

Born Again
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What does it mean to be born again?

This terminology has often been misunderstood and, as a result, undergone many taunts and sneers in the public square. It so happened that these words were met with misunderstanding when they were first spoken by Jesus Himself. The bible explains the inability of just anyone being able to understand a spiritual truth.

“A natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NASB)

Spiritual Darkness.

Revelation is a gift from God, a gift of His grace. Nothing short of a miracle takes place when one realizes the truth concerning their self, their sinful condition, and the way to salvation. The bible describes truth as a light from which the enemy of man’s soul tries to keep him from seeing. This is what the bible calls spiritual darkness. It is into this darkness that Jesus came. *“In Him was life, and the life that was in Him was the light of all men.”*

Lack of Teaching.

The gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ has been reduced to merely believing basic tenets of the Christian faith. No one ask, “Have you been born again” or “Did you receive the Holy Spirit?” These were the questions asked of believers in the early church. Today, the question is simply phrased, “Are you a believer?” According to Jesus, one must both believe in Him and be born again.

John 3:3,5,16 (NASB)

³Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Truly, Truly

Jesus’ use of “truly, truly” emphasizes the importance of what He is saying. These words are of eternal importance because they relate to one’s entrance of God’s eternal kingdom. Jesus would warn those who thought they would be allowed in, but, in fact, would be shut out.

Water and Spirit

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

Water.

People were repenting of their sins under John’s baptism ministry. However, the salvation of Jesus Christ goes much farther. Remember the statement of John:

“As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Matthew 3:11 (NASB)

Water baptism was merely ceremonial cleansing. It was performed under John’s ministry as a way preparing people for the baptism of the Messiah. John’s ministry was but a precursor to the ministry of Christ, Jesus. It was used as a symbol for repentance.

Repentance involves a change of the mind and desire of the heart to turn from sin and to turn back to God. Repentance involves Godly sorrow, and shame, and a keen sense of judgment for sin.

One can be brought to this point through the ministry of preaching, but they must go farther to be saved. Although repentance is the duty of man, he cannot save himself. He must be born again of the Spirit!

The Spirit.

Our physical life came from the will and actions of man. Spiritual life comes by the will and actions of God. To be born again also means to be born from above. This birth is accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38 (NASB) Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Born Again

For anything to happen again means it has happened before. Everyone living was born. A life was created at conception.

Psalms 139:13 (NIV) You created my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother’s womb.

The Creator who gave us physical life desires to give us spiritual life as well. Death came upon all because of sin, but God sent His Son so to restore us unto life again.

He who has the Son has life, but he who does not have the Son does not have life. We must be born again!

Receiving the Holy Spirit produces a new life in us. This new life is from above, it is from God, it is spiritual, and it takes the control over me from the flesh. The one born of God becomes a partaker of His divine nature. One cannot live a righteous life without the indwelling Holy Spirit (to God be the glory).

A New Life is Lived

John 3:8 (NASB) The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

Those who have received the life of the Spirit can feel His presence and they can hear His voice. The world can’t receive the Holy Spirit because they can’t see Him or know Him, but *“You know Him because He abides with you and will be in you,” Jesus (John 14:17)*

- We are saved by the mercy of God and by the washing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)
- We are set apart unto God by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:2)
- We are sealed by the Holy Spirit who is also a pledge of our eternal inheritance (Eph. 1:13-14)

No one can see or enter the kingdom of God unless they are BORN AGAIN!

The bible tells us that the heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him (Lk. 11:13).

Repent! Believe in Jesus Christ! Receive His baptism! He will give you the Holy Spirit! You will be Born Again! Born from above! Born into the family of God!