

To Be Born Again

“1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 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. 9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? 10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? 11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. 12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? 13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:1-18 KJV)

What does it mean to be born again? A statement that widely spread, and so in this message we will understand what is meant with that. In the beginning God made the Heaven and earth and everything on them, and finally created the man and the woman, Adam and Eve. They walked together with God and fellowshiped with Him. He covered them with His glory so they did not even know they were naked. He gave them a beautiful garden in which to live and told them they could eat of every tree of the garden except one. That was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, *“16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 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.” (Genesis 2:16-17 KJV)* When Eve was tempted by Satan (the serpent) she ate the fruit of the tree and also gave it to Adam. That was sin. Their eyes were opened and they saw themselves naked. The result of that disobedience was that they could no longer fellowship with God, and sent out from the garden. Their spirits died within them. God has said, the soul that sin shall die as we read here, *“Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.” (Ezekiel 18:4 KJV)* Even afterwards, men could not fellowship with God the way He had planned, because of their sin had caused their spirits to die.

Nicodemus when he came to Jesus, Jesus told him that man need to be born again otherwise he cannot enter the Kingdom of God, *“3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3 KJV)* And Nicodemus replied with the question, *“How can a man be born when he is old?”* as we read here, *“4 Nicodemus saith unto him, can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?” (John 3:4 KJV)*

Nicodemus was right to some extent that no mother could give birth again to a child who is already born. But the Bible speaks about the three compositions of a man – the body, the soul, and the spirit. And Jesus said, *“6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” (John 3:6 KJV)* So there are two components for man, the flesh and the spirit. The flesh gives birth to flesh, mothers give us birth in the flesh and this includes the body and the soul.

A. The body: This includes all the body organs and all their functions; stomach for food, limbs for moving, hands to work, mouth and tongue to speak, heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, etc. in addition are the organs responsible for sensing, ears to hear, nose to smell, tongue to taste and skin to feel. These are the organs that feel the sensual things and convey them to the brain of the person to warn the body about the coming changes or threats, preparing the body for the suitable and precise action.

B. The soul: This is the part of the human that is responsible for thinking and analyzing the data that is coming from outside received through body senses; what the body hears and sees, feels, etc., sent to the brain to analyze, and the soul in fact is the place where human emotions, feelings and affections take place. The soul is the part that causes man to love or to hate, to be sad or happy, to be relieved or anxious. The soul also is the part of the human that think and make a decision, based on the data received and based on the will and the determination of man.

The man, when he is born from his mother, he is born with the body and soul. As the human grows and starts to be aware of life and his surroundings, his soul also starts to grow with his mind analyzing all what he receives from outside and he starts to make decisions and become accountable to every step he is taking. At this stage of accountability man becomes aware of many facts about life on earth especially to what he is basically exposed to.

C. The spirit: This is the part of the human that linked with God, interacts with God and conscious about God. The first man and woman that God created were fully aware who God is. But after they disobeyed God and sinned, their spirit died, and they and the generations after them fall away from God; because of sin man is spiritually dead, and man's consciousness about God has totally been influenced by Satan and the world.

The body and the soul of man make the man of flesh, whom Paul call the natural man in contrary to the spiritual man, *“14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.” (1 Corinthians 2:14-15 KJV)*

