

In Christ

From a spiritual perspective

Jan. 19th

Foundational Text

Acts 17:28 Amplified Bible

For in Him - - we live - - and move - - and exist [that is, in Him we actually have our being], ... as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

Foundational Revelations

You Are What You Believe

Proverbs 4:23 Easy English Bible

Be very careful - to keep your mind safe. ... The thoughts that you think - - make you the person that you are.

You are a Tri-Part Being

Genesis 1:26 The Voice

God: Now let Us conceive a new creation - - humanity - - made in Our image, - - fashioned according to Our likeness. ... And let Us grant them authority over all the earth—the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, the domesticated animals and the small creeping creatures on the earth.

A Spiritual Perspective of the Born-Again Experience

John 3:1-21 The Voice

Nicodemus was one of the Pharisees, a man with some clout among his people. ... 2 He came to Jesus under the cloak of darkness to question Him.

Nicodemus: Teacher, some of us have been talking. ... You are obviously a teacher who has come from God. ... The signs You are doing are proof that God is with You.

Jesus: 3 I tell you the truth: - - only someone who experiences birth for a second time - - can hope to see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus: 4 I am a grown man. ... How can someone be born again when he is old like me? ... Am I to crawl back into my mother's womb for a second birth? ... That's impossible!

Jesus: 5 I tell you the truth, if someone does not experience water and Spirit birth, there's no chance he will make it into God's kingdom. ... 6 Like from like. ... Whatever is born from flesh is flesh; whatever is born from Spirit is spirit. ... 7 Don't be shocked by My words, but I tell you the truth. ... Even you, an educated and respected man among your people, must be reborn by the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God. ... 8 The wind blows all around us as if it has a will of its own; we feel and hear it, but we do not understand where it has come from or where it will end up. ... **Life in the Spirit - is as if - it were the wind of God.**

Nicodemus: 9 I still do not understand how this can be.

Jesus: 10 Your responsibility is to instruct Israel in matters of faith, - - - but you do not comprehend the necessity of life in the Spirit? ... 11 I tell you the truth: we speak about the things we know, and we give evidence about the things we have seen, and you choose to reject the truth of our witness. ... 12 If you do not believe when I talk to you about ordinary, earthly realities, then heavenly realities will certainly elude you. ... 13 No one has ever journeyed to heaven above except the One who has come down from heaven—the Son of Man, who is of heaven.

Spiritual Nuggets

Verse 7 Don't be shocked by My words, but I tell you the truth. ... Even you, an educated and respected man among your people, - - must be reborn by the Spirit - - to enter the kingdom of God.

Salvation is a Spiritual Experience

First and foremost – the born-again experience – is a spiritual experience – not a natural one ... Unfortunately – religion has turned salvation into natural experience which involves saying a “salvation prayer” which punches your ticket to heaven ... In fact – religion has put it into a neat little “Romans Road” and placed it on a gospel tract ... I'm not opposed to teaching believers how to share their faith ... But when that process can be done totally apart from the Holy Spirit – there is a huge problem.

Salvation involves a dimensional shift

Religion has turned the salvation experience into an event that gets experienced after a person dies ... Jesus' implication in verse 3 says once you are born by the Spirit – you can see the Kingdom ... In this verse Jesus states that you can enter the Kingdom.

Verse 8 The wind blows all around us as if it has a will of its own; we feel and hear it, but we do not understand where it has come from or where it will end up. ... Life in the Spirit - is as if - it were the wind of God.

Salvation is about a Spiritual Lifestyle

Life – this life – here on earth – is to be one where the Spirit – is actively involved ... See, the reason we have such an issue with this – is because salvation has been turned into a natural process that can be measured ... Did you say “the prayer?” ... Do you read your bible? ... Do you pray? ... Do you attend church? ... Now – don't get me wrong – those who are born-again will engage with these disciplines ... True salvation – is where your soul has been saved – cleansed – washed and regenerated – to where it is now free to be directed and flow by the spirit ... With that – you now have the ability see and enter the of Kingdom of God ... I know this tweeks us – because religion has done a good job of grounding us to this natural realm.

Colossians 1:13 New Life Version

God **took us out** of a life of darkness. ... He **has put us in** the holy nation of His much-loved Son.

NLT

For he has **rescued us** from the kingdom of darkness ... and **transferred us** into the Kingdom of his dear Son,

Ephesians 2:6 New Living Translation

For HE raised us from the dead along with Christ ... and seated us with Him ... in the heavenly realms ... because we are united with Christ Jesus.

TAKE AWAY

Nicodemus: 9 I still do not understand how this can be. ... **Jesus:** 10 Your responsibility is to instruct Israel in matters of faith, - - - but you do not comprehend the necessity of life in the Spirit? ... 12 If you do not believe when I talk to you about ordinary, earthly realities, then heavenly realities will certainly elude you

1 Corinthians 2:14 New Catholic Bible

An unspiritual person refuses to accept what pertains to the Spirit of God, for to him such things are foolish. He is unable to understand them because they can be discerned only in a spiritual way.

Salvation – being born-again – is a spiritual experience designed to set your spirit free – to soar and engage with the Kingdom of God