

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 33

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
Regeneration, Born Again as Children of God for Eternity



Sunday, March 20, 2011

John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name..."

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* *(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



Lesson

God's family is the eternal family...the Trinity...Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The moment you believe in Jesus, you are born again spiritually through regeneration and you are born into the eternal family of God. No matter what, we that believe in Jesus are God's sons and daughters for eternity! NOTHING can change that not even God Himself!!!!!!!



In our last lesson we studied regeneration, which is being "born again" spiritually...our new birth. This had many results and being in God's family is one of them. At regeneration, or being "born again" we become children of God whether Jews or Gentiles. God gave all believers the right to become His children. This privilege that was once Israel's alone was now in the Church Age extended to all who believe in

Jesus. *John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name..."*

The Greek word for "right" in our verse here in *John 1:12* is *exousia* and it means "the power of authority and of a right." In other words it refers to having the privilege of authority and rank, and it also means "to make possible." This is a royal demand from God and it carries with it a lot of power...from the Holy Spirit.

1 John 3:1 "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him." Did you know that very few people in Jesus' lifetime believed in Him or received Him, but many, many more believed in Him after His death and resurrection and that makes perfect sense since 2000 years have passed since Christ walked on the earth. This means that few believed in Him who actually SAW Him while He was on earth but many more believed in Him that have NEVER SEEN Him...that's us, kids. *John 20:29 "Then Jesus told him, 'because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'"*



To whom did God give this power and authority to become His children? To those who believe in His Son, Jesus, even in His name. Not to those who raised their hands, said a prayer, felt sorry for their sins, quit dancing and smoking, were dipped in a tank, joined a church etc, etc. ONLY to those who believe in Him or His name. To believe in His name means to believe that He is what His name claims to be and you accept all of it by faith.

In the Jewish culture during Old Testament and New Testament times, names were very often meaningful, given sometimes (as in the case of Jesus) by God Himself. Look at what the angel commanded Joseph to do when he appeared to him to tell him about Mary's pregnancy in **Matt 1:21**. "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Jesus means "He saves." His name was meant not only to tell who He was but what He was. His name was a sign of His perfect character, too. He saves means that He had to have a perfect character before God to save mankind. The name of the Lord also suggests His relationship to us as Lord and Savior. His name is the Word of God, King of kings, the Lord our Righteousness, Emmanuel, God with Us, wonderful Counselor, the mighty God, Prince of peace, the Great I AM, and the Lord of all.



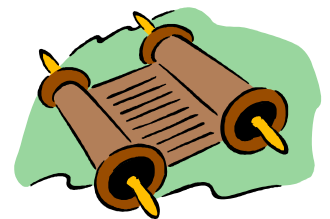
This is why **Philip 2:9-11** reads "For this reason also, God highly glorified Him (Jesus), and gave Him the name which is above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth (Hades), (11) and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

In **John 1:12-13** it says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even 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."

When we believe in Christ we are born into the family of God. Instead of a set of genes, He gives us a brand new nature, a seed that cannot be ruined. **1 Peter 1:23** says, "for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable (can die) but imperishable (cannot die), that is, through the living and enduring Word of God."

Spiritual birth is much greater than physical birth. Just as you cannot change your physical birth, so also you cannot change your spiritual birth. The verb for born is in the passive voice, which in grammar means that you were given a new birth...you received it. You didn't earn or deserve it! Just as you did not earn or deserve your physical birth, so also you did not earn or deserve your spiritual birth. **John 1:13** says, "...who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Here in verse 13 John states very, very, strongly three times in three ways that human birth has nothing to do with Divine regeneration...being "born again," which is our spiritual birth.

The fact that he repeated these three negatives in the verse above insists that birth into the family of God is quite different from physical birth. This divine spiritual birthright has nothing to do with racial or national or family ties. Even if you are a Jew who descended from Abraham by natural birth, if you are not a child of Abraham in the only sense that matters before God...in the spiritual sense by reproducing Abraham's faith...you're not a true Jew! That's right a Jew is a Jew only in a physical sense if he has not believed in Jesus for salvation. The only TRUE JEW in God's eyes is a Jew that believes in Jesus and has a spiritual birth. This is the only birth that counts since Adam and Eve and until the end of human history.



"Not of blood" in **John 1:13** means that your membership as children of God has nothing to do with your physical birth. Physical birth, membership of a family in the natural sense, is a matter of blood relationship. We all inherit traits or characteristics from our fathers and mothers, right? Well you cannot inherit being a Christian from your parents. Family blood

lines don't make you part of God's family no matter what! Only faith in Christ brings you into God's spiritual family.

"Nor of the flesh" in this verse means that "flesh" does not refer to the sin nature, but it means your parents had a desire in themselves to have you. Physical birth results from the will of a man, the volition of the human father, as contrasted with the spiritual birth which results from the will of God the Father when a person believes in His Son.



No one on earth can make you a Christian...no infant baptism...or any sacrament can do that. Human will or human planning has nothing to do with the new spiritual birth. The "whoever believes" in the Bible is a reference to those who respond positively to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But even our faith needs power to believe. We are hopeless and helpless. Remember, the Holy Spirit is the one who takes our little "yes" when we believe the Gospel and makes it effective for salvation...that's His ministry of efficacious grace. SO it was TOTALLY by the will of God that we were "born again" when we believed. **James 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the Word of Truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures."**

You received this new birth completely by grace...God did it all for you. He loves His children and He showers you with grace in every way and everyday since you were "born again" into His family. Remember our spiritual birth...the door into the family whose Father is God, depended on receiving Him by faith in Jesus. So you be faithful to your Father in Heaven by living in His plan for your life everyway and everyday. He doesn't let you down so you be faithful to Him.

Always be thankful for Jesus, your precious Savior and Lord.

Close in prayer.

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on Thursday, November 4, 2010
Lighthouse Bible Church

