

You Must Be Born Again

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is what causes us to be born again unto a living hope (1 Peter 1:3). The apostle John tells us that Jesus first revealed this need to be born again to Nicodemus (John 3). That chapter is so profound that I would like the readers to read all of it before reading further.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." is of course one of the most quoted verses of the Bible, and rightly so.

Some things that come to mind for me in John 3 are:

- 1) The love of God for the world is His motivation for doing what He has done and for what is yet to unfold in the world because of it. This is also said in Ephesians 2:4 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us," And that is the best reason I can think of as motivation for anything. Especially when this love is unsearchably deep, long, and wide (Eph. 3:18). No wonder God's love is the most common theme of our Christian songs!
- 2) Being born again is what causes us to both see and enter the kingdom of God. This seems to be the order of what happens to one who is born again, first to see God's kingdom in Jesus Christ, then entering it. In my experience, I needed to have the Lord open my eyes to see His kingdom first, and then once I saw it, I was powerfully motivated to enter it because it is so attractive.
- 3) Being born again is something Jesus does in His ascended position in heaven because He is the Son of Man who both descended from heaven then ascended into heaven after His earthly life, death, and resurrection. There is much more to be said about Jesus as the Son of Man, but that will be done later.
- 4) Jesus pointed back to what happened in Numbers 21:8-9 when the Israelites rebelled against God's commands and fiery snakes were biting and killing some of them, "Then the LORD said to Moses, Make a fiery serpent and mount it on a pole. When anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live. / So Moses made a bronze snake and mounted it on a pole. If anyone who was bitten looked at the bronze snake, he would live." In typology this signifies that although Christ was made in the likeness of the flesh of sin, He himself did not sin, yet he was lifted up on the cross to bear God's wrathful judgement against our sin so we could have eternal life.
- 5) Being born again comes through believing in the Son and obeying Him.
- 6) Being born again comes through the action of The Spirit, Son, and Father (the Trinity)
- 7) What is born again is our human spirit "that which is born of the Spirit is spirit"
- 8) Being born again is something that is unseen and makes the believers somewhat mysterious to others like where the wind comes from and goes to.
- 9) We know from Romans 10 that faith (believing in Christ) comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ that comes to us from those who preach the gospel of God

to us. So our new birth as a Christian happens then (when we first believe the word of the truth of the gospel, which is the word of Christ)..

The word “regeneration” is also used to describe being born again. The Apostle Paul included this word in his letter to Titus “He saved us, not by works in righteousness that we did, but according to His mercy, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”.

Please take some time to reflect on what it means to you to be born again, regenerated, then thank and praise Him for His great mercy to you. If you have not yet been born again, please recognize your need, repent for your sins, confessing to God that you need He and His Son in your life, giving you this new life.

Regeneration makes one “ a baby Christian”. Like human babies, baby Christians need milk, more love, care, and protection. We’ll examine that further in the next chapter.