

Born of the Spirit

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John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

John 3:5-8 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of 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. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

John 3:11-12 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

- I. The natural state of a person born into this sinful world is that he can only see what his eyes see, he can only hear what his ears hear, and he can only feel what his hands touch.
 - A. He tries to understand everything by what he knows about this life and this world.
 - B. He is not able to understand or comprehend anything outside of this physical realm in which he lives.
 - C. He lives in fear and fascination of the spiritual world that is invisible to him, but tries with all his might to deny its existence completely.
 - D. Jesus talked about being born again; born of the spirit, and taught that it is the gate into spiritual life.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Romans 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

- E. Even when we are blind to spiritual powers we are being manipulated and influenced by them.
 - 1. Before we are saved we walked according to "...the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."
- F. Nicodemus was blind to spiritual things and was trying to understand the words of Jesus and spiritual birth as something carnal, tangible, earthly.
 - 1. He opened the conversation by asserting that he knew Jesus was of God because of the miracles he performed.
 - 2. This is what every unconverted person does – they are impressed by miracles and magic tricks, and anything that appears to be supernatural.

3. Those who have a religious tendency will credit the phenomena to God and those who don't will credit it to the unknown.
4. Then he protested what Jesus said about being born again because he could not understand birth except it involved a physical mother and a physical womb – after all, that is what birth is.

John 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5. He actually seemed to make light of Jesus and his spiritual talk by showing how ridiculous it sounded when compared to physical birth.
6. When Jesus answered in verses 5-8 explaining that there must be a spiritual birth as well as a physical birth he simply said, "How can these things be?"

G. The Samaritan woman at the well in John 4 was exactly the same way.

1. When Jesus spoke of giving her living water, she immediately thought he was talking about water from that same well she had come to draw from.

John 4:11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

2. When Jesus answered and spoke of giving her living water and never thirsting again, she again spoke only of what she knew by what she had seen and heard.

John 4:15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.

3. When Jesus spoke of her immoral life and she realized he knew all about her, she switched to talking about religion, but it was still only in earthly terms.

John 4:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

John 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

4. Jesus explained to her that worship is not about a place or a man, but that is a spiritual thing and that God is a spirit and must be worshipped in spirit and in truth, but again, she simply answered with her earthly, carnal understanding.

John 4:25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

H. Just as these two examples, so are all men and women blind to the spiritual world and only alive to the physical world around them.

I. No wonder that Jesus said:

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

J. It takes an encounter with the Savior in order to be born of the Spirit and very few people ever get close enough to meet him.

K. Most people are on the broad way, which means that they have embraced an earthly man-made religion that attempts to explain and understand God and all his works with carnal, earth-bound eyes, ears, and intellectual exercises.

II. Except a man be born again he cannot SEE the kingdom of God.

Luke 17:20-21 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

- A. The great thing of the new birth is that before you cannot see, but afterward you can.
 - 1. This is speaking of understanding – not physically seeing with our eyes.
 - 2. The kingdom of God cometh not with observation – the spirit is like the wind, you hear it and you can see its effects, but you cannot see it or put a location on it.
 - 3. We understand with our mind what we could not understand before.
 - 4. When Jesus was hanging on the cross the spiritually blind people and their religious leaders mocked him and demanded that he prove who he said he was by doing some miracle.
 - 5. Superstitious people demand physical proof of the supernatural, but people who are born of the Spirit do not because they can know what superstitious people do not know.
 - 6. Everyone who misses Jesus does so because they are looking for him to miraculously change things in this physical realm right now, and not for what he does in the spiritual realm ; his kingdom is a spiritual kingdom, not of this earth.
 - 7. The blind man had it right when Jesus asked him what he wanted him to do for him. He said: “Lord, that I might receive my sight.”
 - 8. That is how a person is born again.
- B. Being able to SEE means to be made aware of what was there all the time but you were oblivious to.
- C. What can you see?
 - 1. You can see that there is more to life than just what you see with your eyes.
 - 2. You can see that there is more to understand than the physical universe around us.
 - 3. You can see (understand) that there are powers at war that are influencing and controlling what goes on in this physical world around us concerning man and his sin and his righteousness.
- D. You also become aware that your mind and your heart are the battlefield of these spiritual powers that are at war, and it is your soul that is at stake.
 - 1. Since you can see you begin to resist the evil in the spiritual realm and not just by conforming outwardly to a certain religion and its requirements.
- E. You become aware that you are not of this world anymore and that they do not understand what has happened to you.

Galatians 4:29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

- F. Those that are born of the spirit are free; free from sin and free from having to think of everything in earthly carnal terms.
 - 1. Their understanding has been expanded by faith to include a realm without the confinements of living in a body of flesh in a physical world.
 - 2. They do not have to relate everything to the physical in order to understand it.
 - 3. They walk by faith and not by sight.
- G. You have victory over Satan and his armies because you can see to resist them.

III. Jesus, because he is the Son of God and the Son of man, is the bridge from the physical world to the spiritual world.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.