

Readings from the Word of God

13 December 2020

Luke 1:26-38 (NKJV)

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favoured one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

²⁹ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible."

³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

True Christianity §510

Before repentance, we stand outside regeneration. In that condition, if any thought of eternal salvation somehow makes its way into us, we at first turn toward it but soon turn away.

True Christianity §587

[W]e are reformed by means of truths that our intellect receives. Truths teach us who to believe in, what to believe, and also what to do and what to will.

During the phase called our reformation, we come to mentally see and admit that evil is evil and goodness is good, and make the decision to choose what is good. When we actually try to abstain from evil and do what is good, the phase called our regeneration begins.

Luke 1:46-55 (NKJV)

- 46 "My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour.
48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.
49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
And holy is His name.
50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him
From generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones,
And exalted the lowly.
53 He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich He has sent away empty.
54 He has helped His servant Israel,
In remembrance of His mercy,

55 As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and to his seed forever.”

Divine Providence §§118-119

A person has to put away evils from their external self as if of themselves. ...

The Lord then purifies the person of the lusts for evil in their internal self and of the evils themselves in their external self. ... [T]he Lord cannot purify a person of them before. For evils reside in the external self, and lusts for evil in the internal self, and the two go together like roots with a trunk. Unless the evils are put away, therefore, no opening is given; for they block the way and close the door, which the Lord can open only through the agency of the person.... Thus when a person as though of themselves opens the door, the Lord at the same time then roots out the lusts.