Spirit's Day Studies
The Writings of Jane Lead

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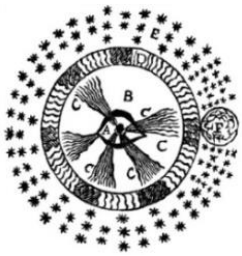

Shake, shake your earthly dust away
Now it's the Spirit's Day,
that will admit of no delay.
The Eight Worlds

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Abbreviations used in this study
JaneLead.org/SDS Abbreviations.pdf

THE

Real Nature of

R E G E N E R A T I O N

Asserted,

For the Sake of the

Undisciplined Soldier in Christ

By

Francis Lee

(1661 – 1719)

Spirit's **D**ay **V**ersion

With Modern Language and
Paragraph Numbering

Transcribed and Edited by
Diane Guerrero

The Real Nature of Regeneration
By Francis Lee

Spirit's Day Version (SDV)
by Diane Guerrero

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The Spirit's Day mission is to sound the trumpet-alarm for the coming Kingdom of Christ's Love; and to reach and equip the Children of the Kingdom, in preparation for this ultimate and glorious event, through the literary works of ancient, prophetical, holy and devout souls.

About the Spirit's Day Version

The goal of the Spirit's Day Version (SDV) is to assist the modern reader wherever archaic language might prove difficult in reading and understanding these glorious Mysteries. The paramount ambition was to remain faithful to the text, while preserving the beautiful writing style of this Mystical Author, and the classical flavor of the time period. The SDV is not a paraphrase, thus the writer's beautiful prose and unique terminology remain intact. For more information about how the SDV was prepared, please visit About the SDV on the website. For those who love the poetic flavor of the King James Bible, the 17th Century Version (17CV) is also available on the website.

Electronic texts for both the SDV and 17CV were created by this Editor (unless otherwise indicated), using microfilm images of the original books which were converted to text. Scanning, transcribing, editing, proofing, revising, layout, etc. were also performed by this Editor.

As the manifestation of the Kingdom of the Love draws near, His promised Spirit will explain all things, and lead us into all Truth. For indeed only the Anointed Holy Seekers and Loving Inquirers shall truly understand and advance in these profound Mysteries, as presented to us by the Spirit of Truth—whom we are to earnestly look for, and diligently wait upon.

Diane Guerrero
Editor of the SDV and 17CV
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The Real Nature of

REGENERATION

From the 1816 edition of Jane Lead's

Wars of David and the Peaceable Reign of Solomon.

I am the vine, you are the branches.
(John 15:5)

[RNR 1] §.Here CHRIST, our Second Adam, uses this similitude to teach us that the New Birth that we are to have from Him is REAL, in the most strict and literal sense of the words, and that there is the same *nearness* of relation between Him and His true disciples, that there is between the vine and its branches; that He does all that IN US, and for us, which the vine does to its branches.

[RNR 2] Now the life of the vine must be really derived into the branches. They cannot be branches till the birth of the vine is brought forth in them. And therefore as sure as the birth of the vine must be brought forth in the branches, *so sure is it* that we must be born again of our Second Adam. And that unless the life of the HOLY JESUS BE IN US BY A BIRTH from Him, we are as dead to Him, and the Kingdom of God, as the branch is dead to the vine, from which it is broken off.

[RNR 3] It is also the language of Scripture, that CHRIST IN US is our hope of glory; that CHRIST formed in us, living, growing, and raising His own life and spirit in us, *is our only salvation*. And indeed all this is plain from the nature of things. For since the serpent, sin, death, and hell, are all essentially *within us*, the very growth of our nature—must not our redemption be equally inward? An inward essential death to this state of our souls, and inward growth of a contrary life within us?

[RNR 4] If Adam was only an outward person, if his whole nature was not our nature, born in us, and derived from him into us, it would be nonsense to say that his fall is our fall. So in like manner, if CHRIST, our Second Adam, was ONLY an outward person, if He entered not as deeply into our nature as the First Adam does, if we have not as REALLY from Him a new inward spiritual man, as we have outward flesh and blood from Adam, what ground could there be to say, that our righteousness is from Him, as our sin is from Adam?

[RNR 5] §.To the woman at Jacob's Well, CHRIST said, *If you knew the Gift of God, and who it is that talks with you, you would have asked of Him, and He would have given you Living Water.* How happy (many a one well-say) was this woman, to stand so near this Gift of God, from whom she might have had Living Water, had she but have vouchsafed to have asked for it!

[RNR 6] But, dear Christian, this happiness is yours; for this Holy JESUS, the Gift of God, first given into Adam, and in him to all that descended from him, is the Gift of God to you, as sure as you are born of Adam. Have you never yet owned Him? Are you wandered from Him as far as the Prodigal Son from his Father's house? Yet is He still with you; He is the Gift of GOD to you; and if you will turn to Him, and ask of Him, He has Living Water for you.

