



Rejoice Learning Center

USA, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh,
Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Benin

Lesson 2: A New Creation: Born from Above – led by the Holy Spirit

In today's lesson, we learn:

1. What is a new Creation?
2. How can we be born again?
3. What happens once we are born again?
4. How does the holy spirit lead us?
5. What are the challenges we face?

Goals of lesson 2:

To know who you are in Christ: You are a victorious, powerful, and blessed child of God. You have an inheritance, hope, and a future - along with persecution and temptations.

1. WHAT IS A NEW CREATION?

We must understand the natural man and the spiritual man.

The natural man

Every human being is a natural-born sinner. We are of the earth, descendants of Adam, according to Genesis 5, who was a sinful man. We are the product of our sinful parents. Sin is disobedience to the Word of God. The Bible says in **Rom 3:23**: All have sinned. Jesus made it clear that in our sinful nature, we cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

He told Nicodemus a prominent teacher in Israel in **John 3:3**: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus was puzzled, thinking Jesus was referring to a physical rebirth. But Jesus clarified that this new birth is of the Spirit:

John 3:5-7 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water (Water is symbolic for baptism and the Word of God) and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

The natural man is spiritually dead and deserving of God's wrath

Ephesians 2:1-5 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ **All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.**

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

The spiritual man

"Born again" can also be translated as "born from above." This means that our new birth is not a result of human effort but a supernatural work of God, accomplished by His Spirit.

Just as we were born natural children, now we must be born of the Spirit of God. Only through this new birth, we become children of God.

Jesus was born by the Spirit of God. He is called in **Romans 8:29** the firstborn among many brethren.

As we are born by the spirit of God we will no longer look like our fighting, cheating, lying ancestors but we will look like our father in heaven: We are now born in his image of righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:24 instructs us: "... Put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

And not only do we look like Jesus, but we are also called to do the same works that Jesus did – and even greater works.

John 14:12 (Jesus speaking) "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

2. HOW CAN WE BE BORN AGAIN?

Believe the gospel, repent of your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus and you will receive the gift of the holy spirit (Acts 2:38).

3. WHAT HAPPENS ONCE WE ARE BORN AGAIN?

A New Heart and Spirit.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 we learn that God replaces our heart of stone with a heart of flesh

Romans 5:5... for God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us.

A New Relationship with God: Children and Heirs.

We are no longer enemies of God but now we are children of God, having been adopted into His family.

Romans 8:15-17 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ." → What do we inherit? Eternal life, a kingdom, blessings, rewards, positions, a new heaven & earth....

A New Identity.

We are no longer identified by our nature or our past but by our position in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Romans 8:14 "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

We are dying daily to ourselves and embrace the will of Jesus!

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

We have power!

Romans 8:11 The same spirit that raised Jesus from death now lives in us.

We are no longer powerless over our sinful flesh, the world, and the devil but powerful.

Romans 8:13 By the spirit we put to dead the sinful flesh!

Galatians 5:16: So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

We are partakers of the divine nature.

2 Peter 1:3-4 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and **precious promises**, so that through them you may **participate in the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. → Promises are the holy spirit, spiritual gifts, spiritual offices, power

A Call and Desire for Holiness.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 ¹⁴ Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, they will be my people." ¹⁷ Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." ¹⁸ And "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

1 Peter 1:14-16: As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy because I am holy."

The Holy Spirit lives in us to help, teach, and empower us.

John 14: 16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." –

The Holy Spirit produces a godly character in us.

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things, there is no law." The **fruit of the Spirit** is evidence of a transformed life.

The Holy Spirit equips us for Ministry.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11: The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts to serve the body of Christ.

We have good works!

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

James 2:14-17 ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

2. Corinthians 9:8 "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work".

We are called to renew our minds and to be sanctified!

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

We begin to think differently as our minds are transformed by the truth of God's Word.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Citizens of Heaven.

Philippians 3:20 “But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

We have a purpose and a plan.

Isaiah 43:10-12¹⁰ You are my witnesses,” says the Lord,
“my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may consider and believe in me,
and understand that I am he.

No god was formed before me,
and none will outlive me.

¹¹ I, I am the Lord,
and there is no deliverer besides me.

¹² I decreed and delivered and proclaimed,
and there was no other god among you.

You are my witnesses,” says the Lord, “that I am God.”

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

4. HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT LEAD US?

Ways the Holy Spirit Leads Us:

1. Through the Word of God.

Psalms 119:105. Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

2. **Through his voice.**

John 10:27 Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

Hebrews 3:15 As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.”

Acts 13:2. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them”

3. **Through Prophecy, Dreams and Visions.**

Acts 2:17

“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.

4. **Through Conviction**

John 16:8 Jesus speaking to his disciples: ⁸ When he (the holy spirit) comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment...

5. **Through Circumstances**

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

6. **Through Words of Knowledge & Revelation**

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John 4:16-19)

Jesus demonstrates the **word of knowledge** by revealing intimate details about the Samaritan woman’s life, including her past marriages. This divine insight leads her to recognize Jesus as a prophet.

The book of **Revelation** is a revelation of Jesus Christ given to John.

Paul also received revelations on several mysteries.

Revelation is when the holy spirit reveals something that has previously been hidden. The holy spirit can give you revelation out of the Word of God or also personal revelation – about your life.

7. Through Servants of God

Ephesians 4:11 And it was He (Jesus Christ) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ,...

Misc.

5. WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES WE FACE?

1. Walking in the Spirit vs. Walking in the Flesh

What is the flesh?

Galatians 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

The flesh and Spirit are in constant opposition.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

If you live according to the flesh you will die.

Romans 8:13 declares, "For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."

Galatians 5:16 "But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."

Surrender to the Word of God which is Spirit.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.

Crucify the Flesh – Through prayer, fasting, and obedience, we put to death sinful desires

Galatians 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Reflection: Are there areas in your life where you are still walking in the flesh? Are you willing to surrender them to the Holy Spirit?

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES WE FACE? (continued)

2. Persecution

Jesus warned that the world would hate those who follow Him.

John 15:18-20

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

Mark 10:29-30

"Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for My sake and for the gospel will fail to receive a hundredfold in the present age—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and fields, along with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.

2 Timothy 3:12 "In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."

When persecution comes:

1. **Remain steadfast in Christ.** Just as Paul and Silas worshiped God in prison (Acts 16:25), we should rejoice in trials, knowing they refine our faith.
2. **Pray for strength and endurance.** The early church prayed for boldness amid threats (Acts 4:29-31).
3. **Love your enemies.** Jesus taught us to pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44).
4. **Don't fear but stand firm in faith.**
Ephesians 6:13 states, "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."
Rev 3:11-12 ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God.

Persecution is a sign that we belong to Christ. It tests our faith, strengthens our witness, and deepens our trust in God.