

HOW CAN A MAN BE BORN-AGAIN?

TEXT: *John 3:5: Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God."*

There is no true blessedness but that which is enjoyed; and none is enjoyed unless it is felt. It cannot be felt until it is possessed, and it cannot be possessed unless a man knows about it. How can he know about it when he doubts whether or not he has it?

Why do we have to be born of the water and the Spirit? It is because we are dead in trespasses and sins.

1 Corinthians 15:22: For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Can a man get born again, anytime? No.

John 6:44: No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draws him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Genesis 6:3: And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."

**Real
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Real salvation comes from repentance of sins.
Sins are what we are to be saved from.

1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Many church members are deceived about faith for salvation without repentance. Without it, faith is but head belief and brings no change of heart. Sorrow is not repentance, but Godly sorrow works repentance to salvation.

Born of water: this is said by some to refer to water baptism, while others think it has reference to the Word of God in:

Ephesians 5:26: That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.

1 Peter 1:23: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

The New Testament had not yet been written. The Lord was addressing a Jew, who was familiar with the Old Testament.

Ezekiel 36:25: Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Death from the wages of sin:

Genesis 2:17: But of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

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Death is passed on to all men, for all have sinned. Death is the opposite of life. It never denotes non-existence or ceasing to be. Spiritual life is conscious existence in communion with God, so spiritual death is conscious existence in separation from God.

John 3:5: Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the

Kingdom of God."

Do you think Jesus is being unkind or harsh? We need to listen. We would not let in a thief, murderer, harlot or sex-crazed man into our houses to live there, would we?

Jesus preached the most remarkable sermon ever delivered to just one listener. Christ did not reserve His best things for great congregations. He preached, in this chapter, to just one man.

The new birth is not a patch-up or repair job in the soul. The Gospel is not here to mend, but to be the direct act of God in a permanent miracle. ***Being born of the Spirit*** compares the spirit to wind because you cannot see wind, but you can feel and see its effects.

John 3:8: The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh. You can do anything you like with flesh. If you baptize it, then it is baptized flesh. If you make it religious, then it is religious flesh. But that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. No one ever received the new life by water baptism. Baptism is never likened to birth. It is only likened to death. Water, in the Gospel of John, is the symbol of the Word.

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Romans 6:3-5:

³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?

⁴ Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His Resurrection:

When Isaac was born, we were given a perfect picture of the new birth. He was received by faith in God, and Isaac was the second born son into Abraham's family. First is the natural, then the spiritual. First is the flesh birth, then the spiritual birth.

Ishmael had been born about 14 years previous, and Paul tells us in *Galatians Chapter 4* that he was born after the flesh. Natural laws of generation required no faith, no prayer, no miracle of God. His birth is exactly the kind we receive at natural birth into this world. The birth of Isaac shows a sample of our second (spiritual) birth which must, of necessity, take place after our natural birth.

God rejected the first birth of Ishmael. He accepts only the second birth of Isaac. Isaac was born in a supernatural way, beyond the natural laws of nature and human generation. Sarah was past the age of bearing children. She was

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over 90, and dead organs were made alive by the power of God. God produces new life, and this is the example of the new birth. The birth of Isaac was conditioned on Abraham's faith. It is of faith that we receive the new birth, not our faith in ourselves, but in Christ as our personal Savior. God produces the marvelous change in our hearts, affections, and desires, full of hope and

destiny. Faith takes the promise of the Word of God and relies and rests wholly upon it. God works by one law, and it is the law of faith. Out of death He produces eternal life.

Flesh and blood cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. Let's review some pertinent scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:50: Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Born of water

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Water of Life

Ephesians 5:26-27:

²⁶ That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word,

²⁷ That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having

spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

John 17:17: Sanctify them through Thy Truth: Thy Word is Truth.

Seed is the Word

1 Peter 1:23: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Matthew 13:19: When any one heareth the Word of the Kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Sent Word and Healed Them

Psalms 107:2: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

Sanctified by the Word

John 17:17: Sanctify them through Thy Truth: Thy Word is Truth.

Truth will make you free; thy Word is Truth.

John 8:32: And ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free.

Natural man is unwilling to meet the conditions of entering the Kingdom of God. He knows by intuition there must be submission to the will of God, and coming clean of all wrongs, and confession of sin. He does not want to take the lid off. He loves darkness, rather than light.

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Psalms 51:10: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

We need the washing of regeneration and renewing of our spirit; we are born of water AND SPIRIT. The Church can't feed a generation on sugar-coated pills, windy generalities, and religious sweetmeats without producing a

condition midway between mental diarrhea and spiritual dyspepsia.

There is One Kingdom; One Entrance. There is One Agent in the new birth, the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, there is no regeneration.

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God, convicting me of my need of salvation, brings me beyond HOW these things can be to WHO. It is not HOW, but WHO. The Spirit, who brooded over the formless universe in the morning of creation, and wooed countless worlds out of chaos into harmony and splendor, sustains all planets and worlds.

While a man is in a mere natural state before he is born of God, he has no understanding, no knowledge, no spiritual sight, and cannot hear the voice of God. A living man he is, yet dead to Christ, dead to eternal life, and dead to the saints of God.

Ephesians 1:18: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

In baptism, you renounce the world, the flesh and the devil. You are dead to sin, and now buried. Whenever you give place to the devil, and do any of the works of the devil, you deny your baptism. You deny it by every willful sin, every act of uncleanness, drunkenness, revenge, and obscene or profane words of your mouth.

Whether you are baptized or not baptized, you must be born again. Otherwise, it is impossible for you to be inwardly clean. Without this, nothing will do any good to your poor, sinful, polluted soul. Even if you go to church twice a day, take communion every week, say many prayers in private, hear good sermons, and read many good books; nothing will stand in place of the new birth.

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incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

No wicked man is happy. All unholy tempers, malice, hatred, envy, jealousy, revenge, create a present hell in the breast. The softer sins of pride, self-will, and lust; the carnal mind is enmity against God.

Jeremiah 17:9: The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

There are those who search into mysteries of science and discover things that have been hidden from the creation of the world, men of keen and mighty knowledge. And yet of each of these men, the Word says:

Romans 8:7: Because the carnal mind is enmity [hostility] against God: for it is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be.

Take a man who is intellectual, almost angelic, who is a poet, a philosopher, a metaphysician, or a chemist. Strengthen his mind until he can take the riddles of the universe and unravel them with his finger in a moment. Then bring him to the house of God for a prayer meeting. Make him sit constantly under the clearest preaching of the Word of God, where he shall hear of the glories of God, but all is in vain. He will decide it is not to his liking.

This is God's Word. You must not quarrel with me, for this is my Master's message. To have no change of heart, our carnal mind is still enmity against God. A wolf may sleep, but he is still a wolf. A snake may live near the flowers and a child may stroke its back, but it is still a serpent and does not change its nature, though it is dormant. The heart, when it belches not forth its lava of hatred, or when we perceive not its rebellions, is still a dreaded volcano and may erupt at any moment.

Let me imagine a man entering Heaven without the new birth. He comes within the gates, and he hears the music of praises to Jesus Christ. It is praise to this man's enemy. He sees a Throne, and on it sits One Who is Glorious, but He is his enemy. He walks the streets of gold, but those streets belong to his enemy. He sees the hosts of saints, but they are his enemies. Whosoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

If he ever had a chance to even enter Heaven, he would be the most

miserable, tormented soul. He would plead with God to let him run down to Hell for shelter.

We believe that Brother John Hendricks would say from Heaven.....

DO YOU NEED TO BE BORN AGAIN....AGAIN...BOW YOUR HEAD AND DO IT NOW!

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