

New Birth 重生

1 Peter 彼得前書 1:1-16

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In the later months of 2009, I received a letter from NSW Roads requesting that I front up to a vehicle inspection station with a vehicle I had purchased about 18 months earlier.

在 2009 年的下半年，我收到新州交通局的一封信，要求我把在大約 18 個月前購買的一輛車送往車輛檢查站。

The letter stated that there was some concern that my vehicle wasn't adequately repaired after a major accident. I wasn't concerned because it was a great vehicle that I had no issues with.

信中指出，他們擔憂我的車輛可能是在發生重大事故後沒有被完善充分修理。我並不擔心，因為這是一輛我沒有遇到任何問題很棒的車。

I arrived at the inspection station, handed over the vehicle and waited. After about 45 minutes, two inspectors gave me their report: a classic 'good news/bad news' report.

我到達檢查站，交出車輛並等待。大約 45 分鐘後，兩位檢查員給出了他們的報告：一份典型的「好消息/壞消息」報告。

The good news is that the vehicle was in great order and certainly roadworthy. The bad news was the vehicle is what is known as a 'rebirthed' vehicle.

好消息是車輛狀況良好並且確實適合行駛。壞消息是這輛車是所謂的「重生」車輛。

They explained that a rebirthed vehicle is a stolen vehicle. Someone purchases a vehicle that has been in a major accident but is deemed repairable. The purchase price is very cheap.

他們解釋說，重生的車輛是被盜的車輛。有人購買了發生過重大事故但被認為可以修復的車輛。購買價格非常便宜。

Instead of going through the costly process of repairing the vehicle, they steal a matching vehicle that is in good order. All the identifying markers of the original vehicle are then transferred to the stolen vehicle, making it look like it is repaired.

然後他們沒有花昂貴的費用修理車輛，而是偷了一輛狀況良好的匹配車輛。把原車的所有識別標記都會轉移到被盜車輛上，使其看起來像是被修復過的。

The original vehicle is then chopped up and disposed of. The vehicle I was driving around in looked exactly like the original vehicle before its accident, but it wasn't it.

然後，原車會被碎並處理掉。我駕駛的車輛看起來與事故發生前的原車一模一樣，但事實並非如此。

I was then told by the inspectors to sit tight as the major crimes squad was on its way. Within two hours, it was loaded on the back of a truck and on its way to a Police evidence compound.

然後，檢查人員告訴我要稍等，因為重案組正在趕來的路上。兩小時內，我的車被裝上卡車，被運往警方取證處。

All this happened the day before our second child was born. When she was born, she was immediately recognisable as ours. At birth, we are all identified genetically as we share the genetic make-up of our biological parents.

這一切都發生在我們的第二個孩子出生的前一天。當她出生時，她立即被認出是我們的。在出生時，我們都在基因上被識別，因為我們有親生父母的基因組成。

We also inherit our ethnic make-up. Depending on where you are born, you are also likely to have a national identity. And certainly, for the early years of our lives, we also share the socio-economic identity of our parents.

我們也繼承了我們的民族特徵。根據您出生的地點，您可能擁有民族認同。當然，在我們生命的早年，我們也擁有與父母相同的社會經濟身分。

Our birth identifies us. And as we have just read, Peter describes becoming a Christian as being reborn...a new birth. The new birth doesn't change who we are in all our ethnic, national, genetic, or socio-economic markers, but it does change our lives in such a way that we are fundamentally very different people.

我們的出生就顯示了我們的身分。正如我們剛剛讀到的，彼得把成為基督徒描述為再生……重生。重生並不會改變我們在種族、民族、遺傳或社會經濟方面的特徵，但它確實改變了我們的生命，使我們從根本上成為截然不同的人。

That is what this vision series is all about. Over this term, we are building our way up to Easter and the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the salvation of humanity.

這就是這個遠象系列的全部內容。在這個季道裡，我們為復活節做出準備，慶祝耶穌基督為拯救人類而死和復活。

As we build up to Easter, we are going to be looking at what resurrection life looks like through sections of 1 and 2 Peter. How does the new birth, being rebirthed by Jesus Christ, how does it change us?

當我們準備迎接復活節時，我們將透過《彼得前書》和後書的部分來了解復活的生命是什麼樣子。藉著耶穌基督從死人中復活，重生如何改變我們？

Today we are going to lay the foundation by looking at the new birth.

