



NEIGHBOURHOOD BIBLE STUDIES



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No.3 THE MIRACLE OF THE NEW BIRTH

1. WHAT IS THE NEW BIRTH?

- (a) Spiritual birth - **John 3:3** – “...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
- (b) 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**)

2. WHY IS IT A MIRACLE?

- (a) *It is entirely a work of God!* – **Eph. 2: 8-10** - “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
- (b) Faith rises in our hearts when God’s Word is read or heard and the Spirit of God joins with the Word Of God in a mighty explosion of God’s love.

Romans. 10:17 - “ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

1 Peter. 1:23 - “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth abid abideth forever.”

3. WHAT IS MEANT BY “THE WATER” IN JOHN 3:5

“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.”

(a) First - we cannot ever see or understand the Kingdom of God unless we are born again (**John 3:3**)

1 Cor. 2:14 - “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.”

(b) **John 3:5** - “ Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot ENTER into the kingdom of God.”

(c) The water here does not refer to H₂O but to the Word of God- **1 Pet. 1:23** “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever.” Here we see that the Miracle of the New Birth is accomplished by the Word of God – no mention of water. You say, “A seeming contradiction.” No, my friend, nothing of the sort. In **1 Pet. 1:23** we have the term, “**being born again** by the Word of God.” You see, the truth is that the term “water” is used here symbolically and means, *The Word*”. In Ezek. 36:25 God says He will “sprinkle clean water upon His people.” “Was He going to pour out of His Word and Spirit upon them so they would know the truth and their hearts would be changed?

(d) Jesus said, Ye are now clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.” (**John 15:3**)

4. WHAT IS MEANT BY “A WORK OF GRACE?”

Eph. 2:6-9 - “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

(a) The word grace means “unmerited favour.”

(b) We cannot work our way to heaven.

(c) We cannot pay for Salvation.

(d) Only through our own faith in Calvary’s finished work may we be saved.

5. WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE WORDS SUCH AS -

Justification, Forgiveness, Sanctification, Redemption, Remission of sins & Propitiation?

- (a) Justification -**Rom. 5:1** -“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Meaning God has forgiven our sins and placed us in a position just as if we had never sinned.
- (b) Remission of sins -Is the same as forgiveness of sins. **1 John 1:9** – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all righteousness.”
- (c) Redemption -Christ has paid the price for our sins and purchased our souls with his precious blood. **1 Peter 1: 18-19** – “Forasmuch as ye know that **ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold**, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; **But with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”
- (d) Propitiation -This word means that God has accepted the work of Christ on our behalf – God’s just demands of punishment for our sins has been satisfied – Jesus paid it all for us!

Rom. 3:24-25 - “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: **Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.”

1 John 2:1-2 -“My little children, these things write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, **we have an advocate with the Father**, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

PLEASE NOTE: **Jesus Christ is our Advocate – our layer – and pleads our cause before the throne of God when we walk in the light of the gospel.**

- (e) Sanctification -means to be set apart for God from the world, the flesh and the devil –
1 Thess. 5:23 “And the very god of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Eph. 5:26 - "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word."

6. HOW CAN WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD?

Rom. 5:1 - "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

7. WHY IS FAITH SO IMPORTANT?

Faith is believing God's Word!

Heb. 11:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

8. WHAT ARE WE SAVED FROM?

- (a) Sin - **Rom. 3:23** - "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
Rom. 6:22 - "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."
- (b) Shame - **Dan. 12:1** - "and many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."
- (c) The power of Satan - **Col. 1:13** - "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."
- (d) Eternal Damnation - **Matt. 25:46** - "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

9. WHAT ARE WE SAVED INTO?

- (a) Peace - **John 14:27** - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."
Rom. 5:1 - "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

- (b) Joy - **Heb. 6:10** - "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." **John 16:22** - "And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you." **Isa. 12:22** - "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out the wells of Salvation."
- (c) Pardon (Forgiveness)-**Rom. 8:1**- "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."
- (d) Divine Healing - **Isa. 53:5** - "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."
- (e) Prosperity - **3 John 2** - "Beloved, I wish above all thing that thou may prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."
- (f) Protection - **Ps. 91:10** - "There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come night thy dwelling."
- (g) Eternal Life -**John 3:16** – "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever belieth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Amen