goal isn't to become a great Nepios. Our goal is to become a part of the Bride of Christ. Our goal is to grow up into the image and character of Christ. That we should no longer be children. And here is the context of what I will be discussing today.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching . . .

Oh, did you hear what somebody said on the Internet, or this teacher said or this doctrine?

. . . and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

Be aware that men can trick you. Sounds like the stuff that's coming out of Washington right now. So what is our goal in becoming a mature man?

¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, . . .

There is a dearth of truth and love in this world, except for the Body of Christ. And we are to grow up into it so that we are not just speaking as children, only talking about the latest doctrine, the latest "tricks," what sounds good to our ears, but rather, what is true in the gospel. It isn't going to be out of your intellect. It isn't necessarily going to be out of the wonderfulness of your "revelation." It is just going to be the truth. Wouldn't that be refreshing! Yeah. You are going to grow up, no longer babies in all things.

. . . we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ.

Isn't that good stuff? That's good bible.

Outline

We are going to be going over a scripture text this morning of which you are all familiar with, one of my dearest, *John chapter three*. Before we get there I want to outline some of the things that you are going to see there.

1) The Gospel of the Keys to the Kingdom. Enter by the Front Door of Repentance. (Acts 3:28)

2) Being Born Again. The Power of Baptism to break the Power of Adam's Sin. (Romans 6:6)

3) Being Led by the Spirit. Like Wind (in the Presence of God). (Acts 15:28) It seemed good to the Holy Spirit.

4) Christ the Center. (John 6:60) Where else can we go?

5) Set Apart in the midst of this Perverse Generation. (Philippians 2:15) So that you may become blameless and pure, "Children of God," without fault in a warped and crooked Generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.

6) A Different Standard of Conduct. Not self-focused, not other focused but focused on God's Heart, Intent and Purposes. (1 Corinthians 13:5) Not Self Seeking.

7) The Father will make it Happen! Thy Will be Done. (Hillary Scott - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAmh3yvmzXs>)

The Gospel, the Good News.

Firstly you need to see the gospel, the good news, that which we know as our foundation, to be the keys to the Kingdom of God. There is no other way that you can get into the Kingdom of God except through the cross, except through the door of repentance, except for believing in our Lord Jesus Christ. I don't understand this: A lot of people will refer to the Lord as Lord, the Lord as God, the Lord as Father, all of those are good. But how often we often we just fail to mention the Holy **name** of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the One who saved us. He is our Savior. That name may be an offense to many but it is not an offense to me. It is about time I start using it more. Not in a swear word but one of hope, one of encouragement. "*Jesus, help me.*" Those who call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved.

Born-Again

The second one you will need is to be born-again. This is a word we've heard over and over and over again. It has so much power because as we are born into this world we have genealogies of a father and mother which we constantly look at. But John says, "*You are not born of flesh and blood, but you are born of the Spirit.*" So Jim, Brian, your dad and mom didn't bring you into this world, the Spirit of God did. It wasn't by the will of your father and mother but it was the will of God who knew you even before you were conceived. He knew you when you were in the womb. Jesus knew you. Isn't that good. Being born-again is a part of our foundation.

Led by the Spirit

Number three, we need to be totally, completely led by the Spirit. What else could we be led by? Well, it could almost be anything else that would clog up the dishwasher. But we need to be led by the Holy Spirit! The Wind of God! In the New Testament, it says over and over again, "*they were led by the Spirit.*" Acts 15:28,

²⁸ *It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us . . .*

How many times when you make a decision have you said, "*Well I thought it was a good idea when I prayed.*" Or, "*I went to the elders. I shared it at the home-group.*" Rather what about, "*It seemed good to the Holy Spirit.*"?

It is quoted many times in the book of Acts. "*It seemed good to the Holy Spirit, the person of Christ and the Holy Spirit. It seemed good to Him.*"

Christ is the Center

Number four, Christ is the center, the focus, the anchor. I don't know how else to say that. Jesus Christ and the work He did for us is our hope, nothing else. I have no hope in my car. Nice car but I don't really have much hope there because all of the nice cars I've had before don't look like much now. Hah! The best vehicle I ever rode was Farmall M Tractor. It had power like you would never believe and I don't even know if it exists anymore. It got crushed. I don't know. My hope is in the Lord.

