

“Ye Must Be Born Again!”

I. Introduction:

- a. (John 3:1-7) “There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when his is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto the, Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of flesh is flesh; and that which is born of Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”
- People struggle with this just as Nicodemus did.
 - How are we born again? – Flesh is Mother and Father – Spiritual is Water and Spirit

II. “Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

- a. Except – Greek (ean mae) (eh-an may’) – meaning: if not or unless
- The ability of our entering into the kingdom of God depends on us completing the conditions that follow!
- b. A Man – Greek (tis) – meaning: an enclitic indefinite pronoun; some or anyone
- Being born again is for all – Male and female
 - (Gal 3:28) “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”
 - All can be saved if we obey Christ – (Heb 5:9) “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that **obey him;**”
- c. Be born – Greek (gennaō) (ghen-nah’-o) – meaning: to procreate (properly of the father, but by extension of the mother) figuratively to regenerate
- Must be reborn – Why?
 - (Rom 3:23) “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
 - Wages of Sin is Death – (Rom 6:23) “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
 - That’s why Paul says in (I Tim 5:6) “She that **liveth in pleasure is dead** while she liveth.”
 - We have died spiritually – must be spiritually reborn
 - (Eph 2:1) “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”

- d. Of – Greek (ek) meaning: a primary preposition denoting origin (the point whence action or motion proceeds)
 - i. What comes after this preposition will tell what agent will cause us to be reborn
- e. Water – Greek (Hudor) (**hoo’-dore**) meaning: water
 - i. What does water do?
 - 1. Not the washing away of the filth of the flesh.
 - a. (**1 Pet 3:20-21**) “When once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”
 - i. Saves because of our moral understanding that God commanded it – by the resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - ii. It saves because we do what we know to be right and commanded (Mark 16:16)
 - 2. It puts our sins on the cross with Jesus Christ
 - a. (**1 Pet 2:24**) “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”
 - i. He bore our sins on the cross
 - b. (**Rom 6:3-6**) “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were **baptized into his death?** 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. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, **that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed,** that henceforth we should not serve sin.”
 - 3. It’s how we put on Christ
 - a. (**Gal 3:27-29**) “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

- f. And – Greek (Kai) (**kahee**) meaning: a primary particle, having copulative and sometimes also cumulative force.
 - i. Coupler on a train holds two cars together.
 - ii. And holds Water and Spirit together you can be born by one without the other
 - 1. Ex:
 - a. Faith and Baptism = Salvation (Mark 16:16)
 - b. Repentance and Baptism = Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)
 - c. Water and Spirit = entering the Kingdom of God (John 3:5)
- g. Spirit – Greek (pneuma) meaning: breath (blast) or breeze, (divine) the Holy Spirit
 - i. Not speaking of Holy Spirit Baptism
 - ii. Speaking of being born of the spirit
 - iii. Water was already shown to be necessary –
 - 1. Paul said there’s one baptism (Eph 4:5) “One Lord, one faith, one baptism,”
 - 2. (**Acts 19:2-6**) “He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. **When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.** And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”
 - a. The Ephesians “one baptism” that Paul wrote was water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ.
 - b. Not Holy Spirit Baptism – Laid hands on the them that would receive gifts
 - i. Many Gifts of the Spirit that were used in the expansion of the Gospel
 - ii. Apostles were the only ones to receive a baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - 1. (**Acts 1:5**) “For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”
 - a. Addressed to the Apostles
 - 2. (**Acts 2:1**) “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.”

- a. Filled – they were surrounded by the Spirit – Baptism
- iii. Laying on of hands was imparting gifts on Holy Spirit Baptism
- iv. (John 6:63) “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”
 1. The words of Christ are spirit – they are what we are born of.
- v. (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.”
 1. The word of God is the seed – the fathering agent in our rebirth
 2. It is incorruptible – it’ll live forever
- vi. That’s why Paul says (Rom 1:16-17) “For I am not ashamed of the **gospel of Christ**: for it is the power of God unto **salvation** to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.**”
 1. It’s the power of God – it tells us of Salvation and what we must do!
 - a. Without it we wouldn’t know about salvation
 - b. The righteousness of God is revealed from that system of faith to our personal faith

III. Conclusion

- a. The rebirth consist of mother and father – Water and Spirit
- b. Spirit plants the seed – we come up out of the water to walk in newness of life – as a new creature
- c. We need that new birth in order to enter the kingdom of God.
- d. (Acts 2:38)