

New Birth - Cont.

is the water? Is the water the physical birth water that comes out of a mother when her child is born? No. We have already noticed in this text that Jesus is talking about a spiritual birth, not a physical birth. Verse 6 of our text makes it clear that Jesus is talking about a spiritual birth. Well, is the water the same as the Spirit? No. Like Matthew 3:11, water and Spirit are two different things. The water here is water baptism (Romans 6:3-4).

Jesus also said, "...born of ... the Spirit". What is the work of the Holy Spirit? Is it a direct operation? No. The Holy Spirit works in the conviction and conversion of the sinner indirectly through his inspired word (1 Corinthians 4:15; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:22-23,25).

Sixth, Jesus said, "... born of the Spirit..." Being "born again" is a spiritual birth. It is not a physical birth. Christians are a product of the Spirit (John 1:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 2:13) and Christians are a reflection of the Spirit (Galatians. 5:23-24).

Friend, are you truly born again? If not, do it today! Christian, are you truly living like you have been born again? - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- You may get weary *in* your work, but don't ever get weary *of* your work.
- Endeavor to learn the best (the truth), not the most.
- Who you are is more valuable than what you have.
- Many people desire the most of what they need the least.
- Be a hearer and a doer of the Word.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The New Birth

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born anew.
 - John 3:3-7 -

The “new birth” is a popular religious topic today, but it is also a misunderstood topic. You will hear many preachers talk in their sermons about the necessity of being “born again”. But, to them, being “born again” basically means having “faith only” or “accepting Jesus as your personal Savior”. However, this is not what Jesus meant by being “born again”. Let us learn what it means to be “born again”.

Being “born again” is absolutely necessary. Notice that Jesus said to Nicodemus “he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”. That is rather plain and explicit. If you are not “born again”, you cannot be in God’s king-

dom. So, what is it to be “born again”?

Being “born again” is not merely being religious. Nicodemus was already religious (John 3:1-2). Being “born again” is something more than that. What is it? Let’s go down through the text and see what it means to be “born again”.

First, Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you...”. Being “born again” is a mature birth, not the birth of an infant. A person has to be old enough to hear what

The New Birth: What Is It?

John 3:5	1 Corinthians 12:13	Ephesians 5:26	Titus 3:5
Water	Baptized	Water	Washing
Spirit	One Spirit	Word	Renewing
Kingdom	One Body	Sanctify/Cleanse	Saved

Jesus says, believe it, and then obey it (Acts 18:18).

Second, Jesus said, “Except one ... he cannot”. Being “born again” is a necessary birth. It is not optional. “Except” means, “if and only if you do this” (Luke 13:5).

Third, Jesus said, “... be born anew (again)...”. Being “born again” is a second birth. It is not being born the first time. It

does not refer to our first, physical birth. It is a completely new birth and we are “new creatures” in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Fourth, Jesus said, “... see the kingdom ... enter the kingdom”. Being “born again” is a transitional birth. It takes us from a physical life of sin and puts us into the Lord’s spiritual kingdom where he rules and reigns over us (Colossians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 15:24).

Fifth, Jesus said, “... born of water and the Spirit...”. Being “born again” is a composite birth. It is made up of two elements, not a singular element. The two elements are water baptism and the words of the Holy Spirit. Water baptism and the words of the Holy Spirit are parallel to “water and the Spirit” in John 3:5 (see the chart to the left and 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:26; Titus 3:5).

Both water baptism and the Spirit work together in conversion. In the cases of conversion in the book of Acts, there was always the preaching of the words of the Holy Spirit and being baptized in water (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:37-38; 18:8).

Jesus said, “...born of water”. What