

An Announcement

Eleutheros Books is happy to announce that “A Portrait of Jesus” will be released very soon! The book is divided into five sections: 1. Jesus Before Time Existed, 2. Jesus in Old Testament Times, 3. Jesus on this Earth, 4. What Jesus is Doing Now, and 5. Jesus in the Final State. You can look for this book at the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com

The Importance of Being “Born Again”

“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again” ([John 3:7](#)).

Many people in this world tend to ignore or belittle the significance of [John 3:7](#) (quoted above). One major reason they react the way they do is the fact that *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* ([1 Corinthians 2:14](#)).

What Jesus is saying here is that regeneration (being “born again”) is not simply a nice option for people; it is an absolute necessity!

With the Holy Spirit’s help and a systematic study of the Word we can see that the following points are true:

1. Man is in desperate need of salvation.

The word “must” in [John 3:7](#) literally means “it is binding.” Thus it is clear that Jesus insists on the necessity of the new birth. This is an indication of the sovereignty of our Lord; He *insists* on this miracle.

Why is man in such need? The Scriptures teach that our natural condition is offensive to a holy God.

First, we are sinners who have disobeyed Him. *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”* ([Romans 3:23](#)). Second, we are without strength to change our condition. *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ dies for the ungodly”* ([Romans 5:16](#)). Third, God considers unsaved man to be *dead in trespasses and sins*” ([Ephesians 2:1b](#)).

Obviously, in order to live, a dead person must be made alive again! This is what regeneration involves. Unfortunately, there are some who seem to feel that all unsaved man needs is a “dose of the right medicine,” and all will be well. The new birth is a miracle that comes only from God, and to Him be all the glory!

Fourth, God considers unsaved man to be following Satan. *“The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.”* ([Matthew 13:38](#)). *“In this are the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.”* ([1 John 3:10](#)). *“And said, O full of all subtlety, and all mischief thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord.”* ([Acts 13:10](#))?

2. The Holy Spirit is the effective Agent in regeneration.

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the holy Ghost.” ([Titus 3:5](#)).

3. The Word of God is also powerful in accomplishing regeneration.

“Of His own will begat He us with the Word of truth.” ([James 1:18a](#)). *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and the glory of man as the flower of grass.”* ([I Peter 1:23-24a](#)).

4. Regeneration is an act of the will of God.

“Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” ([John 1:13](#)).

5. Regeneration causes radical changes in the lives of believers.

First, a believer receives power to overcome temptation. *“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.”* ([I John 3:9](#)).

The words for “sin” in this verse are in the present tense in the Greek, which means that the action would be continual. The implication is that a believer is, with God’s help, is able to overcome temptation in this life.

Second, a believer loves his fellow believers. *“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.”* ([I John 5:1](#)).

Third, a believer is obedient to God. *“By this we know that we are the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments.”* ([I John 5:2](#)).

Fourth, a believer should love God’s Word. *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby.”* ([I Peter 2:2](#)).

As Paul indicates in [II Corinthians 5:17](#), a believer is “a new creature.” If somehow a dog were to become a cat, it would not act the same way, eat the same kinds of food, or make the same kind of sounds. It would in fact be “a new creature!” When a sinner is born again he will be a totally different person in the way he thinks, what his goals are, and what he values. There is no doubt that a believer is totally changed when he accepts Christ as Savior!

From the human side, the meaning of the new birth is generally referred to as “conversion” from the Divine side it is called “regeneration.”

Regeneration may be properly defined as “the communication of Divine life to the soul” ([I John 3:5](#)) or the “implantation of a new nature” ([II Peter 1:4](#)).

In conclusion, this new spiritual life affects the believer’s intellect, will, and emotions:

“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him.” ([Colossians 3:10](#)).

“Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ: to Whom be glory for ever and ever Amen.” ([Hebrews 13:21](#)).

“Whom having not seen, ye love; in Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.” ([I Peter 1:8](#)).

A ruler once came to Jesus by night

Ye Must Be Born Again
William T. Sleeper

*To ask Him the way of salvation and light:
The Master made answer in words true and plain,
“Ye must be born again.”*

*Ye must be born again,
Ye must be born again.
I verily, verily say unto thee,
Ye must be born again.*