Born of Water and Spirit

Today's Reading: John 3:5–7; Acts 2:38 | Audio: Day 2

> *"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… Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."*
>
> — John 3:5, 7 (KJV)

> *"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."*
>
> — Acts 2:38 (KJV)

DEVOTIONAL

Jesus spoke plainly to Nicodemus. Entering the kingdom requires being born again—not simply improving ourselves, not becoming more religious, not merely agreeing with spiritual ideas, but being born of water and of the Spirit. Birth is not a small adjustment. Birth is the beginning of a new life.

When Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost, he gave the response to the gospel clearly. The people heard that Jesus, whom they had rejected and crucified, was both Lord and Christ. They were convicted and asked, "What shall we do?" Peter did not answer vaguely.

THE RESPONSE	WHAT IT MEANS
Repent	Turn away from sin and turn toward God—more than feeling bad, a change of direction
Be baptized in Jesus' name	Buried with Him and washed in His name, for the remission of sins
Receive the Holy Ghost	God does not forgive and leave us empty; He fills us with power for new life

This is not about earning salvation. We are saved by grace—God's unearned, undeserved favor reaching toward us while we are still sinners. But grace calls for a response. If someone throws a lifeline to a drowning person, the rope is grace; there still must be a response. The person must take hold of what has been given.

So today, this devotion invites honest reflection. Have I responded to the gospel the way Scripture describes, or settled for less than the full experience God has made available? That question is not meant to bring fear but clarity. God is not keeping salvation hidden; He gave us His Word so we can respond with faith and confidence.

DAY 2 • JOURNAL & RESPONSE

REFLECT

1. *Have you responded to the gospel the way Scripture describes it?*

2. *Is there any place where you have settled for less than what God commanded and promised?*

RESPOND: TODAY'S PRACTICAL STEP

Study the pattern of salvation in Acts this week. As you read each passage, ask: What did they preach? How did people respond? What role did baptism play? What role did receiving the Spirit play?

- ☐ Acts 2:38
- ☐ Acts 8:14–17
- ☐ Acts 10:44–48
- ☐ Acts 19:1–6

What I noticed in the pattern:

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your grace. Thank You for dying for our sins and rising again with all power. Give us honest hearts before Your Word. If there is any place where we have settled for less than what You commanded and promised, lead us into truth. Help us repent fully, obey Your Word completely, and receive everything You desire to give. We want to be born of water and of Spirit. We want to walk in new life. In Jesus' name, amen.

My own prayer:

REMEMBER THIS

Grace invites a response.

Going Deeper: Romans 6:3–4 • Titus 3:5 • Acts 22:16

This devotional is a tool for reflection, not a substitute for pastoral care or professional counseling. If what surfaces feels too heavy to carry alone, please reach out to a pastor or a trusted, qualified counselor at New Life Tabernacle Carrollwood.