



NEW BIRTH



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The new birth is a spiritual regeneration of the soul of a man who repents, accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and receives water baptism.

In John 3:3, through Nicodemus, Jesus Christ exhorts anyone who wants to enter the kingdom of heaven saying, "Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Then from verses 4 to 7, Christ clarifies that a man should be born "OF WATER and the SPIRIT" to enter the kingdom of God. This new birth is spiritual.

Peter also states that " Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ," (1 Peter 1:3) It is by grace that God gives us the power to repent and to be born again.

This spiritual birth brings along positive consequences in our daily lives and places us under the assistance of the Holy Spirit, who teaches us all things and faithfully reminds us of what the Lord has said to us, so that we may know God and live according to His will. Scripture says "For everything that has been born of God overcomes the world. (1 John 5:4)

Our daily life is characterized by the full development of our "inner being", by the banishment of the slavery of sin, by the newness of our moral life, by the improvement of our human relationships and even by the refreshment of our physical body, which we will henceforth which we will preserve from certain activities which were harmful to it.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, it is written: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things are passed away; behold, all things have become new. AND ALL THINGS ARE FROM GOD, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ ..."

Having been born again and become children of God, we belong to the new family by adoption in Christ. We are among those who are redeemed and justified by the blood of Christ, and built up by the Word, to form the royal priesthood: the Church, the body of Christ.

What is the purpose of the new birth?

- The new birth is not "just" about carrying the Bible or proclaiming from the rooftop that "now I pray", which by the way is a popular and well-known phrase. Nor should it be used as an occasion for us to wear or display some religious distinguishing marks, such as a long beard, a special dress, a new term, a new name or label, a new title, or, more generally, to display a religious attitude of piety, which brushes against showiness or hypocrisy ... we do not presume to make any judgment on these distinguishing marks.

On the contrary, the new birth introduces us to the Church of Christ, where we are all disciples, called to participate in the mission of the salvation of souls, commissioned by the Risen Christ: "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority is given to Me in Heaven and in earth.

Therefore go and make DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Thus we are the Royal Priesthood, chosen of God before the foundation of the world, called together by God in Christ, to live primarily to serve for the kingdom of heaven and to proclaim the Word of Salvation to God's people and the lost sheep of His flock; the useful remnant comes second. For Christ has committed us to a service in which we each find ourselves with our own ministry according to the abilities and means of evangelizing, which God alone has given, in His good pleasure, to all whom He has called (in Christ).

Therefore, in fellowship, and having their eyes fixed on the Lord Jesus Christ, the High Priest, the new-borns organise themselves into an ecclesial community, with a view to maintaining the Faith through unceasing prayer, the sharing of the Word, and the celebration, in truth and in spirit, of the worship of the Lord our God. - In addition, the new birth compels us to be mindful of the "things above", which include truths such as the hope of eternal life, Christ's seat at the right hand of the Father's throne and Christ's return to seek His Church (the Rapture). These truths, which belong to things above, are yet considered by the unbelieving heart as utopian or simply as absurd concepts. But in humility and total dependence on God, those born in Christ cherish these truths.

Therefore, the new birth reassures of a living hope "for an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and unfading

and unfading, reserved in Heaven for you by the power of God, having been kept through faith to a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time; !"(1 Peter 1:4-5)

My brother, my sister, being born again is a truth of Christian life; so when we humbly consider all the above, can we say that we are born again "in the Spirit" or rather "in the religious marks"? For not being born of water and the Spirit, but living in the religious trappings, is equivalent to living under excruciating pain on a daily basis in what we insist on calling "new birth" or "I do pray".

Let us therefore be guided by the Word, which sanctifies us and frees our souls from the corruption, which exists in the world through lust. And let us remain at the feet of our Master and Lord, Jesus Christ, who opened the way of Faith to us, by enduring death on the cross, and who leads us every day in this way of the new birth -"(...) that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6).