

# Chapter 4

## The New Birth

Our last lesson dealt with “repentance” and why it was necessary. We also know that a “true repentance” a “godly sorrow” for our past life, will bring about a change in our life. Our lesson is about that all important subject, “The New Birth”.

As you study today’s lesson, we will try to explain how this comes about and then what takes place in the individual’s life.

### 1. **What surprising remark did Jesus make to Nicodemus?** John 3:1-7

One very important remark Jesus made was this, “no man can enter the kingdom of God without first being born again.” So this subject is very important for us to understand.

Some people feel it is not necessary to be born again. Others feel it is yet in the future, or that you are not born again until Jesus comes and gives you immortality. I believe it must take place now, today, before Jesus comes, or he will say “depart from me, I never knew you.”

Now what two things did Jesus say we must be born of? He said, we must be born of “water and spirit.” The spirit is easily understood, but what is the water. Some people feel it refers to baptism. But is one born again before baptism or after? Do we baptize a person so he can be born again, or do we baptize a person because he has been born again? I think you will agree the new birth must take place before baptism. If this is true, then what does the water refer to?

### 2. **Washing of water by the Word.** Ephesians 5:25-26

In the scriptures, we find the word represents several things, and here the water represents the Word. As water cleanses, so does the word, for it reveals to us how we should live.

Now let us see by the scriptures how this works in our spiritual life. For Jesus did say, “ye must be born of water (the seed, the word).”

### 3. **The sower went forth to sow.** Luke 8:4-5, 11

What happens when you put a seed in the ground? A new life comes forth. So it is in the spiritual sense. Before a baby can be born, a seed has to be planted. From this seed a new life comes forth. Before one can be born of God (from above) we must first hear the word. The seed has to be planted in our heart. From that seed (word) a new life can come forth. But it is impossible to be born again without first hearing the word.

### 4. **Begotten you through the gospel.** 1 Corinthians 4:15

How were the people at Corinth born again? It was through the gospel, the word. “*Begotten*” means “conceived”, as a child has to be begotten before it can be born, so were the brethren at Corinth begotten by the gospel, (the seed, the word).

### 5. **Begat us with the word of truth.** James 1:18

This tells us very plainly how the new birth begins. It begins with the hearing of the word, and then continues to grow unto a new babe in Christ.

### 6. **What kind of seed must we be born of?** 1 Peter 1:23

First of all notice the word *being*. It is used in the present tense, “Being born again...” So we can see, it is not in the future, but must take place now.

James 1:18 says: we must be born of the “incorruptible” seed, the truth. The corruptible seed is

the false doctrines that are being taught by the world that have no scriptural basis.

This reference also tell us plainly, we are born from the word of God. (the seed, the water).

7. **The spirit and truth (word) go together.** 2 Thessalonians 2:13

8. **There is also a travail (pain).** James 4:7-9 Psalm 51:17

Some people believe there should be no emotion in religion. They think that religion should be dry and without a sign of emotion. Nothing could be further from the truth. Though at times some people overdo it, and do it for show, the Bible reveals there is emotion in religion. We find Paul weeping many times. Also, other men in the bible showed emotion. So it is when one is born again. We all do not act the same way. Some will show more emotion than others, and some will show hardly any emotion at all.

Just as the natural birth when it occurs. To some, there is great pain; to others, there is very little. But all feel something. Afterwards there is a godly sorrow (pain) for what we have done. Then God forgives and there is rejoicing.

9. **We are then new creatures.** 2 Corinthians 5:17

How could we be new creatures now, if the New Birth was still in the future or at the coming of Christ. We were born from man (earthly), but now we are born from above (from heaven)—the heavenly birth.

10. **How do we put on the new man?** Colossians 3:5-10

Mortify means to kill or subdue. Before we can take upon ourselves the life of the new man, we must subdue the works of the flesh. Notice the wording in verse 10, “And have put on the new man...” The people Paul was talking to had done something. He did not say they will put on the new man.

11. **How did John speak of the new birth?** John 1:11-13

He says, “Which were born...” He understood very well the words of Jesus: the New Birth must take place now. We can now rejoice in that new life which God can give to us.

12. **As newborn babes.** 1 Peter 2:1-2

It matters not, if a man is fifty or seventy years old when he is born of God, he is a babe. And as a babe, he must begin with the milk of the word, for he cannot digest the deep things of God.

13. **Now are we the sons of God.** 1John 3:1-2

John says, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God...” Yes, truly we can now become the children of God. We then can call him Father and he calls us his children. We do not need to look forward to the future before we can become his sons and daughters. We may have that privilege now.

### **SUMMARY**

Before we can see (enter) the kingdom of God, we must be born again. We must let God give us the new nature, the heavenly nature, the divine 2 Peter 1:4. This is something we cannot do ourselves. Only God can do it, as we surrender our lives to Him.