

BORN AGAIN

Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

(John 3:3)

What Does It Mean to Be Born Again?

Since we have just read that only born again people will see the kingdom of God, I can say that understanding and applying this truth is paramount.

Only Adam and Eve were created in the image of God. After they disobeyed God, He withdrew His Spirit from them—they died spiritually. Ever since then, every man and woman is born in the image of Adam—without the Holy Spirit in him or her.

When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image and named him Seth.

(Genesis 5:3)

Ever since then, every man and woman is born with the sinful nature and in need of forgiveness, and spiritually dead and in need of life. That is why we have to be born again—born of the Spirit, born of God, born from above.

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

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

“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.”

(John 3:5–8)

The new birth is given through the means of the preaching of God’s Word (“Water” is often used in Scripture metaphorically for the Word of God) and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This is how I see the meaning of John 3:5 “unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

We could ask, as Nicodemus did,

“How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

(John 3:4)

Jesus speaks of heavenly things, things that need to be discerned spiritually. He is offering life—spiritual life. This life is eternal, imperishable, indestructible, and is available to anyone who will come and receive Jesus. When a person receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior that person is born again. The Spirit of God comes to live in that person, never to leave.

Sin, which caused the separation from God, is taken care of on the cross. The sin issue was settled once and for all. Sins are forgiven (read chapter “Forgiveness”), thus *nothing stands between God and man*—nothing but unbelief in Jesus and His accomplished work on the cross and His resurrection. Once we repent of unbelief in Jesus and receive Him, we are born of God. That is what makes one a Christian—the born again experience, the indwelling of God Himself.

Christ in you, the hope of glory.
(Colossians 1:27)

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

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)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

(1 Peter 1:3–4)

For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.

(1 Peter 1:23)

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.

(1 John 5:1)

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

(1 John 5:4)