

John 3:3-8 - To Be Born Again

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1. BEING BORN AGAIN IS ESSENTIAL

- Jesus said, **"You must be born again."**
- John 3 teaches that **no one can see or enter the kingdom of God without being born again.**
- Being born again is not simply:
 - Becoming more religious
 - Improving behaviour
 - Starting over emotionally
 - Having a religious family background
- It is a **work of God** in which someone who is spiritually dead is made alive and receives new spiritual life.

2. IT IS A WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Physical birth gives natural life; the new birth gives **spiritual life.**
- Jesus described being born of **water and the Spirit.**
- Ezekiel 36 speaks of God cleansing, giving a **new heart**, and putting His Spirit within His people.
- The new birth is like the wind: **you cannot control or fully explain it, but you can see its effects.**
- Believers should be able to recognize the work of the Spirit in their lives.

3. HUMAN EFFORT CANNOT PRODUCE THE NEW BIRTH

- **Moral effort, religious seriousness, education, family background, ceremony, and self-discipline cannot substitute for spiritual birth.**
- Salvation comes from God.
- We cannot make ourselves righteous before God.
- **"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."** — Romans 3:23

4. THE NEW BIRTH IS THROUGH CHRIST

- The foundation of the new birth is **Christ's death and resurrection**, not human works.
- John 3:16 points to **faith in Jesus Christ** and everlasting life.
- Those who receive Christ and believe in His name become **children of God.**

- Being born again is connected with the **new covenant**, forgiveness of sin, and God working within our hearts.

5. REPENTANCE & A NEW DIRECTION

- Repentance means **changing our mind and turning toward God**.
- We are not entitled to sin.
- The Holy Spirit changes our hearts and direction.
- Believers are called to **walk by the Spirit** rather than gratify the desires of the flesh.

6. THE RESULT IS A NEW LIFE

- **2 Corinthians 5:17**: Anyone in Christ is a **new creation**; the old has passed away and the new has come.
- Being born again does **not mean immediate perfection**.
- Christians still struggle with the flesh, but God progressively transforms them.
- The **fruit of the Spirit** includes:
 - Love
 - Joy
 - Peace
 - Long-suffering
 - Gentleness
 - Goodness
 - Faith
 - Meekness
 - Temperance

7. SALVATION INVOLVES TRANSFORMATION

- **Justification**: God declares us righteous.
- **Regeneration**: God gives new spiritual life.
- **Sanctification**: God progressively transforms us.
- **Glorification**: We will ultimately be completely like Christ.

FINAL EMPHASIS

- **You must be born again.**
- Being born again means **regeneration, new life, and transformation through the Holy Spirit**.
- It means **dying to self**, coming to the end of our own strength, and relying on God.
- The encouragement is to remember that **God's mercies are new every**

morning.

- Believers are called to proclaim again and again that **as children of God, we must be born again.**