

## Born Again / The Watery Womb

Years ago, when I was pondering and reading what the Lord told Nicodemus in John 3:

“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

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.

6 ***That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.***

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be **born again**.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of **heavenly things**?

(New Testament | John 3:3 - 12)

The Lord explained to me some “heavenly things” relating to His statement to Nicodemus about what he meant when he said “**except a man be born of water**.” He was referring to our mortal birth, coming out of the watery womb, “that which is **born** of the flesh is flesh” is the watery womb of baptism in water Christ was referring to. Every person who has been born in mortality has had their water baptism, they have been “**born of water**” exactly as Christ said! This phrase, “**born of water**” is only used once in scripture, by Christ himself, speaking with Nicodemus KJV.

This baptism in water (“**born of water**”), was earned long ago, in our 1<sup>st</sup> estate, because of our obedience there and willingness to come to mortality and be tested by our mortal experiences; to see if we would seek after our spiritual baptism and

be **“born of the Spirit,”** **“again,”** but this time with a mortal body attached! The reason the scriptures use the phrase **“born again,”** verse 7 of John 3 is because we were all **“born of God”** in our 1<sup>st</sup> estate when we chose to immerse our Spirit and mind, in that order, (Spirit and mind) [Abraham 3: 18] in “holiness;” exactly the same way we are to be **“born again”** (John 3:7) spiritually here in mortality! Therefore, **“that which is born of the Spirit is spirit,”** is referring to the “holiness” of character: the “fruits of the Spirit,” “divine nature,” which we must immerse ourselves into **“AGAIN,”** “spirit, mind and body,” in that order, not the reverse. The “reverse” is “formalism,” a form of idolatry. [see LDS Bible Dictionary- Holiness] <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bd/holiness?lang=eng>

The “authority” we speak of is “in us,” already; it is our innate “birthright,” and “in-heritance” to immerse ourselves into holiness of character and divine nature. No one can do this for us, and when we do this in “spirit, mind and body,” in that order, it is then we become truly “sealed to godliness;” hence our immersion into our “Holy” Spirit, and we receive the “promise” from Christ himself as recorded in [1 John 2:21-29]... “ye know that he is righteous, ye know that **everyone** that doeth righteousness (our spiritual immersion into “divine nature”) **is born of him.**” [See also D&C 88: 3-5] “that it may abide in your hearts,” “the Holy Spirit of promise.”

In other words, when our “Spirit” chooses “holiness” of character through divine nature, the **“promise”** of eternal life with our Father, comes to us, from Christ himself, “face to face.” He is standing at the door knocking, and we must open that door spiritually and let Him in. He won’t come in until we are in His image and likeness and rid ourselves of all our carnal nature and false beliefs. What a “comfort” this promise is to our souls! [See also John 14: 15-21].

Just another thought: **“born of water and of the Spirit”** is spoken only once in scripture, in the context of Christ speaking to Nicodemus; and is referring to a baptism **“made without hands,”** that is, it is not of the “authority” mortal man gets caught up in via his ego [as described in D&C 121: 34-46], which stops or damns one’s progression into Celestial thought, but keeps one in either a Terrestrial or Telestial realm of thinking. This is exactly the same phrase Christ used when describing his own body temple **“made without hands”** [Mark 14: 53-65; John 2: 18-21] or the circumcision **“made without hands”** Paul refers to [Colossians 2: 9-23]. These phrases, **“made without hands”** is pointing our “spirit, mind and body,”

in that order, not the reverse, so that we may enter the Celestial realm of thought. This thinking makes “sure” all the “promises of God” [Romans 4] are fulfilled exactly as every person believes. It is “beliefs” that separate the kingdoms of glory. That is why the “letter of the law” killeth or stops and damns our progression and creates separation and conditional salvation, [as is experienced in Terrestrial and Telesstial realms] whereas the “**spirit of the law,**” “**made without hands**” creates no separation and is available to all unconditionally. This is the Celestial realm of thought!

This is why Lectures on Faith is so important to understand for the Celestial experience, it says: “Who cannot see, then, that salvation [Celestial Thought & Glory] is the **effect of faith**? for as we have previously observed, all the heavenly beings [of a Celestial order and thinking] work by this principle; and it is because they are able so to do that they are saved: [In Celestial Glory] for nothing but this could save them. And this is the lesson which the God of heaven, by the mouth of all his **holy** prophets, has been endeavoring to teach to the world. Hence we are told, that without faith [that is the “**effect of faith**”] it is impossible to please God; and that salvation is of faith, [meaning the “**effect of faith**”] that it might be by grace to the end, the promise might be sure to all the seed. [Romans 4:16](#):—And that Israel, who followed after the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? because they sought it not by faith, [the “**effect of faith**”] but as it were by the works of the law; for they stumbled at that stumbling stone” [they stumbled on their supposed authority, the “letter of the law”]. [Romans 9:32](#) [Lectures on Faith 7: 17].

“As all the visible creation is an **effect of faith**, so is salvation, also. (We mean salvation in its most extensive latitude of interpretation, whether it is temporal or spiritual)” [Lectures of Faith 7: 9]. This clearly shows how Celestial thoughts, beliefs and glory truly defines all Celestial Beings (Gods). It is an unconditional journey into ourselves, our own body “temple” “**made without hands,**” [Mark 14: 58] that we become “one” with Father and Christ as expressed in [John 17].

This essay is the shared experience of Ken Card

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