

Born of Water & Spirit

John 3:1-21

5 *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.*

Foreword

The above answer from Jesus was to a question asked by one of the Elders of Israel, a spiritual leader, Nicodemus. When he heard Jesus say "born again", he thought He meant a literal re-birth from his mother's womb. Jesus referred to the birth Nicodemus was referring to as being "born of water". He then told of another birth that is a pre-requisite to see and enter the kingdom of God, Spirit birth. Spirit birth infers our spirit is not alive in us until God's Spirit brings us to life.

Nicodemus' Small Talk

Jesus can see our thoughts and the intents of our heart, Heb. 4:12, and He saw the true intent of Nicodemus' heart. It was not to "chat" with a Rabbi about His teachings or miracles, but rather, "How can I come to know God as you know Him?"

Jesus got right to the point of need in Nicodemus' heart. He stills does this today for you and me. Let us not come to Jesus with small talk of curiosities from the Bible or about life, until we have first had a conversation about how we can enter the kingdom of God.

The Need of a New Birth

Sin has a degrading and debasing affect on our body, mind, heart, and soul. The apostle Paul teaches us from the abundance of revelations given unto him, that, while we are in sin, we are dead. But if we hear the good news of the Gospel and believe, Paul says Christ "quickens", or resurrects us to new life. Resurrection is a transforming metamorphosis of our entire life, not a remodel or remake of it.

When Jesus was resurrected, the death wrappings of his body fell away and He had a new and different, metaphysical and eternal body. However, when Lazarus was raised from death to life, we don't believe he received his new and eternal body. We believe that, instead of resurrection, Lazarus simply experienced restoration, or, resuscitation. His soul returned to his old body, and the breath of life was breathed back into him. But unlike Jesus, Lazarus was still wrapped in the death wrappings and needed help to become free of them.

New Birth Equals New Nature, New Life, New Home

Those truly born again feel a new life wake up in them. Doubt gives way to belief; opposition gives way to submission; pride gives way to humility; distance gives way to relationship; fear gives way to joy; deadness gives way to life; and despair gives way to the hope of obtaining all the promises of God.

Christ Made New Birth Possible for Us

Jesus is committed to being a full-time savior. He said He would be with us always, even to the end of time. He is there when we first sense the alarm of sin's penalty and repent; He is there when we reach out in belief to be rescued from our dilemma; He is there when we feel the fear and exasperation of failure and falling short, and reassures of His eternal commitment to get us through. Christ is there for you as both Author, and, Finisher of your faith. If you haven't yet, why not come to Jesus as Nicodemus did; lay yourself down in repentance to sin; and reach out for the hand of Christ in belief that He will take yours and lift you up to a new life in Him.

From Death to Life

2 Sam. 12:23 - David knew he would live after death to be with his stillborn infant son.

Job 19:23-27 - Job replies to friends who berate him, that God has turned on him without cause, taking away all joy and hope in life, and leaving him with, only the hope of recording the truth of his innocence for future readers, and seeing Christ his redeemer-kinsman in the latter day, in a new resurrected body.

Isa. 26:19 - One day at the end of time, God will vindicate the righteous on the evil, and afterward will raise the dead as the earth casts them out.

Acts 20:7-12 - Paul preaches from supper to midnight, by which time, young Eutychus fell asleep in a third-floor window. After falling to his death, he is revived by Paul, showing the power of God, even over death, as a preview of our own eventual resurrection. Paul finished his sermon in the morning, but the people were overjoyed for Eutychus.

Rom. 4:17-25 - Paul shows how God imputed righteousness to Abraham for his faith in God's promise of descendants in the millions, even though life, from a body shriveled up and nearly dead, as his and Sarah's were, seemed impossible. Then Paul compares us to Abraham, and draws out that if we believe in the seemingly impossible resurrection of Christ, we too shall be deemed righteous in God's eyes.

Rom. 6:1-14 - Paul shows how baptism is our sin-funeral. It displays both our death and burial to sin, and follows the same path Christ took. Then Paul compares our rising to become a new person in this life to the resurrection of Christ Himself.

Paul explains that Christ's crucifixion destroyed the whole body of sin, its nature, its power, and even its penalty; all paid for by the blood sacrifice of God's only begotten son.

Paul then adds the bonus of our willingness to die to sin as Christ did. We shall be resurrected as Christ was. Paul reveals that the secret to victory over sin, is coming to the place where it is to us as completely dead, just as it was to Christ. Only then can we live unto God as Christ does.

Rom. 8:10 - Paul shows that sin takes our bodies as punishment, but if Christ is in us, our spirit lives because of righteousness.

1 Cor. 15:25-26; 51-58 - Paul shows our victory over death.

Eph 2:1 - Living in sin is a form of death.

Rev. 1:5 - Christ is the first-begotten or resurrected of the dead.