

The New Birth (Part 1 of 2)

I. What is the New Birth?

[3:1] Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. [2] This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." [3] **Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."** [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" [5] **Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. [6] That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** [7] Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' [8] **The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.**" [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? (John 3:1-10 ESV)

1)The new birth is not getting new religion but getting new life. (v.3,5)

2)The new birth is not merely affirming the supernatural in Jesus but experiencing the supernatural in yourself. (v.6,8)

3)The new birth is the creation of a new human nature.

[26] And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezekiel 36:26-27 ESV)

(Romans 6:5-11; Colossians 3:3; Ephesians 4:22-24)

II. Why must we be born again?

[1] **And you were dead in the trespasses and sins** [2] in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—[3] among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. [4] But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5] **even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved—[6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [8] **For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,** [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:1-10 ESV)

1)We need this new birth given to us by God (v.5,8)because we are spiritually dead and hardened to the things of God. (v.1,5)

John 3:19-20; Eph 4:18; Rom 8:7-8; 1 Cor 2:14; John 6:44,65; Rom 7:18

2)Without the new birth, we will not have saving faith, we will not be justified, we will not be made children of God, and we will not have eternal joy in fellowship with God.

III. How does the new birth come about?

1)Through God ransoming us by the blood of Jesus (1 Peter 1:18-19; Mark 10:45), raising Jesus (1 Peter 1:3-4), and calling us to imperishable life and fellowship with Him (1 Peter 1:15; 2:9; 5:10)

[18] knowing that **you were ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, [19] but **with the precious blood of Christ**, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (1 Peter 1:18-19 ESV)

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, **he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, [4] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

(1 Peter 1:3-4 ESV)

[9] But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of **him who called you** out of darkness into his marvelous light.

(1 Peter 2:9 ESV)

2)Through faith in Jesus

[31] And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." [32] And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.(Acts 16:31-32 ESV)

[12] **But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,**

[13] who 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 ESV)

3)Through hearing the gospel and reading the Word of God

[11] Whether then it was I or they, **so we preach and so you believed**.(1 Corinthians 15:2,11 ESV)

[17] **So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ**. (Romans 10:17 ESV)

[16] For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for **it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. [17] For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

(Romans 1:16-17 ESV)