

Jesus Teaches the New Birth

John 3:3-8

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." NKJV

If you look up born again on the internet, you are as likely to find born again cars or houses as you are born again people. Since the days of Jimmy Carter the term has had such public acceptance to have lost almost all meaning. But today we are not talking of auto renovations, or house remodeling. We are talking about what Jesus meant when He told Nicodemus that he needed to be born again to enter heaven.

- I. What "born again" is not.
 - A. It is not water baptism.
 1. One of the errors to creep into the church was baptismal regeneration.
 2. That lead to baby baptism.
 - 3.
 - B. It is not turning over a new leaf.
- II. It is similar to the natural birth but different.
 - A. Natural birth is a fleshly birth.
 1. Nicodemus thinks that the new birth is just the first birth being repeated but that is not what Jesus is saying.
 2. We all must be born once in order to be born again.
 3. It is due to what our parents have done.
 - B. Natural birth is a watery birth.
 1. When Jesus says unless a person is born of the water and the Spirit he cannot enter heaven it is the same as when He said that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.
 2. Many churches today teach that water baptism replaced circumcision, but notice what Paul has to say about circumcision.
 - a. Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor

uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. NKJV

III. What the New Birth is

A. The new birth is a spiritual birth.

1. John 1:12-13 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. NKJV
2. Eph 2:2 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
3. Titus 3:5-7 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. NKJV

B. It is in connection with divine truth.

1. 1 Peter 1:22-24 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, NKJV

IV. It is a totally new beginning.

A. Old things have passed away.

1. 2 Cor 5:17 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. NKJV
2. Gal 6:14-15 14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. NKJV
3. Rom 8:9-11 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit

who dwells in you. NKJV

B. Our old life is left behind.

1. It is not like a snake molting its skin.
2. It is more like a worm becoming a butter fly.
3. 1 John 5:18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. NKJV