This situation that man with dead spirit because of sin continued until Jesus came down from Heaven, who, He is 100% human and 100% God. He is filled with God's Spirit. Believing in Jesus and taking the decision to follow Him to take Him as our Lord and Savior, we receive the Spirit of God that regenerates our spirits and we become a new creation. The spirit is the third component of man that is needed to be born again. Once we accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord the Spirit of God makes us spiritually alive and God-conscious. We are born again in the spirit. Our mothers in flesh gave birth to us as flesh or body and soul, but God is Spirit, and He gives us new birth in the Spirit. ***"6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."* (John 3:6 KJV)**, and as also Jesus said about every one that is born of the Spirit, ***"8 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 3:8 KJV)** When we are born by the Spirit as Jesus said, the Spirit of God will start to work in us to regenerate us and to change us. Our nature will be changed from being selfish to love; we turn away from anger, envy and jealousy and the rest of the work of the flesh toward gentleness, humility and patience and the rest of the work of the Spirit; from a harmful person to be useful one not only for ourselves but a blessing to other people as well. ***"17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV)** This will be done by the Spirit of God that He will be given to us as we read here, ***"5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit."* (2 Corinthians 5:5)** This Spirit of God will guide our minds to take the right decision, to know the truth and to protect us from harm and temptations that Satan may bring in our paths. This Spirit of God that lives in us will always be with us as we faithfully trust in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Who need to be born again? ***"7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."* (John 3:7 KJV)** From the very beginning after Adam and Eve sinned God had a plan to send Jesus born of woman as He said to Eve the day she sinned, ***"15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."* (Genesis 3:15 KJV)** The seed here is the Messiah, Jesus, the Son of God, who ultimately born by a woman, Mary, as we read here, ***"4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,"* (Galatians 4:4 KJV)** And in receiving Christ we are redeemed, for Christ paid the price for our sins for He came for this purpose, and so we became God's sons, and so because of that He sent the Spirit of His Son in our hearts, as we read here, ***"5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."* (Galatians 4:5-6 KJV)** Jesus as He died for our sins, we became again in relationship with God, the Creator, as the spirit inside us is born again.

Who need to be born again? Everyone, because all have sin, ***"23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"* (Romans 3:23 KJV)** Because of sin, no man can reach God. No one is righteous, not even one, ***"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"* (Romans 3:10)** Our good works and whatever we do cannot save us because we are sinners and we cannot save ourselves. But God out of His love to us provided salvation for all, as we read here, ***"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8 KJV)** Jesus, the Son of God, who is without sin, died on

the cross and paid the punishment of our sins, and took the sins of every person who has ever lived and who will live on this earth upon himself. ***"16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."* (John 3:16-17 KJV)** Therefore those who believed on Him and obey Him they will be saved, but those who do not believe would be condemned: ***"18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* (John 3:18 KJV)**

Many, including Nicodemus, were amazed to what Jesus was doing because He was teaching with authority and performing miracles; healing the sick, raising the dead, opening the eyes of the blind, making the mute to speak, the deaf to hear, and He multiplied the bread and fish to feed thousands of people. These miracles that Nicodemus and others saw and heard made them realized that Jesus is not an ordinary person but a man sent by God from Heaven, and here Nicodemus, ***"2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."* (John 3:2 KJV)** being a teacher and a follower of God in coming to Jesus was asking indirectly what he needed to do more apart what he had already achieved. Nicodemus was a follower of God and was a man who knew the law of God and was serving God and following the law. But Jesus told him the following: ***"3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (John 3:3 KJV)** And that is true because Nicodemus was born in sin as any one of us, his spirit was dead and needed to be born again, and could not save himself so needed a savior to die for his sins, and that was Jesus, and if he would accept Jesus' work on the cross for the atonement of the mankind's sin then Nicodemus would be saved and God would send him His Spirit to let his dead spirit be born again

***"4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?"* (John 3:4 KJV)** Nicodemus thought that his body and soul needed to be born again, and was not aware that his dead spirit needed to be born again, and that is why Jesus explained it to him: ***"5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."* (John 3:5 KJV)** To enter the Kingdom of God you need the following:

1. You need to be born of water: The water here is not the water baptism, although all the believers in Christ needed to be baptized in water. But the water here is the fluid media that where in the human ova get fertilized with a sperm and start to form the new human being with his body and soul.

2. You need to be born of the Spirit: That is the Spirit of God that give rebirth to your spirit and you got born again. This will take place when you accept you are a sinner and accept Jesus' death on the cross as atonement for your sins, and as you repent and accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord, then you will receive the Holy Spirit of God that will cause your dead spirit to revive and got born again.

With such explanation we can understand what Jesus meant with the following: ***“6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” (John 3:6 KJV)*** It is not enough for your body and soul to be born from the flesh of your parents, but your dead spirit needed to be born again by the Spirit of God, your Father in Heaven.

