

## The Second Birth

By Pastor Art Watkins

In John 3:3 Jesus said: ***Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*** In verses 5-6 he said: ***Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.***

There are many religious people who are deceived about the water in John 3:5. They assume it is water baptism and that you must be baptized in water to be born again. Is this true? No. Notice it says; *born of water, born of the flesh and born of the Spirit*. It appears as if there are three births in the verses. What's the answer? Two of them are the same. To be born of the flesh is the same as being born of water, ***for every physical birth is a water birth***. There are only two births in these verses. Physical and spiritual. And unless you are born the second time by the Spirit you cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Be not deceived, water baptism has nothing to do with the New Birth. To be born of water is to be born the first time physically. To be born of the Spirit is to be born the second time spiritually. If you have been born of water only, you will not enter the kingdom of God. You must be born twice to get into God's kingdom. The New Birth is spiritual birth. It's your spirit spelled with a little "s" being born or begotten of God's Spirit capital "S" according to verse 6. In Titus 3:5 it's called regeneration of the Spirit and in Ephesians 2:1-5 it's called the quickening of the Spirit.

There are those who say that being born again is not a spiritual birth, but the resurrection of the body and they come to this conclusion from reading Acts 13:33 where it says that when God raised Christ from the dead he said: ***Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.*** When Christ was raised from the dead he was begotten from the dead. In Colossians 1:18 he is called the firstborn from the dead. These verses do have a spiritual application to the new birth in John 3. As Christ's body was dead, our spirit was dead; dead in trespasses and sin. As Christ's body was raised from the dead physically by the Spirit of God, our dead spirit was raised from the dead, quickened, regenerated and made alive by the Spirit of God. Even though there is a spiritual application it is not the correct interpretation. The New Birth is not the physical resurrection of our physical body. We know

this is true by the simple fact that the apostles wrote their epistles to people who were alive and had never died but they were all born again.

***1Peter 1:3: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,***

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

***James 1:18: Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.***

***1 John 5:1: 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.***

***1Corinthians 4:15: For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.***

***Galatians 4:28-29: Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.***

The apostles were not writing to dead people. They wrote to saints who were alive at the time of their writing and they were all born again proving beyond a doubt the New Birth is spiritual not physical.

### **The Necessity of the New Birth**

Jesus said; ye MUST be born again. But why?

When you were born the first time you received from your earthly parents three things: Their life which was temporal life; their spirit which was dead and their nature which was corrupt. Why was their spirit dead and their nature corrupt? Because of Adam's sin. Romans 5:12 says: ***Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.***

When God placed Adam in the garden he gave him a lot of freedom and only one commandment; ***Genesis 2:16-17 says: And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou***

**shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**

He had the freedom to eat of all the trees in the garden except one; it's called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God warned them that in **the day** they ate that tree they would **surely die**. As soon as God gave Adam this one commandment not to eat of one single tree, along came the devil to tempt them to do what God said not to do. When the devil showed up in the garden he tempted Adam and Eve to eat of the tree God said not eat of. Eve said to the devil; ***God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*** The devil said to her: ***Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.***

The devil accused God of lying to them and he said the real reason God does not want you to eat of the tree is because you will gain superior wisdom and knowledge as the gods who were probably angels who occupied the garden with them. They fell for the lie and ate of the tree and they died in that day. They didn't die physically that day for Adam lived over 900 years. They died spiritually. Their spirit died within them and this can be seen in how they hid from God when he came to see them in the garden after they sinned. Prior to the entrance of sin into the world, they had very close fellowship with God, but after sin came they hid from God, they ran when he got near. What happened? Their spirit died and their nature became corrupt and later their body died.

The physical, moral and spiritual condition of Adam and Eve was passed down to all their children including us. When you were born the first time you were born with a dead spirit, a corrupt nature and temporal life. This is why we must be born again for when you are born again you receive from your heavenly Father his life which is eternal, his Spirit which is holy, and his nature which is divine. This makes you fit to live with him forever in the coming kingdom of God.

But be not deceived; being born of water in John 3 is not water baptism; it's the same as being born of the flesh. Being born of water, that is of the flesh, will not get you into the kingdom of God. You must be born the second time and this time by the Spirit of God. How is a person born again? In this same chapter where the Lord says you must be born again, he tells us how in verses 14-16 and especially **John 3:16**.