

The Holy Spirit

Lesson 5 – Born Of Water & The Spirit (Part 1)

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Introduction

We in the churches of Christ have been teaching the essential nature of baptism from the beginning. We have had a huge focus on the physical act but very little concerning the spiritual aspect of what it means to be born of the Spirit. Both are necessary for salvation. You can't be saved without being born of water **and of the Spirit**.

4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. (1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NIV)

I. Being Born Again – John 3:1-8

John 3:1-8 Nicodemus a ruler of the Jews came by night to talk to Jesus for he recognized the power of God in Jesus by the miracles he performed. Jesus' reply probably startled him.

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

Nicodemus doesn't know how to respond to this. He is a Jew who believes that entering the kingdom of God (Israel) came by physical birth. It didn't make sense to him.

Jesus goes on to explain not only you won't be able to see the kingdom of God without being born again but you can't get into it either without this new birth.

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and 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. "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:5-8 NASB)

Unfortunately, we've been more concerned about getting people into the water, then we have been concerned about their spiritual birth. And the reason we focus on that is because we can see it and understand it. Spiritual birth is like the wind. We have no idea of its origin or direction. You can't explain wind or this spiritual birth. However, you can feel it and see the results of its presence.

Many important things happen when we are born again - sins are forgiven, you become child of God, you are added to His kingdom the church, and you gain eternal life.

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Romans 8:11-14 NASB)

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' "But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39 NASB)

Has the Holy Spirit turned your night to day? Have you been born again of water and the Spirit?

Next week we will continue this lesson concerning being born again of water and the Spirit by looking at what it will mean and look like. Hint: transformation and resurrection.