

**God With Us**

## A Study of John's Gospel: "You Must Be Born Again"

## John 3:1-7

*"Jesus answered him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*  
(John 3:3)

**I. New Birth**

- a. Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, which means he was a member of the Sanhedrin Council who settled legal disputes among Jews. He visited Jesus at night out of concern for his status.
- b. What does it mean to be born of "water and spirit?"
- c. We all experience birth through natural birth on earth, if we expect to go to heaven, we must experience a spiritual supernatural birth from above.
- d. Jesus makes it clear that it is impossible to *fit* ourselves in the kingdom. It is necessary to be completely renewed, born anew, by the power of the Spirit.
- e. Let us be clear, Jesus is not talking about water baptism. In the N.T., baptism relates to death, not birth. No amount of water can effect spiritual change in a person.
- f. Water baptism is part of our obedience *to* Christ and our witness *for* Christ, but it is *not* a necessity for salvation. *Born of water* has also been referred to as "spiritual cleansing." (Num 19:17-19)
- g. To be "born of water" is to be born physically (the mother's water breaks), but to be born again means to be born of the Spirit. The word translated *again* also means "from above." (Titus 3:5)
- h. Just as there are two *parents* for physical birth there are two *parents* for spiritual birth: the Spirit of God (v.5) and the Word of God (James 1:18; 1 Pet 1:23-25).
- i. When we confess belief in Christ, we are recipients of God's grace as He gives us new birth through His Spirit (Eph 2:8-9).

**II. Born Again, A Necessity for Eternal Life**

- a. Throughout the Bible, there is only one way of salvation – faith in God's promise, though the outward evidence of that faith has changed from age to age. Inward change outward evidence.
- b. Human birth involves labor (John 16:21), and so does birth from above. Jesus labored on the cross. True believers must labor in prayer and witness in order to bring sinners to Christ. (Gal 4:19)
- c. A mother can prove that she has brought life into the world by presenting the child. We prove that we are children of God by living the *new life* as new creations.
- d. The Apostle John uses the word *life* 36 times in his Gospel. The person who has not believed in Jesus Christ does not have God's life, eternal life, or the abundant life.
- e. To call yourself a Christian and being born in a Christian land does not make you a Christian. You must be born again as a subject of Jesus Christ and take on His nature. (e.g. the family of God)

**III. Personal Application of the Good News**

- a. No matter how a child is birthed into this world, birth involves a future, and we are *born again to a living hope*. (1 Peter 1:3)
- b. A newborn baby cannot be arrested because they have no past. When you are born again your sins are forgiven and forgotten, and your future is bright with a living hope.
- c. What does it mean *to see the kingdom of God*? It means to be a member of the spiritual church
  1. to enjoy the privileges and liberty as a child of God, to have power in prayer
  2. to have communion with Christ, to have fellowship with the Holy Ghost
  3. to bring forth spiritual fruit, and to be admitted into heaven