

### Lesson 3 – Born of the Spirit: The Truth About Second Birthdays

**Text:** John 3:1-8

**Theme:** A Second Birth is necessary before a believer truly begins to live.

**Introduction:** Since you are here today for this lesson, you have experienced at least one birth. This birth is only the start of a life that leads to death. But have you experienced a second birth? Only if you have had a second birth are you truly on the path of life – eternal life!

Before talking about being filled in the Spirit, walking in the Spirit or Spirit-filled relationships, we will talk about being born of the Spirit. You need to be born before you can walk, talk or feed yourself. This second birthday can have different names: new birth, born again, or regeneration.

The Holy Spirit was instrumental in the miraculous bringing forth of life from within the virgin Mary just as He is instrumental in bringing forth the miraculous new birth within the heart of the one who will accept Christ as Savior. We cannot get into heaven apart from being born of the Spirit.

We don't need to force men and women to be saved since we are not the one doing the work of regeneration. "All I can do is to make plain the message from God's Word; it is the Spirit of God who causes the Word of God to take effect in the heart of the person to make them a child of God." You and I can't create children for God, but we can sometimes be in the birthing room when the baby is born!

#### I. Evidence of the New Birth.

##### A. We are in the **Family** of God.

1. We get out of Satan's family. In sin, we are under the rule of our father Satan (Jn 3:6; 8:42-44; Eph. 2:1-3). It is not until the new birth that we get a new family (Eph. 2:4-5).
2. We now can **please** God. In the flesh we can look good, go to church, talk right, or be religious, but we can't please God (Rom 8:8).
3. We get a cure for our sin-diseased heart (Jer.17:9 – our heart is "desperately wicked" or "incurably wicked".) You can't solve man's sin problem apart from salvation.
4. We get **all** we need to live the Christian life (II Peter 1:3-4)

##### B. We are Free from **Condemnation**.

1. Prior to the new birth we are already under condemnation (Jn 3:18).
2. Illustration: Like an inmate on death row waiting for a call from the Governor of the state to commute his sentence, we are on death row. The good news is that the phone is ringing with an offer of pardon from The King of Kings! (Rom. 8:1). He is offering more than just a pardon. He paid our debt in full (Col. 2:13-14). We are granted freedom, a place to live and a table to feast at.

He welcomes us into His family (Eph 2:19; I Jn 3:1). That is amazing grace!

3. At new birth we get everything God wants you to have. With spiritual maturity, you will become more like His Son, but the potential is there at new birth. Let's be patient with baby Christians as they grow to their potential in Christ.

#### II. Experience of the New Birth

- A. It is the work of **God** (Eph 2:4-6; Jn 1:11-13).
- B. It fills the God-shaped vacuum in our soul that we have tried to fill with religion, immorality, drugs, money, etc.
- C. It works like this – born once, die twice; born twice, die once. If you die physically without the new birth, you will face the second death, which is separation of the soul from God for eternity.

#### III. Explanations of the New Birth

- A. Recognized by the fruit – Like the wind, you can't see the Spirit, but you can see what He does in a person's life (Jn 3:8).
- B. Result of two agents (Jn 3:5) – These two agents work hand in hand so don't try to separate the two in evangelism. Preach the Word and let the Spirit lead men to salvation!
  1. The Holy Spirit
  2. The **Word of God** is the cleansing water (Ps 119:9; Eph 5:25-26; James 1:18; I Pet 1:23).

#### IV. Examples of the New Birth

- A. Saul became Paul (Acts 9).
- B. Your **own** salvation testimony
- C. This is not a turning over a new life, cleaning up your act, trying harder, etc. It is a new birth.
- D. There may be a process leading up to the new birth, but the new birth happens at a point in time. You may not remember the exact dates, but you need to know that you have been born again. It is not something that you can say, "I have always been saved."

#### Application

1. Have you been born again? If not, you can have a spiritual birthday today (Acts 16:31)!
2. What are some characteristics of the family of the devil (Jn 8:42-44) and of the family of God (Gal. 5:22-23)?
3. What are evidences in your own life that the Holy Spirit has been at work?
4. Share your testimony with a friend.

Don't miss our Next Lesson – *The Baptism of the Spirit – Where Life in Christ Begins.*

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