Set Apart

Number five, and this is the one that gets us *especially in America*, we need to be set apart in the midst of this perverse generation, Philippians 2:15,

¹⁵ . . . so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation."

Well, it's not so bad. Yes it is! Yes it is. It is warped and crooked.

Now it doesn't mean you cannot love those who are in the world. I saw on the Internet this week, "*Love everybody. I'll sort it out later.*" But keep in mind, this is a crazy world! A crazy place with crazy ideas, ones that sneak in the back door. Like, maybe it is okay for us to fund abortions or something like that. They say maybe that is okay. **NO**, not on any level. It is not. In Philippians 2:15 it says when you keep yourself blameless and pure. . . It is your responsibility to turn away from pornography. It is your responsibility to turn away from theft and sin in any of its form, even bitterness. When you do that and it happens, the text says,

. . . *Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky . . .*

When you do that they will see the difference. They'll see a dim planet that is fading and then they'll see you, a shining star, because you kept yourself blameless. You turned away from sin, something you do by the help and grace of the Holy Spirit. You cannot do it by yourself only, but YOU make the choice, you purpose to keep yourself holy before God.

Standard of Conduct

Now numbers six is that there is a different standard of conduct for you. Your standard of conduct is much different. First of all, it is not self-focused. What happened to *me* today. What is going to happen to *me* tomorrow. What do *I* need to do? What do *I* need not to do? But in the Lord, something changes in your conduct and behavior because your thoughts now are not just focused on YOU anymore. What are they focused on then? Primarily the center, Jesus Christ, King of Kings, Lord of Lords. I love the way worship was introduced this morning, "*Let us worship the King.*" Thank you for calling Him King, because He is a King! He is not only a King. He is *my* King. He is the one in charge,

not me. I am no longer self-focused. Even if I tried to be, the Holy Spirit corrects me.

Now when I was reading in Ephesians last time, the whole concept of *“I can make tomorrow better. I’ll do things better. It is going to be better when my 401K comes in. It is going to be better if I move to Arizona or Florida”* changes. The scripture in Ephesians says that when you think like that it is evil. This is because we are just a vapor from the point of view of the world. You are just here for a little while and phew, you are gone. You should rather say, *“Lord willing, I will do. Lord willing, it shall take place.”* I used to think that was a little old fashioned to speak like my mom and dad used to. I would say, *“Dad, are you going to go fishing tomorrow?”* He’d respond, *“Lord willing.”* I would ask myself why he had to say stupid things like that. Well, he had probably read Ephesians. Maybe not but it was a conduct or standard to live by. It was out there in a Christian context.

We are not to be self-focused but we are to be focused on the heart, the intent and the purposes of God the Father.

The Father’s Will be Done

Number seven, it is God the Father’s will that shall be done. Jesus even tells us to pray like that, doesn’t He? Thy will be done here on earth just like it is in heaven. So, that is in your life, your surrounding community, your country, the world. Thy will be done. We are going to have Hillary Scott sing a country song later on to us, *“Thy Will be Done.”*

John Chapter Three

Typical of the way the enemy works and the way we work in our society and because of the fear of men, we start this way,

3¹ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. . .

So he was a recognized leader. In all the affairs of the community, he would be one you would want to know. This man came to Jesus by night. Why? Yeah, he was afraid. So strong men can be afraid because their reputation might be ruined. Or who knows all the reasons. Or just because he was afraid.

2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

That is a true statement and yet Jesus rebukes him.

3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born-again.”

So He is saying it isn’t just the works. You cannot do the works and get in there. You need to be born-again. Born-again means you put on the new man in

water baptism. The old man is buried in the waters of baptism. You know the doctrine. And the old man stays there! When you come out of the water you are living in the new, resurrected life. There is a new man, a new John, a new Bob, a new Brian, a new Crystal, a new Peter, one that has a destiny, being born-again.

