" YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN "

JNO. 3:7

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher, come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

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?

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. (Jno.3:1-5)

As to just how the new birth takes place, or how we know when we have been " born again" is perhaps one of the most controversial subjects among the religious world, as some seem to think it cannot be understood, or neither can it be explained.

Certainly, Nicodemus did not understand Jesus concerning the new birth,as all the birth he knew about was the natural or fleshly birth, as those that was a member of the Jewish family, was by a natural birth.

There is some things that we must keep in mind, at the time Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus, THE KINDDOM HAD NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED, and the WAY had NOT been made known, as Jesus was speaking in prophecy,and if you and I didn't know any more about the new birth " NOW " or at this age, than Nicodemus did at that time, we also would not understand either.

There is not a man on the face of the earth thatcan take that passage alone, and prove how the new birth take place, or what water has to do in the new birth, neither what part the Holy Spirit has to do. So inorder to understand about the new birth, we must take other scriptures concerning the new birth, then we can arrive at a biblical conclusion.

The Kingdom has now been been established,(in Jeruslem about A. D. 33) and the way into the kingdom has been completly revealed.

As the Apostles on the day of pentecost, after being baptized with the Holy Spirit, as it was promised them by the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:5) (Jno.16:7-13) (Luk.24:49)

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4) They begin to tell people, for the first time, of the death, burial and the resurrection of Christ, which are the facts of the gospel, and the conditions that they must comply with inorder that they may have their sins forgiven. (Acts 2:38) Baptism in water is one of the conditions, NO not water salvation, Christ is the saviour. Matt. 1:21) baptism is a condition,or one of the conditions of salvation.

We want to notice some of the blessings that are in the Kingdom of Christ. 1. "All promises are in Christ" (11 Cor.1:20) and to be in Christ, is to be in his body, which is his church, (Col.1:18) 2. All Spiritual blessings are in Christ. (Eph.1:3) 3. Paul says, If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.(11Cor.5:17) 4. And the "saved" are in Christ.(Col.1:13-14) Now we want to notice some parallel statments which are equal to being born again. Jesus says, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

So then being converted, it follows that we enter the kingdom, therefore being converted, is equal to being "born again". (Matt.18:3)

Jesus says, (Matt.7:21) Not every one that sayeth unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. So then, if we do the will of the Father,we enter the kingdom, which also is equal to being born again.

Now then, since doing the will of the Father, is equal to being born again; what then is his will?. In (Mk.16:15-16) Jesus commanded his apostles to preach the gospel to all nations, He that believeth and is baptized,shall be saved,but he that believeth not shall be damned.

We notice in (Jno.3:5) where Jesus speaking to Nicodemus, saying, except ye be born of water and of the Spirit, in this passage alone does not tell us just what WATER has to do in the new birth,but in some way it does,neither does it show just what part the Holy Spirit has to do in the new birth,but in some way it does.

Then we must go to some kindred passages in connection with the new birth, that we may learn what "water" and"Spirit" has to do with it.

We notice, the Spirit was to guide tha Apostles into all truth.(Jno.16:13) (Luk.24:46-49)- (Acts 1:4)

Jesus said, in (Luk.8:11) that the word of God is the "seed" of the kingdom, here Jesus compares the word of God with a seed, we know a seed is the life giving principle to any plant life, so God word is the principle that is sown in good and honest hearts,it brings forth fruits.

In (Eph.6:17) Paul speaks of the word of God,being the sword of the Spirit, not that the Spirit is going to use the sword, but simply furnished the word, when it spoke through the Apostles, therefore the soldier is the one to use the sword.

Paul says, For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power (Gr.Dunamis) of God unto salvation,to every one that believeth.

Since the gospel of Christ, is the power that God uses to cause people to believe, then the gospel is the means by which we are begotten.

Paul declares in (1Cor.4:15) I have begotten you through the gospel. The apostle paul had preached the gospel to the people at corinth,and by his preaching, they were converted to Christ. Then we can see Paul is of one who by means of preaching the Gospel became the human instrument in the impartation of spiritual life.

