

# THE NEW BIRTH

John 3:1 – 8

Donald Townsley

## INTRODUCTION

1. The NEW BIRTH is a subject of much controversy.
2. This is because false doctrine is taught about it.
3. Many teach the NEW BIRTH is a mystery, and beyond man's ability to understand (direct operation of the Holy Spirit).
4. This is an important subject because Jesus said "*except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*" – John 3:3 – 5.
5. Let us study this subject and see what the New Testament teaches about the NEW BIRTH.

## I. THE NEW BIRTH IS A SPIRITUAL BIRTH

- a. Nicodemus was concerned with "HOW" the new birth could be accomplished.
  - i. He said, "*How can a man be born when he is old?*" – John 3:4.
  - ii. Jesus answered, "*born of water and of the Spirit*" – John 3:5.
- b. Jesus wanted Nicodemus to understand the birth is not fleshly but spiritual – John 3:6.
  - i. It is the spiritual part of man that is born again – Heb. 12:9; Acts 17:29.
  - ii. Jesus teaches this by an example – John 3:8.
  - iii. The inner man is like the wind; known only by its evidences.
  - iv. It is this part of man, the inner man, that is born again – 2 Cor. 4:16; James 2:26; I Thess. 5:23.
- c. Many try to make this verse teach a direct operation of the Spirit.
- d. It is the inner man that is compared to the wind, not the Spirit's operation.

## II. BORN OF THE SPIRIT

- a. Many teach the error that the Spirit works without means, suddenly seizing a man to regenerate him.
- b. The Scriptures teach that the Spirit always and only works to save through the Word of God:
  - i. The word is inspired of the Spirit – 2 Tim. 3:16 – 17.
  - ii. The word is powerful – Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16; I Cor. 15:2.
  - iii. It sanctifies – John 17:17.
  - iv. It frees – John 8: 32.
  - v. It purifies – I Pet. 1:22.
  - vi. It gives light – Psa. 119: 130.
  - vii. It Saves – James 1: 21.
  - viii. I Pet. 1:23.
- c. One is begotten when he believes in Jesus – I John 5:1 – "*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is begotten of God*" – ASV – James 1:18; Rom. 10:17; I Cor. 4:15.
- d. The begetting alone is NOT the NEW BIRTH.

- i. The believer is begotten, but he is no more born again than physically born when he was conceived.
- ii. After the begetting there must be a bringing forth to complete the process.
- iii. Men are not saved by “faith only” – James 2:24.
- iv. The believer has the privilege of becoming a child of God – John 1:12.

### **III. BORN OF WATER**

- a. Jesus is the firstborn from the dead – Col. 1:18.
  - i. He was buried in a new tomb, and from it he came forth alive, born from the dead.
  - ii. If to rise from the grave is to be born from the dead, then to arise from the water is to be born of water.
  - iii. Baptism is the only thing in the New Testament that corresponds to this – Rom. 6: 3 – 4; Col. 2: 11 – 12.

### **IV. BORN AGAIN – IN CHRIST**

- a. Those who receive with meekness the engrafted word are saved – James 1:21.
  - i. Converted to enter the Kingdom – Matt. 18:3.
  - ii. Be born again to enter the Kingdom – John 3:5.
  - iii. “Conversion” and being “born again” are the same.
- b. Those who receive the engrafted word are born again – I Pet. 1: 23.
  - i. Born again enter the Kingdom.
  - ii. Those who do His will enter the Kingdom – Matt. 7:21.
- c. Therefore, those who are “born again” are saved – Acts 8: 14; 11:1; 2:41.
- d. All the saved are “in Christ” – Eph. 1:3; John 14:6.
- e. Therefore, all who are “born again” are “in Christ”.
- f. To get into Christ one must be baptized – Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27.
- g. Therefore, to be “born again” one must be baptized.

### **V. RESULT: ENTER THE KINGDOM**

- a. The Kingdom of God, referred to by Jesus, is the church – Matt. 16:18 – 19.
- b. Therefore, all who are “born again” are saved; they enter the church.
- c. I Cor. 12:13; Mk. 16:16