Don't be like Nicodemus who accepted Jesus came from God, but you need also to accept that ***“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”***

At the age of accountability man is fully aware of his surroundings, and God also starts to speak to him, and even now God is speaking to you. God approaches man by many ways, the Bible says that, ***“1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” (Hebrew 1:1-3 KJV)*** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being. Jesus is the image of the invisible God; He is God, He became man, He came to earth to speak to the people, to let them know God and to know the truth, and the way that God wants them to walk through. Jesus came from Heaven to save us from our sins. He took our sins and died for us on the cross. His blood was shed for our forgiveness, and He rose from the dead to give eternal life to all those who believe in Him. When a person dies his body decays but his soul remains to be alive either for the Kingdom of God or for judgment in hell. But the Spirit that we receive as we accept Jesus, will bring us to eternal life and will spare us from eternal fire that is set for the wicked and those who refuse to believe in Jesus but prefer to live in the body and away from God.

How to be born again? It is easy, it can happen in many ways and in many places and different times, and even now, yet it involves certain principles:

- a. I recognize that God loves me and has the answer to my life.
- b. I realize that I am a sinner, and separated from God by sin.
- c. I realized that the answer is in Jesus Christ and on His death on the cross for my sins-not in anything I might try to do. Jesus makes bridge between me and God.
- d. I respond to the above three facts and put my mouth and life where my head understanding is: I ask Jesus to enter into my life as my Savior from sins and to be my Lord and Master, the number one person or thing I am living for, and not myself, my family or my plans.

Scripture is quite clear that you need to speak or confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead as we read here in Romans, ***“9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10 KJV)***

How does being born again affect us? Once we receive Him, He helps us to behave, live and become full grown-sons and daughters of God. When you are born again you will remember that moment and that day where your life being totally changed because you are born again and a completely different person.

1. We are now in God's family, His church, and we have brothers and sisters, and we became members of God's household as we read in Ephesians, ***“19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:19-22 KJV)*** That is why we became part of God's church which becomes our new family.

2. We start to have life and life to the full as Jesus promised in *John 10*, ***“10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10 KJV)***

3. We have life, everlasting and eternal, we had passed from death to life, therefore no more fear of death, ***“24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” (John 5:24 KJV)*** .

4. We can now approach God and pray directly to Him because of Jesus, that we have the confidence that if we ask anything according to His will, He hear us, ***“14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” (1 John 5:14-15 KJV)***

5. We have victory over the devil and the world. *1 John 5:4* tells us that everyone born of God overcoming the world, ***“4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5:4 KJV)***

6. We are new creations, which means we are changed, the old had gone and the new had come as we read, ***“17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV)***

My dear and beloved: “19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” (John 1:19-21 KJV) Come now to the Lord in repentance and use this opportunity that God had spoken to you and inviting you to be born again, to give life to your dead spirit so you can enter the Kingdom of God. Come to God through confessing Jesus as Savior and Lord over your life. Accept that you are a sinner, repent of your sins, and accept that Jesus died for your sins on the cross and God raised Him from death. Invite Jesus now into your heart and life. Pray this prayer if you are not yet born again.

Lord Jesus, I accept You as my Lord and my Saviour, I believe in your words, that you died on the cross for my sins and God raised you from the dead. Lord I repent of my sins

_____. *Lord, I open my heart and life to you, come and enter my heart and my life. Lord, thank you for saving me and I joyfully receive your Spirit. Lord renew my life, and quicken my spirit to life for I am willing to live in obedience to You, I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.*

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that makes things clear to me about the meaning and how to be born again. Lord Jesus thank you for the new souls that you saved today and those who gave their lives to you and accept you as Savior and Lord over their lives.*

Lord forgive me the following sins _____. Lord I commit my life to live for you and to serve you until the end of my life on earth or until you come to take us with you to Heaven.

Lord bless our Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to live for you. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need in their lives to go on and serve you.

Lord bless us as a church and lead us and open to us new doors to evangelize and share our life testimonies with others so they will know you and follow you. Lord enable us to go and make new disciples and to baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Lord lead us and help us to train new workers to serve you. Lord help us to plant new congregations and new Bible studies for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

To Be Born Again. John 1:1-21. Genesis 2:16-17. Ezekiel 18:4. 1 Corinthians 2:14-15. 2 Corinthians 5:17. 2 Corinthians 5:5. Genesis 3:15. Galatians 4:4-6. Romans 3:23. Romans 3:10. Romans 5:8. Hebrew 1:1-3. Romans 10:9-10. Ephesians 2:19-22. John 10:10. John 5:24. 1 John 5:14-15. 1 John 5:4.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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