

How we're born of water and the Spirit

- *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit ...*
- *23 having been born again,*
- *not of corruptible seed but incorruptible,*
- *through the living and abiding word of God*
- *1Pet. 1:22-23*

Process of Born of Water and the Spirit

- 1. You *purified your souls in obeying the truth*
- 2. Both of these were done *through the Spirit*.
 - A. The Holy Spirit purified our souls
 - B. The Holy Spirit gave the truth.
- When these were complete:
- *Having been born again!* (Perfect Active Participle – An action already completed in the past, but the affects continue into present.)
- *Through the living and abiding Word of God*
 - It is living and abiding because of its author.
 - Because the Holy Spirit is with us forever!

The Holy Spirit is with us Forever

- *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. Jn. 14:16-18*
- *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 14:26*

The Seed of the New Birth is the Word

- *having been born again,*
- *not of corruptible seed but incorruptible,*
- *through the living and abiding word of God.*
- *The Word is the sword of the Spirit, Eph 6:17*
- *It is also:*
 - *living and powerful, ” Heb. 4:12*
 - *effectively working (energeo - energizing) in you who believe” 1Th. 2:13*
 - *The power (dunamis - dynamite) of God for salvation to everyone who believes. Rom. 1:16*

Born of water and the Spirit

- What about the water?
- *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. 1Cor. 12:13*
- By the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit this same Peter who wrote the above said:
- *Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Acts 10:47-48*

Another Perspective of the New Birth

- *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. Jn 1:12-13*
 - 1st We believed and received Him.
 - 2nd This gave us the right to become children.
 - 3rd We were then born...not of blood (1st birth)
 - 4th We were born ... not by will of flesh/man.
 - 5th We were born of God. He gave conditions and the power to accomplish it.
- If faith and receiving were enough why just the right to become?

Compare this to Jesus' Words

- Compare this to Jesus words:
- *Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:15-16*
- Those who believe the gospel have fulfilled the first part of John's word. They believed and received.
- That gave them the right to become children...
- Baptism completed the covenant of New Birth

Baptism's Cleansing / Renewing Power

- Just as Naaman was cleansed of his leprosy when he dipped the seventh time.
- So those who believe are *baptized into Christ*
- *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ Gal 3:27*
- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Cor 5:17-18*
- Only **AFTER** baptism do we enter and put on Christ... Only then are we a **new creation**

More Evidence

- *just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. Eph 5:25-28*
- Only washing of water is baptism
- Word is giving by the Holy Spirit.

Another Perspective

- *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 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. Titus 3:4-7*
- Born not of the flesh or will of man.
- Born by washing of regeneration and Renewal

Washing of Regeneration

- *And now why are you waiting? Arise and **be baptized, and wash away your sins**, calling on the name of the Lord.” Acts. 22:16*
- *“**regeneration**” is defined: “**a new birth, reproduction, renewal, re-creation**, the word denotes, **the restoration of a thing to its pristine state, its renovation.**” Thayer NT:3824*
- ***buried with Him in baptism**, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, ...you, **being dead in your trespasses** ... **He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses**, Col 2:12-14*

Renewing of the Holy Spirit

- *“renew, to cause something to become new and different, with the implication of becoming superior - ‘to make new, renewal.”* (Lou & Nida NT:342).
- What went down into the water and what came up out of the water are entirely different.
- Now *“a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”* (2Cor. 5:17).
- Thus, *“of his own will he brought us forth (gave birth to us) by the word of truth”* (Jas. 1:18).
- *“having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the living and abiding word of God. (1 Pet 1:23).*

Concluding Thoughts

- In our “first” and natural birth, power beyond our comprehension was exerted when an eternal spirit was placed into “*an earthen vessel,*” “*formed out of clay,*” and “*formed by God.*”

2Cor. 4:7; Job 33:6; Isa 45:9

- At the end of our life, “*the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.*” (Eccl. 12:7).

- As Peter, I too “*must put off my tent.*” 2Pet. 1:14

The spirit that will return to God is dead and lifeless without the new birth.

Concluding Thoughts

- As with Adam and Eve, and as Paul, so also each of us:
- *“was alive apart from the law once, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.”* (Rom. 7:9-10).
- At the moment we heard the gospel, we were given the right to the power to be made alive again, through a complete renovation for the better.