[RNR 7] §.Poor Sinner, consider the treasure you have within you! The Savior of the World, the Eternal Word of God lies hid in you, as a spark of the divine nature, which is to overcome Sin and Death and Hell WITHIN YOU, and generate the Life of Heaven again in your soul. Turn to your heart, and your heart will find its Savior, its God, within itself.

[RNR 8] You see, hear, and feel nothing of God, because you seek for Him abroad with your outward eyes. You seek for Him in books, in controversies, in the church, and *outward* exercises. But there you will not find Him—till you have *first* found Him in your heart. Seek for Him in your heart, and you will never seek in vain; for there He dwells; there is the seat of His light and Holy Spirit.

[RNR 9] §.For this turning to the Light, and Spirit of God within you, *is your only true turning unto God.* There is no other way of finding Him but in that place where He dwells in you; For though God be everywhere present, yet He is only present to you in the deepest and most central part of your soul. Your natural senses cannot possess God, or unite you to Him; No, your inward faculties of *understanding, will, and memory* can only reach after God, but cannot be the place of His habitation in you.

[RNR 10] But there is a root, or depth in you, from which all these faculties come forth, as lines from a center, or as branches from the body of the tree. This depth is called the center, the fund, or bottom of the soul. This depth is the unity, the eternity—I had almost said the infinity of your soul; for it is so infinite that nothing can satisfy it, or give it any rest, but the infinity of God.

[RNR 11] In this depth of the soul, the Holy Trinity brought forth its living image in the first created man, bearing in himself a living representation of Father, Son and Holy Ghost; and this was his dwelling in God and God in him. This was the Kingdom of God within him, and made Paradise without him. But the day that Adam did eat of the forbidden earthly tree, in that day he absolutely died to this Kingdom of God within him.

[RNR 12] §.This depth or center of his soul, having lost its God, was shut up in death and darkness, and became a prisoner in an earthly animal, that only excelled its brethren the beasts, in an upright form, and serpentine subtlety. Thus ended the fall of man; But from that moment that the God of mercy IN-SPOKE into Adam the Bruiser of the Serpent, from that moment all the riches and treasures of the divine nature came again into man, as a Seed of Salvation sown in the center of the soul, and only lies hidden there IN EVERY MAN, till he desires to rise from his fallen state, and to be born again from above.

[RNR 13] §.Awake then, you that sleep, and CHRIST, who from all eternity has been espoused to your soul, shall give you light. Begin to search and dig in your own field for this *Pearl of Eternity* that lies hidden in it; it cannot cost you too much, nor can you buy it too dear; for it is ALL; and when you have found it, you will know, that all which you have sold or given away for it, is as a mere nothing, as a bubble upon the water.

[RNR 14] But I will now show you what this *Pearl of Eternity* is. First, it is the Light and Spirit of God *within you*, which till now has done you but little good, because the desire of your heart has been after the light and spirit of this world. Your reason and senses, your heart and passions, have turned their attentions to the poor concerns of this life, and therefore you are a stranger to this principle of Heaven, the riches of Eternity within you. For as God is not—cannot—be truly found by any Worshippers, but those who worship Him in Spirit and in Truth, so this Light and Spirit, though ALWAYS WITHIN US, is not—cannot—be found, felt or enjoyed, but by those whose whole spirit is turned to it.

[RNR 15] And the reason that so many persons, who seem well-affected to religion, make so little progress therein, is because religion lies only in their head, but something else has their hearts; and

therefore they continue from year to year mere admirers and praisers of piety, without ever coming to the *reality of its precepts.* And yet they are often found the most zealous for their particular sect, forms, etc., possessing an ardent desire to make others (who in truth may be better than themselves) converts to their principles.

[RNR 16] The reason why religion does not get possession of their hearts, is not because they live in *gross sins* or *debaucheries*, but because their hearts are constantly employed, perverted, and kept in a wrong state, by the indiscreet use of such things as are lawful to be used. For our souls may receive an infinite hurt, and become incapable of all virtue, merely by a *wrong use of innocent and lawful things.* How lawful and praiseworthy is the care of a family; yet how frequently are many people rendered incapable of all virtue by a worldly and solicitous temper! How it is for want of a religious exactness in the use of these innocent and lawful things, that religion cannot get possession of our hearts! And it is in the right and prudent management of ourselves, as to these things, that all the art of holy living chiefly consists.

