

The Biblical Concept of the New Birth

Introduction

- A. Almost everyone has thought at some time or other, "Wouldn't it be great if I could start all over again?"
- B. The Christian is one who has been able to do that. The Bible reminds us that we were "born anew" when we received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new. II Cor. 5:17

I. The Necessity of the New Birth, John 3:1-6.

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 he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 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. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Observation: Nicodemus, as a Pharisee was a highly religious man and he was also a member of the Jewish Supreme Court. When he came to the Lord Jesus the question of his heart received an answer. He was told that he had to be "born again" in order to go to Heaven. His good works, his moral life, his religious affiliations, his community endeavors, his family background, or the religion of his parents all provided nothing toward the possession and the assurance of salvation.

II. The Methodology Related to the New Birth.

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. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12,13

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, ye have ye not many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

I Cor. 4:15

Observation: One is born again in receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This is what it means to "believe". This is a highly personal matter. It is not expressing our faith in the church, it is not "turning over a new leaf", nor is it a decision to stop "sinning". The Gospel is quite simple: Man is a lost sinner (Romans 3:23; 6:23); Jesus Christ died for sinners (Romans 5:8); when we confess that we are a sinner, repent and receive Him as our Savior, we are "born again" (Mark 1:15; John 1:12,13).

III. The Explanation of the New Birth

A. The New Birth produces an inner washing, Titus 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 Spirit.

Observation: This is what every person must have in order to get to Heaven - an inner, spiritual cleansing. This cannot be earned, as the verse plainly teaches, it can only be received. When we choose, by God's grace, to respond to Jesus Christ, only then can we know that washing or cleansing from sin related to forgiveness.

B. The New Birth produces a living hope, I Peter 1:3.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope, by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Observation: Hope, in the Bible, is never doubtful. It is faith as expressed toward the future. The Christian is one who can trust God for his future knowing that the promises of God will not fail.

IV. The Evidences of the New Birth.

A. The person who is born again will practice righteousness, I John 2:29.

If ye know that He is righteous ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him.

B. The person who is born again will not practice sin, I John 3:9. (5:18)

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit (practice) sin, for His seed remaineth in him, and he cannot (practice) sin, because he is born of God.

C. The person who is born again will love other believers, I John 3:9; 4:7.

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death . . . Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God,

D. The person who is born again will believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, I John 5:1.

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and every one that loveth Him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of Him.

E. The person who is born again will obey God and be an overcomer, I John 5:3,4.

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Conclusion: Now we must ask and answer the question! **Have** I been born again?

Victor M. Matthew