

# The New Birth

Intro: Today a great number of people talk about being born again. However, if you asked most people what it means to be born again, they have no real concept of it. Many think it is something that God does in either saving someone or it is the change of life that God produces for us. Yet, it is a very important concept in the Scriptures, thus our need to study it.

## I. JESUS INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW BIRTH

- A. John 1:12-13** <sup>12</sup>But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: <sup>13</sup>Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”
- B. John 3:1-8** <sup>1</sup>There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus 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? <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. <sup>8</sup>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.”
1. To enter the kingdom of God (the church), one must be born again.
  2. The new birth consists of:
    - a. Water
    - b. Spirit

## II. WATER

**A. The only thing in the New Testament that really embraces water is water baptism.**

**B. Baptism**

1. Water
  - a. John the Baptist; John 3:23 <sup>23</sup>And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.”
  - b. Acts 8:38 <sup>38</sup>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.”
  - c. Acts 10:47 <sup>47</sup>Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?”
  - d. 1 Pet. 3:20-21 <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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:”
2. It is an immersion or burial in water.
  - a. That is the meaning of the Greek term transliterated into English.
  - b. Rom. 6:3-4 <sup>3</sup>Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>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.”
  - c. Col. 2:12 <sup>12</sup>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.”

3. It is for the remission of sins or salvation.
  - a. Mark 16:16 <sup>16</sup>“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
  - b. Acts 2:38 <sup>38</sup>“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
  - c. Acts 22:16 <sup>16</sup>“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
4. It is to enter the church (kingdom of God)
  - a. Acts 2:41, 47 <sup>41</sup>“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.... <sup>47</sup>Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
  - b. 1 Cor. 12:13 <sup>13</sup>“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

### III. SPIRIT

#### A. Some claim this is baptism of the Holy Spirit

1. Only the apostles received Holy Spirit baptism.
2. Acts 1:4-5 <sup>4</sup>“And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me. <sup>5</sup>For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”

#### B. The Calvinistic doctrine regarding the work of the Spirit upon the heart of the individual.

1. Billy Graham’s website states, “To be born again is to have the Holy Spirit transform our hearts from indifference and hostility toward God to a love of God and a desire for righteousness and holiness.”
2. They teach it is simply accepting Jesus.
  - a. On the GotQuestions website it states, “Trusting in Jesus Christ, the One who paid the penalty of sin when He died on the cross, is the means to be ‘born again.’”
  - b. Christianity website has, “It is an experience when the teachings of Christianity and Jesus become real, and the ‘born again’ acquire a personal relationship with God....The phrase ‘born again’ applies to people who have accepted Jesus as their Savior or Redeemer.”
  - c. These could be multiplied many times over.

#### C. What the Scriptures teach.

1. 1 Cor. 4:15 <sup>15</sup>“For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.”
2. Jam. 1:18 <sup>18</sup>“Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
3. Eph. 5:26 <sup>26</sup>“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”
4. 1 Pet. 1:22-23 <sup>22</sup>“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: <sup>23</sup>Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
5. Tit. 3:5 <sup>5</sup>“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;”
6. We must be begotten by the Spirit which is effected by the Word of God; that penitent faith generated by the Gospel will lead one to obey the New Testament command to be baptized in water; and those who do such will become citizens of the kingdom.

## IV. OTHER PRINCIPLES

### A. To enter the kingdom or church:

1. Acts 2:41, 47 <sup>41</sup>Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. . . . <sup>47</sup>Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
2. 1 Cor. 12:13 <sup>13</sup>For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

### B. To become a child of God.

1. 1 John 3:1-2 <sup>1</sup>Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”
2. Gal. 3:26-27 <sup>26</sup>For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

### C. To be a new creature.

1. 2 Cor. 5:17 <sup>17</sup>Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
2. How do we get into Christ?
  - a. Rom. 6:3-4 <sup>3</sup>Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>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.”
  - b. Gal. 3:27 <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

### D. To enter into the family of God.

1. Eph. 2:19-20 <sup>19</sup>Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; <sup>20</sup>And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*.”
2. Eph. 3:15 <sup>15</sup>Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,”
3. 1 Pet. 2:5 <sup>5</sup>Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”
4. 1 Tim. 3:15 <sup>15</sup>But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

Conclusion: Have you been born again: born of water and the Spirit—baptized in water as directed by the Spirit as He begets us by the Word of God.