[RNR 17] Again, how many persons there are who seem amazed at the deadness and insensibility of the Christian world, that they are such strangers to the *inward life and spiritual nature* of Christian salvation, they wonder how people can be so zealous for the outward letter and form of ordinances, and so averse to that spiritual life that they all point at as the one thing needful. But they never think how wonderful it is that a man or woman, who knows regeneration to be the whole, should yet content themselves with the love they have in reading books written by those whom GOD has inspired, and the pleasure they feel in perpetually talking about spiritual matters without being born again and becoming themselves spiritual.

[RNR 18] For all that you see in them is a taste for new books and fresh ideas; being no more dead to the world, no more delivered from themselves—are as fearful of adversity, as fond of prosperity, as easily provoked and pleased with trifles, as much-governed by their own will, tempers and passions, as unwilling to deny their appetites, or enter into war with themselves, as they were ten years ago, when they neither read these books or conversed with spiritual persons.

[RNR 19] Yet all is well with them; they have no suspicion of themselves; they date the newness of their life, and the fullness of their light from the time that they discovered the Pearl of Eternity in their favorite divine authors. Whereas spiritual books are A CALL to as real and total a death to the life of corrupt nature, as that which Adam died in Paradise was to the life of Heaven. He indeed died at once totally to the divine life in which he was created: But as our body of earth is to last to the end of our lives, so to the end of our earthly life, *every step we take, every inch of our road,* is to be made up of denial, and dying to ourselves; because all our redemption consists in our regaining that first life of Heaven in the soul, to which Adam died in Paradise.

[RNR 20] And therefore the one single work of redemption is the one single work of regeneration, *or the rising up a life and spirit, and tempers and inclinations, contrary to that life and spirit which we derive from our fallen parents.* To think therefore of anything, *but the continual total denial of our earthly nature, is to overlook the very one thing on which all depends.* And to hope for anything, to trust or pray for anything, *but the life of GOD, or a birth of Heaven in our souls, is as useless to us, as placing our hope and trust in a graven image.* Thus says the CHRIST OF GOD, the one *Pattern* and Author of our Salvation—IF ANY MAN WILL BE MY DISCIPLE, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, HATE HIS OWN LIFE, TAKE UP HIS DAILY CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME. And again: UNLESS *a man be born again from above, of Water and the Spirit,* HE CANNOT *see, or enter into the Kingdom of God.*

[RNR 21] §.As Adam (through the Serpent) killed that which was to have been immortal in him, and raised into life that which never should have been alive in him; therefore that which is to be un-

done and altered both in himself and his posterity, was this: it was to part with a life that he had raised up into being, and to get another life which he had quite extinguished. Consequently, if CHRIST had not renounced this life, as heartily and thoroughly as Adam chose it, and declared absolutely for another kingdom in another world, and if He had not *sacrificed the life He took up in and from this world*, He could not have been our Redeemer.

[RNR 22] §.But to return: The *Pearl of Eternity* is the *Wisdom* and *Love* of God within you. In this Pearl of the Serpent Bruiser, all the holy nature, spirit, tempers and inclinations of CHRIST, *lie as in a Seed in the center of your soul*, wherefore divine wisdom and heavenly love can and will grow up in you, if you give but true attention to GOD present in your soul. There is also, on the other hand, hidden in the depth of your nature, the root, or possibility of *all the hellish nature*, spirit and tempers of the fallen angels. For heaven and hell have each of them *their foundation within us*. They come not into us from *without*, but spring up in us (as said CHRIST) according as our will and heart is turned, either to the Light of GOD, or the Kingdom of Darkness. Therefore when this life, which is in the midst of these two eternities is at an end, either an angel, or a devil, will certainly be found to have a birth in us.

[RNR 23] §.To live in the love, the patience, the meekness, and humility of CHRIST, then, the celestial, transparent, spiritual body of an angel is continually forming itself, and growing in *and from*, and about our souls, till it comes to the fullness of the stature in CHRIST JESUS; this is the true eating the flesh, and drinking the blood of CHRIST, which will become our body of glory to all eternity. And though our astral reason and outward senses, while we are in Adam's bodily flesh, know nothing of this inward body of CHRIST, yet there it is, as surely as we have the love, the patience, the meekness and humility of CHRIST; for where the true spirit of CHRIST is, there is His true spiritual body.

[RNR 24] §.On the other hand, live to selfishness, to diabolical pride, wrath, envy, and covetousness, and then nothing can hinder these tempers from forming within us such a spiritual body to our soul, as that which devils have, and dwell, and work in.

[RNR 25] §.THE PEARL OF ETERNITY is also the church, or temple of God *within you*, the consecrated place of divine worship, where alone you can worship God in Spirit and in Truth. In *Spirit*, because your spirit is that alone in you which can unite and cleave unto GOD, and receive the workings of His divine spirit upon you; in *Truth*, because this adoration in spirit is that truth and reality, of which all outward forms and rights, though instituted by GOD, are only the figure for a time; but this worship is eternal.