Now you have probably heard this before. Most people mis-interpret metamorphosis of the caterpillar becoming a butterfly. The caterpillar goes into the chrysalis and “magic” happens and out comes the butterfly. It is a wonderful illustration of being born-again. However it is even more interesting when you approach the subject from embryology. Because you see, in the caterpillar there are *two embryos*, one that will be the caterpillar itself, and then another (twin) that is waiting to be born-again. When that chrysalis is formed the caterpillar’s old self dies off. The only thing left is the twin embryo and it eats all that is there. Just like your old man, it isn’t worth much, a little food. That’s it. Then out comes this butterfly. The butterfly then never knew what it was like to be a caterpillar. Isn’t that interesting?

Your new man is so different from the old man it doesn’t know how to respond to it. That’s why you need to put the old man off, put him away. It’s stuff that doesn’t belong to you any more. You might say, *“Oh, it is just my old nature.”* Well excuse me but your old nature doesn’t exist in the mind of the butterfly, your new man. You are called to be a new creature in Christ, being born-again.

So that gives you a little better understanding of what it means to be born-again from an embryologists point of view. It matters not, but Nicodemus carried on, saying,

⁴*“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”*

Jesus rebukes him a second time.

⁵*Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.*

Being born of water is what? Baptism in water. Being born in the Spirit means baptism in the Spirit, being drenched, overflowing, exhibiting the gifts and the fruits of the Spirit. These things are essential to understanding and walking in the Kingdom of God. Everyone of us here in this room, understands that. We need our check valves rinsed out. We need our dishwasher to work again,

⁶*“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*

Why does Jesus say the obvious things?! Have you ever watched a TV show and they say a line that is too obvious for everybody? NCIS, Gibbs says to his second in command, *“Don’t forget your gun.”* Duh. So why does Jesus say the obvious? *To encourage us. To strengthen us.* Strengthen us so we don’t have to think about it.

I've used this illustration before. When you are in a ball field and everybody is talking it up in the infield, *"He usually goes to you Peter on the second base so be alert. You can do this! You've got what you are good at. You can do this!"* Over and over again they are yelling to me. *"Good job. No problem."* Why are they saying it? *To encourage me!* I already know this but I need encouragement. We all need encouragement, to encourage one another, not just when we come to Church to worship but at every opportunity. Not to tear each other down but to encourage. It is easy to tear each other down. Agreed? But it is another thing when you want to encourage somebody. You need a little more insight into what their life is about. What is God really doing in their life that you need and want to encourage? That means you should be praying for them.

He says, *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit."* Another words the old man cannot be the new man and the new man cannot be the old. There is no mixture of the two. You need to separate yourself from the world, separate yourself from the natural person and be a spiritual person. That means you cannot just think about a problem and make it happen. You need to *pray* to the Lord and He will give you wisdom in the Holy Spirit. And, He will be with you.

⁷ *"You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born-again.' . .*

Here Jesus talks about being led by the Spirit. We tend to think that the Spirit is full of wisdom and is going to give us a logical plan. Not necessarily.

. . . ⁸ *"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*

There is a sense that you are not going to be able to figure it out. We want control. We want to know what is going to happen. I do, that is part of what it is to be a natural man. However, there is spiritual man in here that says, *"I want to shed off and put away just knowing things in the natural way. I want the new creative Spirit of the Lord within me to come up with a plan that I would never have thought about, that He would build a city not built with hands."* The Church is not built by the hands of man. It is built by the Spirit of God. That is our vision here at the Fountain of Life, that we would have a Church built by the hands of God not by men.

Well Nicodemus, still in the natural mode, says,

⁹ *"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.*

He understood it intellectually but now he has to say, *"Do I really agree with this? How can this be? Is there a logical way You can lead me to this?"* Jesus answered rebuking him again almost insultingly now for the third time,

¹⁰ *"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"* ¹¹ *Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we*

testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.