今天我們要透過研究重生來奠定基礎。

WHAT IS THE NEW BIRTH? ... WHAT DOES IT DO? ... HOW DOES IT GROW? ... WHO MAKES IT POSSIBLE?

什麼是重生？……它有什麼作用？……它如何成長？……誰使它成為可能？

WHAT IS THE NEW BIRTH 什麼是重生？

1 Peter 1:3, ***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth.***

《彼得前書》 1:3, *願頌讚歸於我們主耶穌基督的父上帝！他曾照自己的大憐憫，藉著耶穌基督從死人中復活，重生了我們*

All Christians, everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ, are described as been given a new birth. All are born again, not just just a certain type of Christian.

所有基督徒，每個信耶穌基督的人，都被描述為獲得了重生。所有人都重生了，而不僅僅是某種類型的基督徒。

We are not told much here about what the new birth is that the Christian has received. We know from other parts of the Bible that the new birth is a new life and vitality.

這裡沒有告訴我們太多關於基督徒所接受的重生是什麼。我們從聖經的其他部分知道，重生是新的生命和活力。

When a person is born again, they experience a new life. Spiritual life comes into you. God puts his very life in us. This new birth will come to us in different ways.

當一個人重生時，他會經歷新的生命。屬靈生命進入你的生命。神把祂的生命放入我們裡面。這個重生將以不同的方式降臨在我們身上。

There is no one type of experience that everyone must have. For some, it is like a lightning bolt; for us, it happens so gradually that they hardly recognise it. It is important not to insist that it happens in a certain way.

沒有一種類型的經驗是每個人都必須擁有的。對某些人來說，會像一道閃電；對我們來說，發生得如此緩慢，他們幾乎認不出它。重要的是不要堅持它以某種方式發生。

Even though the new birth comes to us differently, and at times this new life might be subtle, it is nevertheless astounding.

儘管重生以不同的方式降臨到我們身上，有時這種重生可能是微妙的，但它仍然是令人震驚的。

The original New Testament word for it is *palingenesia* - it means regeneration in English. The book of Titus tells us that when we are born again, we experience regeneration. Titus uses that word *palingenesia*.

在新約中它的原文是 *palingenesia* - 英文的意思是重生。《提多書》中告訴我們，當我們重生時，我們就會經歷更新。提多使用了 *palingenesia* 這個字。

In Matthew 19:28 Jesus says this: ***Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne...*** Jesus is referring to the end of all time.

在《馬太福音》19:28 中，耶穌這樣說：**我實在告訴你們，你們這些跟從我的人，到了萬物更新、人子坐在他榮耀寶座上的時候...**耶穌指的是在一切的終結時。

God's power will come down into this world and renew, make right, everything that is wrong, stained, evil, deformed, broken about this world. Death and evil and suffering will be gone. All tears, sadness, and anxiety will be wiped away.

上帝的力量將降臨到這個世界上，更新、糾正這個世界上一切錯誤、污點、邪惡、畸形和破碎的事物。死亡、邪惡和痛苦都會消失。所有的淚水、悲傷、焦慮都會被抹去。

Despite all the superpowers, wealth and technology of this world, it's not enough to bring about that kind of change. Think of what is required to bring that about.

儘管這個世界有所有的超級大國、財富和技術，但還不足以帶來這種改變。試想要實現這一目標需要什麼。

Jesus describes that time as the renewal of all things. Or in the original Greek language, the *palingenesia*. Paul has the audacity to use the same word to describe the new birth of the Christian.

耶穌將那段時期描述為萬物更新。或者用希臘原文來說是 *palingenesia*。保羅大膽地用同一個字來形容基督徒的重生。

The tremendous power that renews all things at the end comes into the life of the Christian now through faith in Jesus Christ.

現在，透過信耶穌基督，最終更新萬物的巨大力量進入了基督徒的生命。

That means that every Christian puts up with stuff they don't need to put up with. The potential to change things in our lives is astounding.

這意味著每個基督徒可以忍受他們不需要忍受的事情。改變我們生命的潛力是驚人的。

This is the new life we get with the new birth. So where does this new birth operate in the Christian?

這就是我們隨著重生而獲得的新生命。那麼，基督徒的重生在哪裡發生呢？

WHAT DOES IT DO 它有什麼作用？

The new birth operates in the hopes of the Christian. The reason new birth changes the Christian so much is because it changes their hopes. If you change a person's hopes, you change everything.