[RNR 26] Accustom yourself to the holy service of this inward temple. In the midst of it is the Fountain of Living Water, of which you may drink and live forever. There the Supper of the Lamb is kept; the *Bread* that came down from Heaven, that gives life to the world, is your true nourishment. All is done in real experience, in a living sensibility of the work of GOD on the soul. There the birth, the life, and sufferings, the death, the resurrection and ascension of CHRIST, are not merely remembered, but *inwardly found, and enjoyed as the real state of your soul*, which has followed CHRIST in the regeneration. It is then, and then only, it is washed and cleansed by His blood, when it drinks His blood; and it drinks His blood when it willingly drinks of the cup He drank of.

[RNR 27] §.When therefore you are well-grounded in this *inward* [temple] of *worship*, you will have learned to live unto GOD *above time* and *place*. For everyday will be Sunday to you, and wherever you go you will have a Priest, a Church, and an Altar along with you. For when GOD has all that He should have of your heart, when renouncing the will, judgment, tempers and inclinations of your *Old Man*, you are wholly given up to the obedience of the Light and Spirit of God *within you, to will only His will, to love only in His love, to be wise only in His wisdom*—then it is, that everything you

do is as a Song of Praise, and the *common business of your life is a conforming to God's will on Earth as Angels do in Heaven*.

[RNR 28] Now, Dear Reader, pray consider what follows, with more than thoughts, namely, that to have SALVATION from CHRIST, *is nothing else but to be made like unto Him*: It is to have His humility and meekness, His mortification and self-denial, His renunciation of the spirit, wisdom, and honors of this world, His love of GOD, His desire of doing God's will, and seeking *only* His honor. To have these tempers formed and begotten in your heart is to have *salvation* from CHRIST. But if you *will not* to have these tempers brought forth in you, if your *faith and desire* does not *seek*, and *cry* to CHRIST for them, in the *same reality* as the lame asked to walk and the blind to see, then you must be said to be *unwilling* to have CHRIST to be your SAVIOR.

[RNR 29] §.Oh, my friend, enter with all your heart into this most certain truth. Let your eye be always upon it. Do everything in view of it; try everything by the truth of it; love nothing but for the sake of it. Wherever you go, whatever you do, at home, or abroad, in the field or at church, do all in desire of union with CHRIST, in imitation of His tempers and inclinations, and look upon all as nothing, but that which exercises and increases the Spirit and Life of CHRIST in your soul.

[RNR 30] From morning to night, keep JESUS in your heart. Long for nothing, desire nothing, hope for nothing but to have *all that is within you changed into the spirit and temper of the HOLY JESUS.* Let this be your Christianity, your church, and your religion. For this New Birth in CHRIST, thus firmly believed and continually desired, will do everything that you want to have done in you. It will dry up *all the springs of vice, stop all the workings of evil in your nature. It will bring all that is good into you, and you will know what it is to be taught of God. But until then, your knowledge will be uncertain*.

[RNR 31] This longing desire of your heart to be *one* with CHRIST will soon put a stop to all the vanity of your life, and nothing will be permitted to enter into your heart, or proceed from it, but what comes from GOD, and returns to GOD; you will soon be bound in the chains of holy affections and desires, your mouth will have a watch set upon it, your ears would willingly hear nothing that does not tend to GOD, nor your eyes be open, but to see, and find occasions of doing good. In a word, when this faith has got both your *head* and your *heart*, it will then be with you as it was with the merchant, who found a *Pearl of Great Price.* It will make you glad to sell all that you have to buy it.

[RNR 32] §.To conclude: The REASON that the Light and Spirit of GOD, which has been again restored to the soul, and lying in it as a secret source of HEAVEN, is called *grace, free grace*, or the *supernatural gift*, or *power of GOD* in the soul, is on account of its being an essential and indispensable something, which the natural powers of the soul could no more obtain. Therefore it is, that in the greatest truth, and highest reality, every stirring of the soul, every tendency of the heart towards GOD and goodness, is justly and necessarily ascribed to the Holy Spirit or the Grace of GOD.

[RNR 33] It is because this *First Seed* of life, which is sown into the soul, as the gift or grace of God to fallen man, is itself the Light and Spirit of GOD; and therefore every stirring, or opening of this Seed of Life, every awakened thought or desire that arises *from* it, must be called the moving or the *quickening* of the Spirit of God; and therefore that New Man which arises from it, must of all necessity be said to be SOLELY THE WORK AND OPERATION OF GOD.

[RNR 34] §.Dear Friend! May you be disposed to read all the preceding, over and over again, until every sentence is most indelibly impressed on your heart! To which end, Oh GOD, be the Inspirer, Guide, and Leader.

F I N I S