

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 32

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
The Second Ministry of God the Holy Spirit at
Salvation - Regeneration - "Born Again"

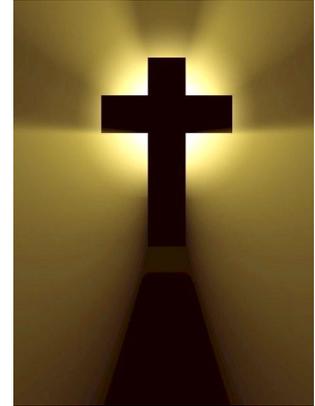


Wednesday, March 16, 2011
Thursday, March 17, 2011

John 3:3 "In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.'"

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 is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



Lesson

We are going to continue our deep study of God the Holy Spirit. You remember that we started studying about His six (6) permanent ministries at salvation. The six (6) PERMANENT ministries of God the Holy Spirit that occur at the moment of salvation for each believer are: efficacious grace; regeneration or being "born again" spiritually; the baptism of the Spirit where He places us in union with Jesus Christ; the indwelling of the Holy Spirit when He comes and lives right inside our physical bodies; the sealing of the Spirit; and the distribution of spiritual gifts to every believer.



We already studied the fourth ministry of indwelling quite a lot in past lessons and we completely studied the first one...efficacious grace recently and I know you're now experts on that now. So let's get right into His second ministry, which is called regeneration or being "born again." This is taught in John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet 1:23.



This ministry of regeneration is a subject that is best learned by letting the Bible speak for itself. We're going to get right into the Bible verses and listen to Jesus Himself speak very clearly and simply about what regeneration means. This is for all of us so that we can relax and trust Him for the Truth! He always made things very clear to those who were serious about learning His Mind...the Bible.

So let's get started in John 3:1-16. "Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; (2) this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, 'Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs (miracles) that You do unless God is with him.' (3) Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly, 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? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?' (5) Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh (physical birth), and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (spiritual birth at salvation). (7) Do not be amazed 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 do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.' (9) Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can these things be?' (10) Jesus answered and said to him, 'Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? (11) Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our

testimony. (12) If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? (13) No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man (Jesus). (14) As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness (a prophecy of the cross), even so must the Son of Man be lifted up (onto the cross); (15) so that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. (16) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not die (be lost forever), but have eternal life (with God in Heaven forever)."

I want you to really understand **verse 16** in our subject of regeneration because it shows the way we get regenerated or "**born again**"...through faith in Christ or belief in Christ and the divine result is WONDERFUL eternal life with GOD forever!!!

Let's go over this passage again, starting in **verse 3**.

John 3:3 "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

John 3:4 "Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?'"

John 3:5 "Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.'"

John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

John 3:7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

You see, the moment we're born physically we don't have a relationship with God...we're cut off from Him because of Adam's sin which is credited to us at birth and therefore, we cannot see the kingdom of God or understand anything about it. We are unable to worship God because of what we are...dead spiritually. The Bible tells us this in **Eph 2:1**. "As for you, you were (spiritually) dead in your transgressions and sins..." There is no way you can see the kingdom of God unless and until you are "**born again**." Remember, kids, these are Jesus' words.

Here in **John 3:3**, the original Greek words used in this passage mean "**to be born**" "**from above**" or "**again, anew**". Here in our passage in the **Gospel of John** it is referring to a second or repeated birth but NOT a physical birth. Regeneration is the passing on of the life of God...ETERNAL LIFE...SPIRITUAL LIFE to a sinner who is spiritually dead. So regeneration is a spiritual birth into the family of God. That happens when God the Holy Spirit allows you to understand the Gospel so you can decide to believe in Jesus or not believe in Him. If you believe you become born again spiritually into the family of God at the moment you said "yes" and believed in Jesus and what He did for you at the cross. Remember that's the efficacious grace of the Holy Spirit taking your "yes" and making it effective for salvation. Now you are spiritually born. See it in these two passages of the Bible: **Tit 3:5** "...he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth (spiritual regeneration or being "born again") and renewal by the Holy Spirit..." **1 Pet 1:23** "For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God (Gospel)."



In **Gen 2:7** God created man. "Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." The Hebrew word for "life" in **Gen 2:7** is in the plural. Only in **Gen 2:7** does it point to the passing on of the birth of physical life (soul life) and spiritual life at creation. God gave Adam two lives...physical and spiritual...when He created him. The human race had spiritual life from God, but lost it when Adam sinned in the fall. **Gen 2:16** "The Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; (17) but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.'" Now listen carefully...the Hebrew in **Gen 2:17** literally says "dying you shall die". "Dying" spiritually immediately upon their disobeying the Lord God, "you shall die" physically at some future date. Now you'd never get the full meaning of that by just reading **Gen 2:17** in the English of your Bible would you? No, you wouldn't. That's why we need a pastor/teacher who studies the Bible in the original languages of the Scriptures.



Human beings need a second birth of divine life...eternal life...life in the spiritual category. Born spiritually dead but physically alive, we need to be "born again," born a second time...we need to be made alive spiritually. That, my dear children, is REGENERATION! Eph 2:4-5 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive (spiritually) together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)..."

At physical birth, we became creatures of flesh with an old sin nature. Now we need to become spiritual creatures of God by believing in His Son for salvation. At physical birth, we received Adam's life and an old sin nature. That's our old man. At regeneration, we receive from the Holy Spirit Christ's life. That's our new man...the new spiritual nature. We go from the natural man who cannot have fellowship with God or understand His precious Word to the spiritual man at the moment we believe in Jesus as our Savior and receive the Holy Spirit who lives in us. **John 14:16** "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you." And best of all after we are saved, we understand God's wonderful Word so we can live in His plan and serve Jesus all our lives.

Let's love God's Word, study everyday, believe it and use it in every situation in our lives so we can glorify Jesus, okay?

Close in prayer.

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

