

THE NEW BIRTH

We have learned that ignorance of God's Word will cost you and that the choices you make have consequences. We know that repentance is the first step in our covenant relationship with God and it leads to the new birth.

Our spirits are made alive again towards God through the new birth.

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 5:23

- We are a spirit, we possess a soul, and we live in a body.
- At the fall of mankind, the spirit died and the soul took control.
- The soul is made up of our mind, will, and emotions.
- The natural person is ruled by their physical senses and feelings.

OBJECT LESSON: Teddy's House

Our spirits were dead because they were corrupted by the blood of Adam. When we repent and receive Jesus' substitutional gift, then our spirits are born again, cleansed by the blood of Jesus. This is the new birth. Your spirit is reborn and you receive the nature of Jesus. Remember, He always obeyed God. He always made the right choices. And as we renew our minds to God's Word and learn about His ways, then we will begin to make the right choices, too. At the new birth, the spirit is born again--made alive towards God once again. Communication is restored. Fellowship is restored. A new relationship can begin.

John 3:3-7

I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again. Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter his mother's womb again and be born? Jesus answered, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, unless a man is born of water and even the Spirit, he cannot ever enter the Kingdom of God. What is born from the flesh is flesh; and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not, do not be surprised at My telling you, you must all be born anew.

- Despite his great learning, Nicodemus was confused, Jesus explained that He was not talking about a physical new birth, but a spiritual rebirth.
- Remember, at the fall of mankind, Adam and Eve didn't die physically--their spirits died.
- Their spirits were separated from God's presence
- Relationship was lost; fellowship was lost
- Before we are born again we are spiritually dead
- We are alive physically and from all outward appearances nothing seems wrong with us
- The New Birth is given to us by God
- Just as we can't give physical birth to ourselves, we can't accomplish the spiritual birth by ourselves either.
- God gives it and we receive it by faith in Jesus Christ

1 Peter 1:3-4

In His great mercy He (God the Father) has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in Heaven for you...

- Because God gives us this new birth, we know exactly where we stand.
- That's what is so exciting about Christianity!
- We don't have to struggle for our salvation, wondering whether we have said enough prayers or done enough good deeds.
- Christ did it for us and it is complete!

Ephesians 2:1-8

And you He made alive, when you were dead, slain by your trespasses and sins in which at one time you walked habitually. You were following the course and fashion of this world, were under the sway of the tendency of this present age; following the prince of the power of the air. You were obedient to and under the control of the demon spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience--the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving--who go against the purposes of God.

Among these we as well as you once lived and conducted ourselves in the passions of our flesh--our behavior governed by our corrupt and sensual nature--obeying the impulses of the flesh and the thoughts of the mind--our cravings dictated by our senses and our dark imaginings. We were then by nature children of God's wrath and heirs of His indignation, like the rest of mankind. But God--so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us, even when we were dead, slain by our own shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ; He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for it is by grace--His favor and mercy which you did not deserve--that you are saved, delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation. And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together; giving us joint seating with Him in the Heavenly sphere by virtue of our being in Christ Jesus. He did this that He might clearly demonstrate through the ages to come the immeasurable, limitless, surpassing riches of His free grace in His kindness and goodness of heart toward us in Christ Jesus. For it is by free grace that you are saved; delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation through your faith. And this salvation is not of yourselves; of your own doing, it came not through your own striving, but it is the gift of God.

- New Birth is another term for 'regeneration'
- Before salvation, we are degenerate
- After the new birth, our regeneration is so complete it can be described as nothing less than a totally new life in the spirit
- Again, we look the same physically
- But inside, our spirit that was dead to God has now become alive towards Him again!
- We become a new creature that has a right standing with God again
- A new creature that is no longer driven by the demon spirit towards rebellion; but is guided by the Holy Spirit towards obedience to God's ways
- New birth brings new priorities
- With our new nature comes an intense desire for Christ and the things

of God

- We want to please God out of love and not fear
- As members of His family, we want to fit in with our Father and our Brother, Jesus

There will always be a total transformation in a person's life when they give it to Jesus Christ. A genuine new birth experience always produces a changed life. There is a turning away from living to please oneself, and a turning to God's ways. Jesus said His people will be identified by their love for Him and that love will be seen in their obedience to His Word.