

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## THE EPISTLES OF THE DISCIPLES

*Corinne Heline*

*II Peter 1:19*

*We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.*

In the Christing of man the Disciples are assisting humanity by way of *conversion* and *Initiation*. Conversion is a process of spiritual quickening by which men turn to God en masse. Initiation is an individual process. Conversion works through the desires, cleansing and regenerating the nature of man. Initiation works upon the vital body. Feelings and emotions are transitory. The desire body is not yet definitely organized, consequently conversion is not always permanent in its effects. Each year, with the return of the revivalist, many must be reconverted. This phase of spiritual awakening is usually accompanied by rhythmic music and emotional exhortations. The color tones produced by the music and generated through the feelings at a revival meeting are a most interesting study. When, through conversion, a new man is born — and many and beautiful are the fruits of his labors — his vital body has also been affected. Whether he realizes it or not, such a person becomes a candidate for Initiation. That higher step Peter describes as an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled.

*I Peter 1:13*

*Wherefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

The highest symbolism of the church or temple is the perfected body of man, the home of the spirit.

*I Peter 2:4-7*

*To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,*

*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

*Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*

*Unto you therefore which believe, he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner.*

Peter describes those who find the way of this new life as "new born babes." This statement is a literal fact, for one entering consciously into realms beyond the cognizance of the five physical senses must learn to adjust himself to new conditions and environment as does a child new-born into physical existence.

*I Peter 2:2, 3*

*As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

*II Peter 1:20*

*Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

New Age understanding of the Bible recognizes that evolution and Initiation are cosmic processes having to do with humanity. The Bible can never be obsolete or discarded for more "modern" teachings. Its lessons are of eternal duration, as vibrant with life and interest today as when first given to early mankind.

*I Peter 4:4, 5*

*Wherein, they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:*

*Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.*

The spiritually awakened and the unawakened have always been referred to as the living and the dead or asleep. Jacob Boehme writes: "Truly the time of the Rose bringeth forth and it is high time to awake, for the sleep is at an end; there shall a great rent be before the Lily, therefore let everyone take heed to his ways."

The precepts of daily living that lead to the attainment of the "inheritance incorruptible" are uniformly the same with all spiritual teachers including the foremost, the Christ, as they must necessarily be founded upon love and fellowship, the supreme ideals set forth in the Book of Acts.

*I Peter 1:22, 23; 3: 8-10; II Peter 1: 5-7*

*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.*

*Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:*

*Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing*

*that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*

*For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.*

*And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge;*

*And to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;*

*And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.*

Those who would teach others take on a great responsibility; also a priceless privilege. Such have need as no others for humility and worthiness. The Saviour washed the feet of His pupils as a token of His gratitude for the opportunity of serving them.

*I Peter 5:2-7*

*Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;*

*Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.*

*And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

*Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject to one another and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

Had all who endeavor to be spiritual teachers lived up to this admonition given by Peter, the knowledge of the Lord (law) would cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.