重生是在基督徒的盼望中運作。重生之所以如此改變基督徒，是因為它改變了他們的盼望。

如果你改變一個人的盼望，你就改變了一切。

Back to v.3 again: ***Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.***

再回到第 3 節：**願頌讚歸於我們主耶穌基督的父上帝！他曾照自己的大憐憫，藉著耶穌基督從死人中復活，重生了我們，使我們有活的盼望，4 好得到不朽壞、不玷污、不衰殘、為你們存留在天上的基業，**

The direction of every person's life is set by what they hope in the most, so if you can offer a person a life giving, imperishable hope, then their life is changed forever.

每個人生命的方向都是由他們最盼望的事決定的，所以如果你能給一個人一個給予生命的、不朽的盼望，那麼他們的生命就會永遠改變。

All of us have certain desires and expectations. There are desires like meaning, significance, security, and purpose. Then you work out what will fulfil those desires. Whatever we believe in to fulfil those desires is what we set our hearts on. Which is another way of saying our hope is on it.

我們所有人都有一定的慾望和期望。有一些慾望，例如意義、重要性、安全感、和意義。然後你就會想出什麼可以滿足這些慾望。無論我們相信什麼來實現這些慾望，都是我們心中所追求的。這也是我們的盼望所在的另一種說法。

Our hearts might be set on career, money, accomplishment, status, love, romance, beauty, family, political and social causes. Everyone chooses something to believe in that will fulfil our hopes.

我們的心可能專注於事業、金錢、成就、地位、愛情、浪漫、美麗、家庭、政治和社會事業。這是另一種說法，我們的盼望寄託在上面。

We are unavoidably hope-based creatures. Proverbs 13:12, in the OT, tells us that ***hope deferred make the heart sick.***

我們不可避免地是基於盼望的生物。舊約的《箴言》13:12 告訴我們，**盼望遲延，令人心憂。**

We experience our present in radically different ways depending on our future hope. Imagine I gave two people a pair each of the exact same scissors and said the task was to cut the church grass.

根據我們未來的盼望，我們以完全不同的方式體驗現在。想像一下，我給了兩個人每人一把完全相同的剪刀，並說任務是修剪教堂的草坪。

Their experience of that task would be totally different if I said to one that they would receive \$20 when it is all done, but I told the other they would receive \$200,000. Hope makes all the difference to the experience.

如果我對一個人說任務完成後他們會收到 20 元，但我告訴另一個人他們會收到 20 萬元，他們對這項任務的體驗會完全不同。盼望會讓體驗變得不同。

My point is that we are all hope-driven, but the new birth changes our hope. The new birth gives us hope that is imperishable, but all other hopes perish and fade.

要點是我們都是盼望驅動的，但重生改變了我們的盼望。重生給了我們一個不朽的盼望，而所有其他的盼望都會破滅和消失。

HOW THE NEW LIFE GROWS 重生命如何成長？

This brings us to the issue of how the new life grows. How do we wrench our hearts away from hopes that will fade and put them on to a hope that never will perish, fade, or disappoint?

這就為我們帶來了這新生命如何成長的問題。我們怎樣才能把我們的心從那些會消逝的盼望中拉出來，轉而寄託在一個永遠不會消失、消逝或失望的盼望呢？

There are different ways this happens, but the main way that 1 Peter talks about growing in our new life and hope, and therefore more like Jesus in character and stable in life, and more loving and joyful, is through suffering.

發生這種情況的方式有多種，但《彼得前書》談到在新生命和盼望中成長，因此在品格上和生命上更加像耶穌，在生命上更加穩定，更加充滿愛心和喜樂的主要方式是透過百般試煉。

I'm going to say a lot more about this in a few weeks, so I don't want to say too much about it now. But here's a taste.

幾週後我將對此說更多，所以現在我不想說太多。但可嘗嘗。

Take a look at v.6: ***In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith-of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-may result in praise, glory, and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.***

請看第 6 節：**雖然你們必須在百般試煉中暫時憂愁，你們要為此喜樂，7 使你們的信心既被考驗，就比那被火試煉仍然能壞的金子更顯寶貴，可以在耶穌基督顯現的時候得著稱讚、榮耀、尊貴。**

The first words of v.6 say the Christian rejoices in their hope. It's actually present tense. What makes that remarkable is that the words 'suffer grief' actually mean being in agony. Lots of pain.

