

Hi again Craig.

Your note shows you know the UCG site a lot better than I do. My previous dial up received a message that the site had been changed. So I went to the home page but didn't notice resources. Thanks for pointing me to the right locations.

Regarding "born again," did you receive a copy of my July 16, 2001 Personal Correspondence reply on "born again" to a gentleman from Melbourne? Somehow it got into my head that you were forwarded a copy of that message. Is that correct?

The discussion over the meaning of gennao first came to my attention in 1963 in Bricket Wood. Over the years the subject has often resurfaced, sometimes to be used in what seemed to me a divisive manner. Yet most in the Church today agree with basics: Upon repentance & baptism, we receive God's Spirit in the flesh, which grants us God's mind. Then we use that new mind to grow and overcome till the resurrection, at which time we will be changed into spirit composed inheritors of the Kingdom of God.

It is the divisive aspect that concerns me. James contrasts the fruits of earthly wisdom with the wisdom from the Father above. We can't see the source of the heavenly wisdom, but we can certainly see its peaceable fruits. To me such fruits are a much more certain indicator of conversion than "arguments over words" as Paul wrote Timothy.

Actually, one of my most memorable conversations with Mr. Armstrong was on this very topic. He told me that "without spiritual knowledge, minds clash; with spiritual knowledge they can mesh harmoniously." He also pointed out how this tied into the "two trees." Learning how minds can interact while minimizing strife has been my most intense area of study every since.

I hope you don't mind me sharing some of that conversation with you.

Thanks again for your help.

Bob

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