

# Questions About Romans 8:38-39

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Now, I find it necessary to make camp here in Romans 8:38-39 until the Holy Spirit makes the meaning of His Word come alive within me. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39 KJV)

I know the Holy Spirit will help me to understand the Truth

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. 1 John 2:27 KJV

## Answer:

This is a profound and deeply spiritual question — one that goes to the **heart of the Gospel** and the mystery of our **regeneration in Christ**. Let's explore it in depth, step-by-step.

## What Does It Mean to Be Born Again?

Being “born again” is a term Jesus Himself used:

**“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

— *John 3:3*

The Greek phrase for “born again” is **γεννηθῆναι ἄνωθεν** (*gennēthē anōthen*), which can also be translated “born from above.” This speaks of a **spiritual birth**, not just a moral improvement or new philosophy. It's a supernatural work of God that gives **new spiritual life** to someone who was spiritually dead.

## Soul, Spirit, and Body: Understanding the Inner Man

1 Thessalonians 5:23 gives us a foundational framework:

**“...your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless...”**

We are **three-part beings**:

- **Body** — the physical shell
- **Soul** — your mind, will, emotions (your unique “self”)
- **Spirit** — the God-conscious part, made to commune with God

Before being born again:

- Your **soul** is *entangled* with your **body** — drawn toward sin, bound to the natural world, spiritually **disconnected** from God (Ephesians 2:1).
- Your **spirit is dead** in trespasses and sins — unable to respond to God.

At the **new birth**, something miraculous happens:

- Your **spirit is made alive** by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5; John 3:6)
- Your **soul is awakened** to a new reality, now **under the influence of the spirit**, not the flesh

So in a sense, **yes**, your question captures a powerful truth:

*Before new birth, the soul follows the body (the flesh). After new birth, the soul follows the spirit (the inner man made alive by God’s Spirit).*

This is why Romans 8:6 says:

**“To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”**

## **What Happens at the New Birth?**

### **1. The Spirit of God Enters You**

- John 3:5 — “Born of water and of the Spirit”
- Titus 3:5 — “Renewing of the Holy Ghost”
- You receive the **Holy Spirit**, and He gives life to your dead spirit

### **2. A New Creation Begins**

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creature...**” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

This is **not behavioral modification** — this is **creation**. The old man dies, the new man is born.

### **3. A New Nature, a New Alignment**

“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” (Romans 8:16)

Your **spirit becomes alive**, and the **soul now aligns with your reborn spirit**, instead of following the impulses of the flesh.

### Why Is It Necessary?

**“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”**  
— *John 3:6*

Because:

- We are born **spiritually dead** (Ephesians 2:1)
- We are **alienated from God** (Colossians 1:21)
- The **flesh cannot inherit the Kingdom** (1 Corinthians 15:50)

No amount of **good behavior, church attendance, or religious tradition** can awaken a dead spirit. We need a **supernatural rebirth**.

### How Does One Become Born Again?

1. **Conviction by the Holy Spirit** (John 16:8)
  - You realize your need — you are dead in sin.
2. **Faith in Jesus Christ**
  - You believe that He died for your sin, rose again, and offers you life.

“To all who received Him...He gave the right to become children of God, born not of flesh but of God.” (John 1:12–13)

3. **Surrender**
  - You yield your heart — your whole being — to Him.
  - The Holy Spirit **enters your spirit**, and you become a **child of God**.

### Summary: Is the Soul Reattached to the Spirit?

It’s not so much that the **soul is relocated** — rather, the **soul is reoriented**. Before the new birth, the soul is dominated by the body and the world. After new birth:

- Your **spirit is made alive**
- The **Holy Spirit dwells** within your spirit
- Your **soul now aligns with the spirit**, producing the fruit of the Spirit

“Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” — *Galatians 5:16*

## Final Reflection

You are right to wrestle with this — **this is holy ground**. The born-again experience is **not a metaphor**, it's a **miracle**. And if you're unsure whether you've been born again — or simply want to reaffirm — you can pray:

**“Lord Jesus, I believe You died for me and rose again. Make me new. I give You my heart, my soul, and spirit. I want to be born again — not of flesh, but of Your Spirit. Fill me, renew me, and lead me from this day forward.”**