So, it is interesting that Jesus doesn't care about the logic. He wants you to know Him personally, and the character of Christ. If you know the character of this person, anything they say has to be true. *"You would have accepted and received our witness by just knowing Me the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, not if I make logical sense."* Wouldn't it be nice if people came to the Lord not because of what they are going to get from Him but because He is just Lord of Lords.

¹² *"I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?"*

Earthly things would be born-again? What is He talking about? Earthly things? The wind? He's giving Nicodemus ideas but now He is going to give him something different altogether, the heavenly things. Here's the truth, the true truth unvarnished.

¹³ *"No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man."*

Jesus, the eternal Jesus, here on the earth as a man, is speaking as the eternal Jesus who is in heaven and can step through time. *"If you want to talk about heavenly things, Nicodemus, do you think you can understand that one?!"* I don't know of too many theologians who will even approach that verse. How can Jesus do that except as being the exact representation of the Father. "I am." Then, going back to what we should be focused on, He says,

¹⁴ *"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,"* ¹⁵ *that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him."*

This is in reference to the Old Testament when people would be bitten by a snake in the desert, the Lord told Moses to lift up this pole with the snake on it. When the people gazed on it they would recover. This changed their focus from being bitten to being healed. The Son of Man is the same way for you. You cannot look to the world for your salvation, you cannot look to your logic and your own understanding. You need to be focused on the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, the center. He is the only One who can save you in your circumstance, no matter how complex., no matter how unique and different it may be. No matter how hurtful and painful it may seem to you, Jesus is still the only answer. Amen.

As you believe in Him you shall not perish but have **eternal life**. What a wonderful thing. We want eternal life after we die but it is also the eternal life here and now. We have this eternal life resident within us that will refuse to die. You see Satan would like you to die now, nevermind when you die in the flesh. He would like you to die now. When it comes to you and the circumstances and the trickery of men, in any way he comes to you, he speaks, *"You need to die. There is no hope for you. There is no salvation for you."* But you will say, "Oh

yeah, there is by the way.” A smile comes to my face, “Oh yeah, I don’t care what you are saying. I’m focused on my Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes (relies, trusts, focuses) on Him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

Isn’t that interesting? These are no longer the worldly things Jesus is talking to Nicodemus about. He is talking now about things that one cannot possibly hope to understand unless you have the Holy Spirit within.

I thought that Jesus was sent into the world to condemn the world, to make a difference. This is the world and this is not the world. This is the flesh and this is the Spirit. That’s not really what He is talking about here. He is saying that there is something else out there that is doing the work of condemning. It doesn’t mean it is from God.

¹⁸ Whoever believes in Him (Jesus) is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

Jesus Christ, King of Kings, Lord of Lords. The condemnation is not believing in Him. How can you believe in something that you don’t understand and don’t have a logical sequence to get to it? The only way is through the Holy Spirit.

And so, when you evangelize you pray for those that you are evangelizing so that the Holy Spirit will stir them up, turn over the soil of their heart. That somehow they can break through all this logic and nonsense of this world and you can say, “*You know, the cross can save you! Someone dying on the cross can deliver you from all your sin. Someone on that cross can change you from this world to the Kingdom of God.*” So he who doesn’t believe is condemned already. This is the condemnation.

Now here is an interesting verse because it outlines for us how we might judge, if we should at all. It says,

¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light . . .

Now why would anybody do that? When I come into the kitchen in the morning, the room is dimly lit by the windows, so I turn on *all* of the lights. I could really see without them. There is enough light to see by but I want LIGHT! This is morning. I want to be awake! There is something I love about light. Amen. Well in this case they loved darkness but here is the reason,

. . . because their deeds were evil.

When you have something to hide you don't want to come into the light to have it exposed. That is the modus operandi of the world. So many people and politicians are governed by that rather than the Spirit of the Living God.

