

New Birth / Creature / Man

Intro: God often uses events which we are familiar with to teach spiritual lessons. One is salvation being illustrated to us by the figure of a new birth with the result of a new creature or new man. Let us examine this figure to learn the lessons God teaches.

I. THE NEW BIRTH

A. John 3:1-8 “There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ²The 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. ³Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? ⁵Jesus 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. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. ⁸The 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.”

B. The new birth embraces water.

1. Tit. 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
2. Heb. 10:22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.” The washing of regeneration is a washing of pure water in baptism.
3. The only thing in the New Testament having to do with water is baptism.
 - a. Acts 8:38-39 “And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”
 - b. Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
 - c. 1 Pet. 3:20-21 “Which sometime were disobedient, 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. ²¹The 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:”

C. The new birth embraces the Spirit.

1. The Spirit effects in man a new spiritual life.
2. Tit. 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
3. He does this by means of the Word of God.
 - a. 1 Pet. 1:22-23 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently: ²³Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
 - b. Jam. 1:18 “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
 - c. When God’s Word goes into our hearts it has the power to produce a begettle resulting in our repentance, baptism and a new life.
 - (1) 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. ¹⁷For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

- (2) Jam. 1:21 “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
- (3) God’s Word is likened to seed and man’s heart to soil in the parable of the sower.
 - (a) Luke 8:11 “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.”
 - (b) If there is life in the seed and it falls upon good soil it will produce life and fruit.
 - (c) There is life in God’s Word; Heb. 4:12 “For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
 - (d) Thus, life is produced in the heart of man, who then will bring forth fruit.

D. The new birth is baptism in water as directed by the Spirit which effects in us a new spiritual life.

1. Eph. 5:26 “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”
2. We go into the water an old man and come out a new spiritual man.

II. A NEW CREATURE.

A. At baptism a death takes place.

1. Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
2. Rom. 6:3-4 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore 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.”
3. Col 2:12 “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”
4. We die to the old man of sin.

B. We are a new creature in Christ.

1. 2 Cor. 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.”
2. We get into Christ by baptism.
 - a. Rom. 6:3 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”
 - b. Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
3. We become a child of God; Gal. 3:26-27 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

C. The newness:

1. New Relationships
 - a. To the Father
 - (1) We were a child of the devil; John 8:44 “Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”
 - (2) Now a child of God; Gal. 3:26 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”
 - b. To Christ—now a personal Savior; Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

- c. To the church
 - (1) Fellowship with the saints; 1 John 1:3 “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”
 - (2) Members of the same body; 1 Cor. 12:27 “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”
 - d. To the world.
 - (1) No longer a friend of the world; Jam. 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”
 - (2) Exposing its wickedness; Eph. 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.”
2. New Attitude
- a. Col. 3:1-3 “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”
 - b. The mind of Christ; Phi. 2:5 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”
 - c. Partaking of the divine nature; 2 Pet. 1:3-4 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
3. New Actions
- a. Eph. 4:24 “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”
 - b. Adding the fruit of the Spirit; Gal. 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”
 - c. Adding the Christian graces; 2 Pet. 1:5-7 “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”

Conclusion: There are a great number of contrast which show the advantage of becoming a new creature. The old man is death, the new life; the old has no purpose the new has a purpose which is glorifying God; the old has no hope, the new has hope. Why not become a new creature by being born again (as directed by the Spirit in the Word, being baptized in water for the forgiveness of your sins).