

"Ye Must Be Born Again"



Of all the words that man has spoken, none have carried as much meaning and caused man to stop and think of his soul's condition more than when Jesus Christ, the Son of God, made this statement to a Jewish leader by the name of Nicodemus more than two thousand years ago.

This Pharisee ruler had to acknowledge that Jesus had done and was doing many miracles, that He came from God, and that God was with Him. Friend, Jesus had a message for him, and He also has one for you.

Here is the statement, as recorded in the Gospel of John 3:3: "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." Verse 7 says, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." Nicodemus asked Jesus, "How can a man be born when he is old?" (verse 4). This may be the same question you are asking, sinner friend: "How can I be born again when I have already been born once?"

First of all, man is a twofold being: physical and spiritual. Your physical being has already been born, so now you need to be born of the Spirit. The Apostle Paul, speaking to the Church of God at Corinth, in 2 Corinthians 4:16, said, "But though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

Yes, one of these days, your outward, or mortal, body is going to die and go back to the earth from where it came. Then, what about the inward man, your soul that will live throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity? What will become of it?

You might just as honest at heart as a human can be. You may be respected in your community, in your social life, and at your place of employment; but friend, if you have never

been born again, even though you may be a church member in good standing at your local church, according to God's Holy Word, you are lost and heading for a devil's hell.

You might say, "My church teaches that as long as I have been baptized, according to their rules, I am saved." Another might say, "I was confirmed at a certain age, so that makes me saved." Someone else might say, "As long as I remain a member of my church and do the best I can, I will make it to Heaven just as sure as anyone else will."

We have to admit, these beliefs all sound pretty good; but if you hold any of these ideas concerning how to become a child of God, dear friend, you are badly mistaken and have no more spiritual life than the tree that stands beside the road. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

John 1:12-13 plainly declares the new birth in this manner: "But as many as received him [Jesus], to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." The new birth is not something we can either take or leave, but rather it is an absolute must.

When the Apostles Peter and John went up to the temple at Jerusalem, in the name of Jesus they healed a man who was crippled from the time of his birth. Through this miracle of healing, Peter was given the opportunity to preach the Gospel, and the Bible tells us about five thousand people were made believers in Christ (Acts, Chapters 3 and 4). Peter also told the Jews at Jerusalem in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name [than Jesus Christ] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Jesus said in John 10:7 that He is the door, and in the first verse of the same chapter He said that if anyone tries to get in the sheepfold [the church] any other way, except by coming through the door [Jesus], the same is a thief and a robber.

Sinner friend, can't you see how the devil has fooled people by the thousands, and even millions, concerning the eternal destiny of their souls? Can't you see that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood for the sins of the whole world? That includes you.

Perhaps you are thinking that you would like to experience this new birth in Jesus Christ. If that is true, we are more than happy to show you, by God's Word, how you may become a child of God and have a hope of Heaven when you leave this life.

First of all, you must accept the Bible as the Word of God. Then you must admit to yourself and God that you are a poor, lost sinner. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Also, you must have godly sorrow. This is not the type of sorrow a person has when he is caught in his sins, but rather it is a sorrow one has because he has sinned against his fellow man and Almighty God (2 Corinthians 7:10). Next, the Bible teaches that one must repent. The Apostle Paul said to the people of Athens as he stood on Mars' Hill, in Acts 17:30, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." So, you see, friend, repentance is a must to receive the new birth. Romans 10:9-10 lets us know: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Verse 13 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Dear sinner friend, Jesus Christ did not come into this world to condemn you, but He came so that you might be saved from your sins. Jesus said this about Himself in John 3:17: "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world [the human race] through him might be saved."

You may be wondering if it is possible for a person to know that he is saved before he leaves this life. We will let the Bible answer this question. John 20:31 tells us, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

Yes, the new birth is a must, and you will know when it takes place, because the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." You may be wondering why a person is a "new creature" if he is in Christ. We read in 1 John 3:9, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

We have tried, by God's Word, to make this message simple and plain. After reading this tract, you cannot say on the Judgment Day: "Lord, I have never heard of the new birth. I have never heard of the word *repentance*." Moreover, if you reject this message, you will hear the Lord say, "Depart from Me into everlasting punishment," because you rejected the message that said, "Ye must be born again."

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