



## NEW BIRTH (Part 1)

Good morning. Hope you are doing well today.

Last week we talked about who we are without God and his Son. We are FALLEN -- LOST. We cannot know or fulfill the purpose for which God created us. And in The End we face judgment for our rebellion and sin. We face an eternity apart from God and everything good in a place called HELL.

But God does NOT want any of this for us!

God created us for Paradise – for divine purpose – for forever. Specifically, God designed us

- To KNOW him
- To LOVE him
- To WORSHIP him
- To OBEY him
- To SERVE him
- To REPRESENT him
- To ENJOY him – both Individually and together as his People – now and forever.

If I miss this Original Design for my life, I will miss what truly matters in this life. But is it possible to recover what we LOST in the FALL? Is it possible to return to Original Design?

Many people think you can recover what was lost by

- Being born into a certain ethnicity or tribe or nation, or by
- Being good enough to deserve what is lost, or by
- Buying favor with God, or by
- Believing the right doctrines, or by
- Intensely studying the Bible, or by
- Joining the right Church, or by
- Having another person give it to you, or by
- Being religiously sincere and devout, or by
- By getting and using 'The Anointing'.

Jesus cut through this religious nonsense in his conversation with Nicodemus (John 3). Nicodemus was a ruling member of the Sanhedrin – a highly educated, influential religious and political ruler of Israel.

Jesus told him all of that wasn't enough. No, "You must be born again!"

No one will ENTER the kingdom of God, Jesus said, unless and until they are born again – even more -- no one will even get close enough to ever SEE God unless and until they are born again.

Please stop and honestly ask yourself these questions:

- What will happen if I choose to believe that Jesus is telling the truth?
- What will happen if I choose to believe this truth applies to everyone I know?
- What will happen if I choose to believe this truth applies to ME?

So, if Jesus has given us the counsel of God – and I believe he did -- settling the issue of New Birth will be the most important thing I ever do. Life may go on if I fail at other things, but I MUST experience New Birth. Everything else rises or falls on whether I do. Everything now and forever.

And, while you ponder the questions above and the serious implications of how you answer them, let's talk more about New Birth. The primary writers of the New Testament agreed with Jesus:

**John 1:12** - *Yet to all who did receive him [Jesus – the Word of God], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

**1 Peter 1:23** - *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God [i.e.- the seed is Jesus].*

**James 1:17** - *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. <sup>18</sup> He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.*

**2 Cor 5:17** - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ ....*

**Galatians 6:15** - *Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation.*

We cannot escape this reality: there is no human means to reenter Paradise – no means to escape the bondage of sin and Satan and suffering and Death – no way to recover our Original Design – no way to regain eternal life.

There is only one avenue to True Life – now and forever: we MUST be born again – born by God's Spirit – born from above.

But how does this happen?

I think it is fair to say that New Birth doesn't happen by accident. It doesn't happen casually. It doesn't happen apart from the supernatural activity of God. More on that to come....

NEXT WEEK we will discuss how God prepares us for New Birth.

Blessings-

*Douglas*

Douglas Van Devender

Team Jesus Ministries International