James says,(Jas.1:18) Of his own Will,begat he us with the word of truth. In(Eph.1:3) Paul says, In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

In (1 Pet.1:22) Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethern,see thst ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:(23 verse) Being born again, not of corruptable seed,but of incorruptable, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

With the scriptures that I have mentioned,certainly proves beyond a shadow of doubt, but what the Spirit furnished the word,which was spoken through the mouth of the Apostles, certainly is the way the Spirit works in the new birth.

As by hearing the gospel, taught by the inspired men, which has revealed unto us the word, which causes us to have faith, is the way the Holy Spirit works in the new birth.

People must be taught the word. Jesus says (Jno. 6:44-45) No man can cometo me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. Note , God does the drawing. But how does do it? Ans. It is written in the prophets,"And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Paul says,(Rom.10:17) So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Heb.11:6) 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.

Some will stop here, and say, all you have to do is believe or have faith, and will refer to passages of scripture as this for proof. (1Jno.5:1) Which says,

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God. If this proves all you have to do , is just believe, then you are born again, it would prove too much, why? Ans. It would prove you are born without Repentance, or confession, also baptism, or without love and act. What proves too much proves nothing.

If believeth on the Lord,or believeth that Jesus is the Christ,is all you have to do to be born, what about (1Jno.4:7) which says, last part of the verse, and every one that loveth is born of God. Why then would not teach, that all you would have to do to be born, just love.?

Notice (1Jno.2:29) part of the verse, which says, every one that doeth righteousness is born of God. What is righteousness? Ans. David said, My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. While the Bible teaches that we are saved by faith, But not by faith alone.

(Heb.11:6) 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. Certainly our faith must be active. (Jas.2:20) But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Paul says, For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. (Gal.5:6)

Example of a working faith,notice, After the people at Jeruslem, on the day of pentecost, when the Apostles had preached the gospel unto them,and being pricked in their hearts, said, men and brethern, what shall we do? Then Peter answered and said unto them,"Repent" and be "Baptized" For the remission of sins. (Acts2:38) and also in (verse 41) Then they that gladly recieved his word, were baptized,and the same day there were added unto them, about three thousand souls. (verse47)says, And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. So then we can see that these people, after they had heard the gospel, which produced faith in their hearts, they obeyed the same, and was saved from their past sins, and was added to the Lord's church.

Then we can see that after we have had "FAITH" in Christ, there are certain commands,or conditions that we "must" obey.

Next in order, is REPENTANCE. Jesus says,(Luk.13:3-5) I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish.

Some may ask how we get repentance ? Ans. Repentance is not something we get, but is something we DO, which is a complete change of heart, or will, concerning sin, just simply making up our minds to quit that which is wrong, and turn and do that which is right. "Repentance" is commanded of all men.(Acts 17:30) And the time of this ignorance God winked at (over looked) but now "commandeth" ALL men every where to "REPENT".

Next we must "CONFESS" our faith in Christ.(Matt.10:32) Jesus says, Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Paul says,(Rom.10:10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness : and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. We have an example,(Acts8:37) The eunuch, when Phillip ask him to confess his faith in Christ, he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and upon that confession, Phillip baptized him.

Now we come to the last command, where God has promised to forgive us of our sins. Which is "BAPTISM" when Peter was preaching the gospel to Cornelius and his household, He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.(Acts 10:47)

Now baptism is the only condition of salvation, where water is used, So then water in the new birth, can mean no more or less than in baptism in the name of Christ (by Christ's authority) for the forgivness of sins. God seen fit to place "WATER" beteen man and his salvation. Paul says,For as many as have been baptized "into " Christ have put on Christ.(Gal.3:27)

Peter says,(1Pet.3:21) The like figure whereunto even baptism doeth also now "SAVE" us (not the putting away of the filt of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience,(or seeking after a good conscience) toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. " CONDITIONS OF SALVATION "

1.FAITH 2. REPENTANCE 3. CONFESSION 4. BAPTISM " Baptism in water" yes sir. Holy spirit baptism,was never given as a condition of salvation, Christ done this baptizing.Matt.3:11; " WARNING" But though we, or an angel from heaven,preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. (Gal.1:8) By Paul Ferguson 6392 Stanton Ave. Buena Park,Calif.

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