

Fruits of the Spirit

To be born again is to be "born from above" (TUB 142:6.5), said Jesus. "With the eyes of the flesh you can behold the manifestations [in your material mind] of the spirit [from above], but you cannot actually discern the spirit [in your spiritualized mind, above]." (ibid.) You are not yet actually God-knowing; but as a faith son of God, you "truly" know about God. And, having been born again: "The consciousness of the spirit domination [from above] of a human life is presently attended by an increasing exhibition of the characteristics of the Spirit in the life reactions of such a spirit-led mortal, 'for the fruits of the spirit are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance'." (TUB 34:6.13) [The Bible quote is from KJV Gal:5.22-23, as modified by the revelators.] As one example, this consciousness of the spirit domination from above obviously yields "meekness", as elucidated in paragraph 140:5.11 of The Urantia Book.

Now, indeed, Jesus said, "I would lead you up" (TUB 149:6.3)--from being born again, into an evolutionary religion of fear--to being born again, again, into a revelatory religion of love: "But it is still true of those who sit in darkness that 'the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom'." (TUB 149:6.5) [The Bible quote is from KJV Psa:111.10; also, see KJV Pro:1.7, Pro:9.10, and my explanation of "Born Again, Again", for an understanding of the mindal physics.] With this qualification, by Jesus, firmly in mind--in my reflections entitled "Unquestioning Loyalty", I say: "To be born again is to be 'spirit-born' (TUB 34:6.13); in contrast, to be born again, again, is to be 'spirit-born and God-knowing' (TUB 193:2.2)--'born of the spirit of truth-seeking and God-finding' (ibid.)." To be born again, again, is to be "born above", to "really" know God, to know whereof you speak (see TUB 1:7.9).

Also--in contrast to the above, merely spiritual fruits--when you have been born again, again, you "will immediately begin to show forth the [cosmic] fruits of the spirit" (TUB 193:2.2). "And the fruits of the divine spirit which are yielded in the lives of spirit-born and God-knowing mortals are: loving service, unselfish devotion, courageous loyalty, sincere fairness, enlightened honesty, undying hope, confiding trust, merciful ministry, unfailing goodness, forgiving tolerance, and enduring peace." (ibid.) Any objective, reflective self-comparison with these qualities "should lead only to reactions of humility" (TUB 9:5.7).

(reflections by Chris Halvorson)