

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

Samuel H. Nodal

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 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. (John 3:3-5)

What Does it Mean, To Be BORN AGAIN?

In the Greek (original language) it says, “unless you are Born from above you cannot understand nor perceive the Kingdom of God! Nicodemus was a Pharisee, an expert and scholar of the Jewish Law. Yet he had no idea of what Jesus was telling him because he was from Earth (carnal) and Jesus was from Heaven. This tells us that you can be very religious with Doctorate degrees, go to Church all your life and still not be saved and end up in Hell! There are many in Church today that are not Born Again (from above). They make up what you would call the Social Carnal Church. God’s Church is birthed through His SPIRIT!

Paul said it Best;

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. (Phil.3:8-11)

This is the key to know if you really are Born Again! First he tells us that the things of the world and it’s temptations no longer have any power over him. He treats the tempting luxuries that the world loves as Dung in order to personally know Christ and the power of His Resurrection. Notice his righteousness now comes by faith in what Jesus did for him! No longer does he rely on his religion or of good works.

There Are TWO ABSOLUTES in Scripture (The BLOOD and The FAITH)
If you do not fully understand these Two; “You are Not Saved!”

THE BLOOD

And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. (Col. 1:20)

With his own blood not the blood of goats and calves he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever. (Heb. 9:12) NLT

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (Heb. 9:22) ESV

That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God, “You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer. You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin. Then I said, ‘Look, I have come to do your will, O God as is written about me in the Scriptures.’” First, Christ said, “You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were you pleased with them” (though they are required by the law of Moses). Then he said, “Look, I have come to do your will.” He cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect. For God’s will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand. There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet.

(Heb. 10:5-13) NLB

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation: (Rev. 5:9)

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony (their Faith); and they loved not their lives unto the death.

(Rev. 12:11)

Seeing what GOD (Jesus) has done for you (us), doesn't He deserve our highest Praise, Honor, and Glory? I don't have words to tell you how important this is! God (Father) gave us the most precious thing He loved in order to bring us back to Him, and yet most people are ignorant or just don't value what He did!

THE FAITH

So do not throw away this confident trust (Faith) in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. "For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. And my righteous ones will live by faith. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away." But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.

(Heb. 10:35-39) NLT

Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen. For therein the elders had witness borne to them. By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen hath not been made out of things which appear. (Heb. 11:1-3) ASV

(Heb. 11 is the Faith chapter of the Bible)

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. (Heb. 11:6)

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. (Eph. 2:8,9)

*Notice God's part is Grace, but our part is Faith! We must receive that Grace through our Faith! Most people are in Hell right now because they thought God's Grace was automatic to everyone, "**NOT SO**" if we don't make an effort to receive God's Grace because of ignorance or neglect, we will go to a horrible place called Hell made for the devil and his angels!*

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. (1 Sam. 15:22)

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. (Phil. 2:12,13)

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?
(Luke 6:46)

Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. (Matt. 15:7-9)

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Rom. 5:1,2)

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. (Heb. 4:2)

Born Again Believers have Pure Hearts and Obey His Commandments

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. (Psalm. 24:3-5)

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. (Matt. 5:8)

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. (John 14:21)

But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, (1 Tim. 1:5,6) NASB

God Reveals Himself to Man through His SPIRIT; “SPIRIT to spirit”

God communes through the spirit of man, not the soul and body

(remember man is a Triune being). For deeper explanation see (study # 1):

The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly. (Prov. 20:27)

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (Rom. 8:16)

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

(Gal. 6:18)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. (Philemon 25)

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Eph. 4:23,24)

Like Nicodemus Most in Church Are Not Born Again (None in the World)

Jesus told Nicodemus, all's you know is a carnal religion from Earth, you know nothing about Heaven where I Am from! Don't be too hard on old Nicodemus, there are a lot of Nicodemuses in the modern Church today. They are called the social religious Church that seeks their salvation by works and not Faith!

