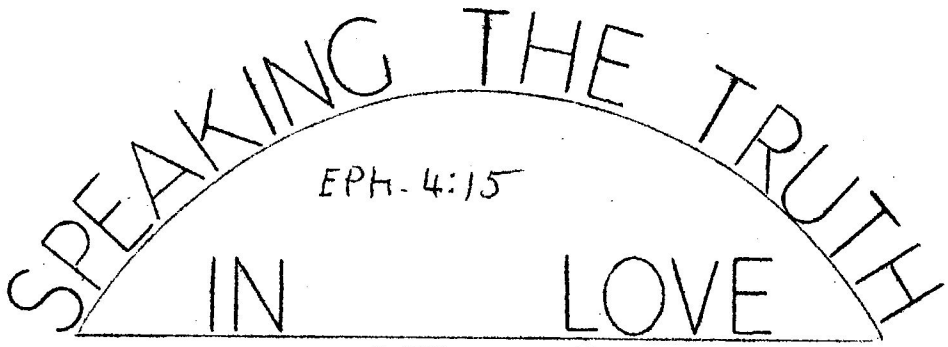


" THE NEW BIRTH "

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 wother'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 seems to think it cannot be understood, or neither can it be explained.

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

There is something else we want to remember, "at that time Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus,"the kingdom had been established",and the way had not been made known,as Jesus there 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.

But now the kingdom has been established, in Jeruslem,about(A.D.33) As the Apostles on the day of pentecost,after being filled with the Holy Spirit, as it was promised them,by the Lord Jesus Christ,

(Acts 1:5)

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,of the death,burial and the resurrection of Christ, which is the facts of the gospel,and what they must do to be saved. (Acts 2:38)

We want to notice some things,or certain blessings,that are in the kingdom. 1."All promises are in Christ" (11 Cor.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.(11 Cor.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,(Matt.18:3) Except ye be converted,and become as little children,ye cannot enter into the kingdom of God. So being converted then,we enter the kingdom. Therefore being converted,is equal to being "born again.

Jesus says,(Matt.7:21) Not every one that sayeth unto me,Lord,Lord, shall enter into 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 want to notice in (Jno.3:5)where Jesus speaking to Nicodemus, saying,except ye be born of water and of the Spirit.But in this passage alone,does not show just what part water has to do in the new birth, neither does it show what part the Holy Spirit has to do in the new birth. Then we must go to some kindred passages in connection with the new birth.

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

Jesus said,in (Luk.8:11) The word of God is the "seed" of the kingdom. Which is the life giving principle. In (Eph.6:17)the Apostle 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 to the brethern at rome,(Rom.1:16)said the Gospel of Christ,is the power of God,unto salvation,to every one that believeth. It is

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 (1 Cor.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.

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.

(1 Pet.1:22) Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethern,see that 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 for ever.

With these scriptures that I have mentioned,certainly shows beyond a shadow of a doubt,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,and 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 come to me,except the Father which hath sent me draw him:and I will raise him up at the last day. 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.~~1:16~~ 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. Certainly our faith must active.(Jas.2:20) But wilt thou know,O vain man,that faith without works is dead? After the people at Jeruslem,on the day of pentecost,when the Apostles preached the gospel unto them,and being pricked in their hearts,said,men and brethern,what shall we do? Peter answered and said,"Repent"and be "Baptized" For the remission of their Sins.(Acts 2:38) and also in (verse 41)Then they that gladly recieved his word,were baptized,and the same day there were wdded unto them, about three thousand souls. (verse 47) 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 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 might want to know we get repentance? Answer,repentance is not something we get,but is something we do,which is a complete change of heart,or will,concerning the things that are wrong,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, (Acts 8:37) the eunuch,when Philip,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,Philip 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 ritual where "water" is used in the connection with the salvation of man. God seen fit to place "WATER" between man and his salvation. Paul says,For as many as have been baptized "into" Christ have put on Christ.

Peter says,(1 Pet.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.

" THE CONDITIONS OF SALVATION "

1. FAITH 2. REPENTANCE 3. CONFESSION 4. BAPTISM

" WARNING " Paul says,(Gal.1:8) 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.

So we have shown what part the Holy Spirit has to do in the new birth, is by furnishing the "word" and water is used in baptism.

" You must be born again" (Jno.3:7) "Born of"WATER and THE SPIRIT" (Jno.3:5)

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