



## RBC CONNECT GROUP STUDY FOR WEEK 7/6/20

NOT FINISHED YET!

**Please note:** As always, the following questions are discussion starters to the topic of faith. Feel free to explore what faith is as you begin your discussion.

### **Bible Reading: Philippians 3:10-14**

<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

#### **1) Do you believe that the whole person can be changed? If yes, how does it happen?**

Consider Galatians 4:19

'My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,'

The Greek word for formed is 'morpho', originally of artists who shape their material into an image.

#### **2) If this be true, what image does the Holy Spirit create from the raw material that is us?**

In the Philippians reference above, Paul talks about not yet 'having arrived at my goal' and 'having taken hold of it' and 'I press on toward the goal...'

#### **3) What does he mean by these statements do you think?**

#### **4) Are they purely a future reference? Is there a present aspect to them?**

Consider Paul's phrase 'forgetting what is behind.'

- 5) Is it possible to totally 'forget what is behind?'
- 6) What can we do with 'what is behind' to enable us to 'strain toward what is ahead?'
- 7) In what tense does the Holy Spirit do the work of Jesus in our lives?
- 8) Will we ever NOT be a 'work in progress?' If yes, when will that be?

Prayer:

Spirit of God, you came in the form of fire and wind to the apostles and disciples. In your coming you changed timidity into boldness and fear into prophetic witness. Come to us, we pray, and transform our hearts. Help us to recognise the working of the Spirit among us so that we may be open to transformation. Let us use our gifts for the empowerment of others. Enkindle in us zeal for the coming of the kingdom. Amen.

**Next Sunday:** A new series 'The Kingdom of God'