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof (Holy Spirit): from such turn away. (2 Tim. 3:5)

JESUS Reprimands Nicodemus of Being a False Teacher

Jesus answered and said unto him, **Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.**

If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

(John 3:10-13)

Jesus was telling him; “if you really were a True Spiritual Teacher of Israel you should have known these things.” This was clear in the Old Testament as well as the New (Jer. 31, Ezek. 36 & 37): Salvation is a divine Miracle from Above which only God can do! There is nothing religion can do to receive it. To receive eternal salvation all’s we can do is ask God with a pure heart and receive it by Faith! We are held responsible for the decision we make!

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 3:6)

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but **which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 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.** (1 Cor. 2:11-14)

Nicodemus was all about religion not spirituality that comes by Faith. His religion was all about self works trying to serve God through the rules of men. It was all about human achievement and not the works of the SPIRIT. He thought he had to do things to get right with God (morality, church rules, rituals and ceremonies, etc...): He thought that doing all these religious things would gain him entrance into Heaven!

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things that all perish as they are used) according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. (Col. 2:8-23)

ESV

What Happens When you Truly Believe? “God Recreates Your Spirit”

In your spirit (not body & soul) you become a New Creation in the image and likeness of God! The old ways are gone and your desire is to serve God. Your soul and body are still susceptible to sin (world, flesh, devil). Your spirit is now made up of what God is made up of! Spirit substance!

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Cor. 5:17)

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

(Ezek. 11:19-20)

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass (mirror) the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Cor. 3:18)

Wherefore we henceforth know no man after the flesh: even though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now we know him so no more. Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new. (2 Cor. 5:16,17) ASV

PEACE is the Main Inward Spiritual Fruit When you are Really Born Again
A sure sign that you are Born Again is inner peace! There are two kinds of peace God offers! Peace with God, and Peace of God!

Peace with God (Given at Salvation)

This kind of peace is the one God gives you at salvation. Before Christ saved you by His Blood you were an enemy of God. God is no fool to play around with! He will completely destroy His enemies. God is Holy and sin cannot exist in His presence.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Rom. 5:1,2)

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you**. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. **Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you:** as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. **And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:** (John 20:19-22)

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.

(John 14:27)

If Your Not Saved God Considers You an Enemy. (You Have No Peace)

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, so that he will not hear. (Is. 59:2) ASV

Much more then, **being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.** For if, **when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son**, much more, **being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.** (Rom. 5:9,10)

How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, **“VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY.”** And again, **“THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.”** **It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.** (Heb. 10:29-31) NASB

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says the LORD of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.” (Mal. 4:1) NASB

The Peace of God. (Continuous after Salvation)

This peace is continuous because Christ is now in you. The only thing that will break that peace is your sin and willful disobedience!

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** (Phil. 4:6,7) ESV

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (Col. 3:15)

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. (1 Thess. 5:23)

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and **the God of peace shall be with you**. (Phil. 4:9)

And **the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly**. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen. (Rom. 16:20)

How then are we Born Again from Above by the SPIRIT?

In whom **ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise**. (Eph. 1:13)

Notice the Process;

- 1. you must Hear the Word of TRUTH; (The GOSPEL) 1 Cor. 15:1-8*
- 2. you must Believe and Trust. Prov. 3:5-8*
- 3. you must be Sealed by the Holy Spirit. Rom. 8:9*

*What's the Key here? **When you Believed**; then you were Sealed by the Holy Spirit! So, in order to believe something you must hear it first, you can't believe on something you haven't heard. Next, you must Trust the message is True in order to Believe, your not going to believe a lie. And thirdly, when your believe is Right (The Gospel) you will be Sealed by the Holy Spirit! This is the process of being Born Again from Above!*

Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, **let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.**

Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, “**So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’” And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world.** (Heb. 4:1-3) NIV

SIMPLY BELIEVE - *That’s the Key: (but what does that really mean?)*
Let’s examine Nicodemus again (John 3:10-13); Nicodemus was called “The Teacher of Israel” that meant he was the leading religious leader of all Israel, and yet Jesus said, you know Nothing from above!