第 6 節的第一句說基督徒因他們的盼望而喜樂。它實際上是現在式。值得注意的是，「試煉中憂愁」這個詞實際上意味著處於痛苦之中。很多的痛苦。

It doesn't say you used to rejoice, but now you are in pain. Nor does it say that because you've got lots to rejoice about, you're not really in pain.

不是說你以前很喜樂，現在卻很痛苦。它也不是說因為你有很多值得喜樂的事情，所以你並不真正痛苦。

Both the feeling of the agony and the rejoicing are present tense. They are concurrent activities. When we do both of those things at the same time, it is like putting gold into a furnace.

痛苦和喜樂的感覺都是現在式。它們是同時進行的活動。當我們同時感受這兩件事時，就像將黃金放入熔爐中一樣。

It refines you and grows you as the suffering drives you into your real hope that can never fade or perish.

當試煉驅使你進入永不褪色或滅亡的真正盼望時，它會磨煉你並讓你成長。

And yet, this is almost never our view of suffering. In a day and culture that suggests our personal happiness is of the highest importance, then anything hard, difficult, or unpleasant is considered bad, wrong, or even evil.

然而，這幾乎從來都不是我們對試煉的看法。在一個認為我們的個人幸福是最重要的時代和文化中，任何困難、艱難或不愉快的事情都被認為是壞的、錯誤的，甚至是邪惡的。

We, therefore, can't possibly imagine why God would allow suffering and hardship at all.

因此，我們根本無法想像為什麼上帝會允許試煉和困難。

So, imagine a Forestry worker. They have marked a bunch of trees for cutting down and milling. Then they notice that at the top of the first tree to be cut a bird is busy building a nest.

那麼，想像一下林業工人。他們在一堆樹上做了標記，準備砍伐和送到磨坊。然後他們注意到，在第一棵要被砍伐的樹的頂部有一隻鳥正忙著築巢。

So, they whack the tree and make lots of noise until eventually the bird is so fed up, they move to another tree. But that tree, too, is marked to be felled.

因此，它們敲擊樹並發出很大的噪音，直到鳥兒最終厭倦了搬到另一棵樹上。但這棵樹也被標記為要砍伐。

So, the forestry worker does it all again until the bird moves to another tree. But again, it's coming down, too. So, this worker does it again and again and again. This bird is like...what is your problem?! Give me a break.

於是，林業工人又重複一遍，直到鳥兒搬到另一棵樹上。但同樣，它也是將要被砍。於是，這位工人就這樣一遍又一遍地重複著。這隻鳥就像是……你有什麼問題！讓我休息一下。

The bird then moves out of the forest and starts to build its nest on a large, solid rock. It notices that the forestry worker finally leaves it alone.

然後鳥兒離開森林，開始在一塊大而堅固的岩石上築巢。並注意到林業工人最終不再攪擾它。

The older we get we realise that every tree, every hope, will eventually come down. We didn't believe it when we were young. Every generation thinks it will be able to do what no other has been able to do.

隨著年齡的增長，我們意識到每棵樹、每一個盼望最終都會倒塌。我們年輕的時候不相信。每一代人都認為自己能夠做到別人無法做到的事。

Our hearts are not designed to be completely fulfilled by anything or everything in this life. We simply don't realise the greatness of our souls and the depth of our desires and hopes.

我們的心並不是為了今生的任何事或每件事而完全滿足而設計的。我們根本沒有意識到我們靈魂的偉大以及我們慾望和盼望的深度。

The best thing God can do for us is bang on the tree of our lives in order to move us to a surer foundation and a greater hope. An imperishable hope.

上帝能為我們做的最好的事情就是敲打我們的生命之樹，以便讓我們有更堅實的基礎和更大的盼望。不朽的盼望。

The worst thing that can happen is for us to be left to our own devices, building our lives on something that will come crashing down.

可能發生的最糟糕的事情就是讓我們依靠自己的設備，將我們的生命建立在即將崩潰的東西上。

WHO MAKES THE NEW BIRTH POSSIBLE 誰使重生成為可能？

How can Peter say that if you are a Christian, this new birth and living, imperishable hope is possible? How can he say that when we fail ourselves, fail each other, and fail God?

