

# The New Birth

## I. JESUS AND THE TWO BIRTHS

...Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit... John 3:1-8

In the above scriptures, we see Jesus and Nicodemus face to face—Jesus the Son of God, and Nicodemus the son of natural man. Nicodemus was a very religious man, but he was not a child of God. What a shock it must have been to learn that his religion was not enough! It never is. He came to Jesus, addressing Him as “a teacher come from God.” Jesus knew Nicodemus, as He knows all men and Jesus knew that he needed more than a teacher - he needed a Saviour, He needed more than religion - he needed regeneration. He needed more than law - he needed life. Jesus began by going right to the point when He said, “Ye must be born again.” Nicodemus asked, “How can a man be born when he is old?” Then Jesus pointed out the difference in the two births: “That which is born of flesh is flesh” (the flesh will never change); and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (the Spirit will never change).

First, lets take a brief look at the flesh birth:

1. It produces an old, sinful nature (Ps. 51:5).
2. It produces a corruptible nature (1 Peter 1:23).
3. It produces an old nature under the sentence of death (Rom. 6:3).
4. It produces an old nature that makes every unsaved person a child of the devil (1 John 3:10).

Second, let us say a word about the new birth:

1. It produces a sinless nature (1 John 3:9).
2. It produces a nature that cannot sin (1 John 3:9).
3. It produces a righteous nature (2 Cor. 5:21).
4. It produces a divine nature (2 Peter 1:4).

Every born-again person has two natures: the old from the old birth, and the new from the new birth. By the old birth, we are children of the flesh; by the new birth, we are children of God. This is why “Ye must be born again.”

## II. THE NEW BIRTH ISSUES A NEW, SINLESS NATURE

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 1 John 3:9

The old nature is born of fallen man, and is depraved. The new nature is born of God, and is Holy.

First, let us see what the verse says about the new nature:

1. The new nature does not commit sin, because it is the product of the “seed of God.”
2. The new nature cannot sin, because it is the divine nature of God (2 Peter 1:4) and since God cannot sin, the new nature that issues from His holy seed cannot sin.

Second, let us see what the Bible says about the old nature:

1. The old nature does sin any time you let it sin (Rom. 6:12). As a child of God, you will keep under the old nature (1 Cor. 9:27) by not yielding to the desire of the flesh; or the old nature will keep you under, and you will live a defeated Christian life (Rom. 6:13).
2. There is nothing good in the old nature (Rom. 7:18). The power to live a righteous life cannot be found in the old nature; it can be found only in the new (Gal. 2:20).

If you have been “born again,” you have two natures—the old and the new—and you are walking according to one of the two. Examine your Christian walk in light of: (Rom. 8:5-6).

### III. THE NEW BIRTH IS INCORRUPTIBLE

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 1 Peter 1:23

In the above verse we have two seeds, two births and two natures.

1. Corruptible seed produces a corruptible nature (Rom.1:23) Corruptible man can produce only corruptible seed (Matt. 7:18). "All have sinned..." (Rom. 3:23) because all are born in sin (Ps. 51:5). You are not a sinner because you sin—you sin because you are a sinner..
2. Incorruptible seed produces an incorruptible nature (2 Peter 1:4). You cannot corrupt that which is incorruptible; therefore the incorruptible seed of God issues a new nature that cannot be corrupted at any time, or in any way. The new birth produces the life of Christ, and this life is made living in man by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:8-10).

The seed of man is corruptible; the birth of man is natural. Therefore, the nature of man is sinful.

The seed of God is incorruptible; the new birth is spiritual. Therefore, the new nature is sinless.

### IV. THE NEW BIRTH - HOW TO ATTAIN IT

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:14-15

Just as the serpent in the wilderness was the only means for the healing of Israel, so the death of Jesus Christ is the only means for the new birth.

The sinner must come to Christ by faith, believing:

1. That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures (Isa. 53:1-12).
2. And that He was buried. This is the only proof of His death.
3. And that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. This is the gospel that saves but it is powerless to save until the sinner believes it (Rom. 1:16).

The means of the new birth is found in that:

1. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son"—to be the only means of the new birth (John 3:16).
2. Jesus Christ gladly came into the world to become the only means of the new birth (John 12:27).
3. The Holy Spirit came into the world on the Day of Pentecost to convince men of their need of the new birth (John 16:7-11). A personal faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the only means of the new birth.

### V. THE NEW BIRTH - ITS THREEFOLD PROOF

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 1 John 5:1

Every "Born again" child of God has the threefold proof of the new birth - proof that he is a child of God. This threefold proof is first, inward proof; second, outgoing proof; and third, outward proof.

1. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God" (1 John 5:1). My faith in Christ—that He is God—is personal evidence that I am a child of God. This is inward proof of the new birth.
2. "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him." (Acts 5:32). Therefore, when you witness, remember that "your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). This is outgoing proof of the new birth.
3. "Every one that doeth righteousness is born of him" (1 John 2:29). If you are born of God, you will make a practice of doing right at all cost (2 Cor. 5:17); and also desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2). This is outward proof of the new birth.

If you do not have the threefold proof of the new birth, now is the time to get on your knees and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour—by faith in His vicarious death, burial and resurrection.