

UPWARD CALL

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but this is my one aim: to forget everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what lies ahead. I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God

IN KING JESUS.

(Philippians 3:13-14)

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Jesus – the Ingenerate Word

Wherefore, putting off all filthiness and superabundance of evil [bad quality], receive with meekness the implanted [**ingenerate; engrafted**] word, which is able to save your souls [or: the One being continuously able (powerful) to deliver (rescue; keep safe; heal and make whole) your souls]. (James 1:21 CLV [added from JM-NT])

In other writings, I have referred to the *ingenerate word* without offering much explanation of this particular phrase that I find very intriguing, for it speaks to the Reality that is Christ Jesus our Lord. Previously, I said I would explain it, so here goes.

We need to start with the word *ingenerate*, which simply means *not generated*. In contrast, *generate* means *to bring into existence; cause to be; to produce*. Consequently, *ingenerate* refers to something or someone that is not brought into existence, meaning it has no source of origin; it simply is. This goes to the very heart of existence itself or, if you will, reality. To our knowledge, there is only one thing or person that is not generated and it is God Himself, who has no beginning or end. God simply is. He is I AM!

However, more profoundly, *ingenerate* is joined with the Greek word *logos* or, in English, *word*. This immediately draws our attention not to printed words but to the one who is called *the Word*.

In the beginning the Word was existing. And the Word was in fellowship with God the Father. And the Word was as to His essence absolute deity. This Word was in the beginning in fellowship with God the Father. All things through His intermediate agency came into being, and **without Him there came into being not even one thing which has come into existence. In Him life was existing.** And this aforementioned life was the light of men. And the light in the darkness is constantly shining. And the darkness did not overwhelm it. (John 1:1-5 Wuest [bold added])

These few verses are chock full of revelation about the very existence of all things. Of late, the point I have been making is that this is Reality, and it is discovered in the one who is called *the Word*, which is none other than the Son of God, our Lord Jesus.

Jesus—the Reality! – <https://kingdomandglory.com/art/art71.pdf>

John could be rephrased to say: In the beginning the Reality was existing, and this reality brought all things into existence. Stated another way: All things of creation are based on this reality. Or, still yet, Reality is the Word (Logos), the very language of God through (on, by) which all things are created. Could we not say that the very language of God is the basis upon which all things have come into and remain in existence? No doubt!

Revelation 3:14 adds to this where Jesus refers to Himself as *the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the beginning (or: source) of God's creation*. As other translations state it: *He is the origin and the chief of God's creation*.

With these few verses (and others that could be included), it is a simple step to state that the Word of God, that is, God's Son, is the *Ingenerate Word*, the uncreated Word that is the source of all creation.

In the beginning, this word was not inscribed in letters on parchment; it was and still is the *let there be* of God that spoke creation into existence. I'm not even sure that literal words were spoken in the beginning. I imagine the *Ingenerate Word* expressing Himself into creation. After all, all things were created *in* Him. It is doubtful that any of us this side of creation can fully comprehend what took place at the moment of *let there be*.

Now, back to James. Without doubt, when most read of receiving the implanted word, they think of reading their Bible and having the printed words implanted within them. Some might see this as a reason for memorizing scripture. To be sure, this is part of growing in the Lord, but what I am presenting for you to consider goes much deeper than this. What I am proposing is that receiving the ingenerate word is receiving the source of life, which is receiving the very life of Christ within. This is far greater than simply having words from scripture embedded in us so we can speak them forth to others, write about them, or any other outward expression we might deem necessary. No; it is about us being an expression of Christ Himself. An expression I use often is that it is about *being*, and this being goes to the very heart of the source of life itself. Another way of stating this is that the very source of life is implanted or embedded within us, and this only occurs by an act of the spirit of God. We cannot do this on our own. This is why we must receive it in all meekness. We are totally and absolutely dependent on the Lord for this to take place. We can do nothing apart from Him. Once we see this, we become an open door to receive the *Ingenerate Word* that saves our soul as we walk this earth in Christ. This is the life of Christ in you.

There are many other ways of expressing this truth; however, there is one that goes along with the word ingenerate—*engrafted*, which means *to be grafted (planted firmly) to a stock*. In Romans 11, Paul refers to being grafted into the rich root of the olive tree.

Now since some of the branches are broken off (were broken out of [the tree]), yet you [sing.], being **a wild olive tree of the field or forest**, you [sing.] are (were) **grafted in** within (or: among) them, you also came to be (are birthed; are become) a joint-participant (a partner taking in common together with; a co-partaker) of **the Root and of the Fatness of The Olive Tree**. (Romans 11:17 JM-NT [bold added])

There are many interpretations of the nature of the olive tree (e.g., the promise to Abraham or physical Israel or the church), but is it not safe to say that all truths are discovered in Messiah Jesus? Stated another way: All truths are sourced in the originator of creation, God's Son. Is not Jesus the root of all things? After all, in describing His relationship to His disciples, Jesus used the agricultural metaphor of the vine and the branches, along with the concept of pruning the branches (John 15). It follows that the olive tree could be seen along these same lines, making Jesus the rich root. Consequently, we are engrafted into Christ! We are *alive to God in Christ Jesus* (Romans 6:11), and *if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

As the *Ingenerate Word*, Christ takes up residence in us. The more we put off the old and embrace the new that we have become in Jesus, the more the *Ingenerate Word* becomes the very source of our being until, one day, when we are complete in Him, by the power of God, we will be transformed into His likeness in glory—conformed to His image. Until then, let us receive Him every day in all meekness, knowing we can do nothing apart from Him. He is our Root and Source of Life!