彼得怎麼能說，如果你是基督徒，這個重生和永生、不朽的盼望是可能的呢？當我們都辜負自己、辜負彼此、辜負上帝，他怎能這樣說呢？

None of us have loved God and loved our neighbours as ourselves, all the time. We haven't done it and will never do it. How can Peter promise us a hope that will never perish?

我們沒有人一直愛神或愛鄰舍如同愛自己。我們沒有做到，也永遠不會做到。彼得怎能向我們許諾永不破滅的盼望呢？

Reading from v.10: *Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.*

讀第 10 節：論到這救恩，那預先說你們要得恩典的眾先知已經詳細地搜索查考過，11 查考在他們心裏的基督的靈預先證明基督受苦難，後來得榮耀，是指甚麼時候，甚麼樣的情況。12 他們得了啟示，知道他們所服事的不是自己，而是你們。那藉著從天上差來的聖靈傳福音給你們的人，現在將這些事傳給你們；這些事連天使也都切望察看呢！

What is the gospel that the prophets revealed, and the apostles preached? It is that Jesus Christ suffered. The Son of God, the creator of all things, came as the rescuer and ruler of humanity in weakness and not in triumph. He died on a Roman cross for the sin and failure of humanity. He died the death we should die.

先知所啟示的、使徒所傳的福音是什麼？就是耶穌基督受了苦。上帝的兒子，萬物的創造者，作為人類的拯救者和統治者，在軟弱中而不是在勝利中降臨。他因人類的罪和失敗而死在羅馬十字架上。他以我們該死的樣式死了。

We, the weak and perishing, have a glorious and imperishable hope because Jesus Christ, the glorious and eternal one, perished in shame for us.

我們這些軟弱和滅亡的人有一個榮耀和不朽的盼望，因為榮耀和永恆的耶穌基督為我們在羞辱中滅亡。

Our new birth and glorious hope are not based on our performance; it is based on the performance of the imperishable one. The Christian's glory is assured because he emptied himself of his glory.

我們的重生和光榮的盼望不是基於我們的表現，而是基於不朽者的表現。基督徒的榮耀是有保證的，因為他倒空了自己的榮耀。

And it says there that angels never get tired of looking at what Jesus Christ has done for us. In fact, the word 'long to' means to lust for something.

那裡說，天使永遠不會厭倦看耶穌基督為我們所做的一切。事實上，「切望」這個字的意思是對某事的慾望。

There is nothing greater for an angel than to look at and ponder and desire more of what Jesus Christ has done for humanity.

對天使來說，沒有什麼比看見、思考並渴望更多耶穌基督為人類所做的事更偉大的了。

This is how we heal hearts of the despair that we have. Keep looking at the gospel and this living hope will grow in our hearts and change us more and more into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

這就是我們治癒絕望之心的方法。不斷地仰望福音，這種活潑的盼望就會在我們心中成長，並使我們越來越像耶穌基督。

I'm fully aware that I've covered a huge topic in a very short time. I've therefore made statements and claims that I haven't unpacked that are very worthy of being unpacked more.

我完全意識到我在很短的時間內涵蓋了一個巨大的主題。因此，我發表了一些我尚未解開的聲明和主張，這些聲明和主張非常值得進一步解開。

I'm aware that on any given Sunday, we are all at different stages of understanding and embracing Jesus Christ and the salvation he offers. I've made some assumptions that may not be yours.

我知道，在任何特定的星期日，我們都處於理解和擁抱耶穌基督及其所提供的救恩的不同階段。我做了一些可能不適合你的假設。

I would like to invite you to explore those claims and assumptions with us. At the end of the month, we are starting a 7-part course called ALPHA that explores the big questions of life and the Christian faith.

我想邀請您與我們一起探討這些主張和假設。月底，我們將開始一門名為「啟發」的有 7 堂的課程，探索生命和基督教信仰的重大問題。

It's a relaxed and safe place to explore deeper. I'd invite you to be part of it.

這是一個輕鬆而安全的地方，可以進行更深入的探索。我會邀請你參與其中。

Maybe you already have explored it, but today, God is pressing in on you to take that next step of coming to Jesus and receiving the new birth. I'd love to talk to you about that after the service if that is you.

但也許你已經探索過了，但今天神正在催促你邁出下一步，來到耶穌面前並接受重生。如果是你的話，我很樂意在崇拜結束後與你談談這件事。