

The Holy Spirit

Lesson 6 – Born Of Water & The Spirit (Part 2)

Outline By: Mark Knowles 7/21/19 AM

Introduction

Last week we learned about Nicodemus and Jesus' conversation in John 3:1-8 and how one is only able to see and enter the kingdom of God we must be born again of water and the Spirit. To be with God, to know God means we must become spiritual for God is Spirit and this can only happen once we have been born again.

So, what does it mean to be born of the Spirit? What will it look like?

II. From Death To Life – Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel was brought down in the middle of a valley that was filled with bones. Not like the nice and neat skeletons you can see in science labs in high school, but a giant mess of rotted old bones tossed around everywhere. And the bible says they were very dry. These people died a long time ago. At one point, the Spirit says to Ezekiel do you think that these bones can live? Ezekiel had no idea. The Spirit then says, this is I want you to do - preach to these bones. Ezekiel does and they began to rattle and make noise as they were being joined together. There was no breath in them though, no spirit, no life. And the Holy Spirit says, "Now I want you to preach to the breath." And Ezekiel says I did. And the Spirit of God brought the power of resurrection life to these lifeless bodies. He breathes the power of resurrection life into these dead people and they stood on their feet. And essentially, that's exactly what happens when a person obeys the gospel and is born again of the Spirit.

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1 NASB)

We were all once spiritually dead and the only power that can bring us out of death into spiritual life is the Holy Spirit. Without the resurrection of the Christ there is no power on this earth to redeem us. And when we are born into the family of God, the power of resurrection life enters us. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is what gives us spiritual life.

And that is essentially what it means to be born of the Spirit. It is to receive the power, the transforming power, of resurrection life.

Every time we witness a baptism, we emphasize the gift of forgiveness, and we should. But giving equal emphasis to the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the transforming spiritual life he creates within us is just as important. The forgiveness we receive in baptism removes all of our past sins. Better, the gift of the Holy Spirit is intended to deal with future sins.

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. (Romans 8:11-13)

Forgiveness is not the goal of Christianity. It is the means to the goal. The goal of Christianity is sanctification. And the Bible tells us how we become sanctified in 1 Peter 1:2

According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

I can't obey Jesus without the power and work of the Holy Spirit in my life. Do you want grace to the fullest? Peace to the fullest measure? Do you desire joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? Then you need the Holy Spirit to indwell in you and that comes once you are born again of water and the Holy Spirit.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)