²⁰ *Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.*

Here is a different conduct for you,

²¹ *But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.*

I have been in situations and meetings in which the accuser of the brethren has come and said to me, "*Peter, you didn't do this correctly. You could have done that better.*" I could have hidden myself by saying, "*Well I don't know. Maybe you are right; I could have done it better.*" However there are some things that I know are not that but are true and pure. If you know that they are true and pure then you need to make it known, So you come into the light and say, "*Oh, I am sorry. You are absolutely one hundred percent **incorrect**. I am glad I don't have you as a friend because I don't want friends who come around and condemn me like that.*"

Maybe you have never been there? But, if you have siblings you probably went through this more than once. People accuse you of things you didn't do. So God is saying to turn away from the evil things of this world. You are going to come into a place of purity. You aren't going to be perfect right away but that's your goal. That's your purpose. That's what you want. That's what God is doing in you, making you into and forming the character of Christ in you. He has placed in you the "hope of glory." We're not going to hide that. We aren't going to hide that from the enemy when he comes into the room either. I know how to respond, "*Evil is evil and Good is good.*"

Interestingly this week, our president, Donald Trump, came into a Church for prayer. Later on the pastor apologized to some disgruntled persons for having done so. Let me tell you something. If our governor Mario Cuomo came into this Church, I'd pray for him and ask you to pray with me, irregardless of any evil he might have done. If he's asking for prayer we are not going to withhold it from him or anyone. That is because we are a Church that doesn't condemn the world. *We show the love of God.* God will sort it out.

We need to be people of truth, people who are rooted and fundamentally not shaken by the winds of doctrine, by the things of this world, because of these words that are written in John chapter three. These are all wonderful, ancient words for us that we embrace totally and completely. We know them so well we often don't really "hear" them any more. They outline for us what the Kingdom of God is and its entrance. They outline for us what it means to be born-again. We use that word so much we might not understand it. It outlines for us what it means to walk in the Spirit, that wind, the creative breath of God. It outlines for

us that we need to keep Christ central in our lives. It outlines for us that we are in a perverse generation and we need to walk away from it, being children of God.

It outlines for us that we need a different standard of conduct. And lastly, as Jesus is well aware, it tells us that nothing can happen outside of the will of God. In Jesus' life, He may have had a choice in the garden. But He didn't have a choice. *"Nevertheless, not My will but Yours be done."* He understood that no matter how He felt about the circumstances, or how deep the hurt that was in His heart in that circumstance, or what disease, no matter what process, that there was something that was in the love of God that could not be broken or shaken. Amen.

Now the song I'm going to play by Hillary Scott and family, a country singer, starts out, *"I am so confused."* Have some of you ever come to that place? Yeah. And how often! Well she makes a statement from that point of view. *"I'm so confused. I'm hurt. I don't know too much more than that."* But she does know one thing that God the Father's will be done. And she asks for it just like the Lord taught us to pray. So I would ask us to listen to this song and drink it in.

The Faith of a Confused Believer:

Hillary Scott and Family

I'm so confused
I know I heard You loud and clear
[The prophetic voice of God in Prayer.]
So, I followed You
Somehow I ended up here
I don't wanna think
I may never understand
That my broken heart is a part of Your plan
When I try to pray
All I've got is hurt and these four words
Thy will be done
Thy will be done
Thy will be done
I know You're good
But this don't feel good right now
And I know You think
Of things I could never think about
It's hard to count it all joy
Distracted by the noise
Just trying to make sense
Of all Your promises
Sometimes I gotta stop
Remember that You're God
And I am not

So
Thy will be done
Thy will be done
Thy will be done

Like a child on my knees all that comes to me is
Thy will be done
Thy will be done
Thy will be done

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAmh3yvmzXs>)

Well thank You, Lord Jesus. If you are in that place or have been, you know and understand what she is singing. I love the idea that she understands the prophetic nature of a relationship with God. God is talking to her. *“I hear You, Lord, I just want to discern You correctly. It looks like a mistake to me though. Why am I hurting?”* And then she comes to the Lord. We all need to do that. So,

Father, we thank You this day. You have brought every one of us through circumstances in our life that were hurtful. And yet, Your lovingkindness is there for us. Now we embrace it. We hold on dearly. And You would have us to walk on water again for sure. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Amen.