"YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN"

JOHN 3:7

"There was a man of the Pharisees, a ruler of the Jew; 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." (John 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 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 were a member of the Jewish family, was by a natural birth.

That is some things that we must keep in mind. At the time Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus, THE KINGDOM HAD NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED, and the WAY had NOT been made known, as Jesus was speaking in propheesy, and if you and I didn't know any more about the new birth NOW, in 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 that can take that passage alone, and prove how the new birth takes place, or what water has to do in the new birth, neither what part the Holy Spirit has to do. So in order 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 established, (in Jerusalem about A. D. 33) and the way into the kingdom has been completely 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 I:5; Jno. I6:7-I3; Luke 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 began to tell people, for the first time, of the death, burrial and ressurrection of Christ, which are the facts of the gospel, and telling them the conditions that they must comply with in order 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. I:2I). Baptism is a condition, or one of the conditions.

We want to notice some of the blessings that are in the Kingdom of Christ. I. "All promises are in Christ". (2 Cor. I:20), and to be in Christ, is to be in His body, which is his church, (Col. I:I8). 2. All spiritual blessings are in Christ. (Eph. I:3) 3. Paul says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. (2 Cor. 5:I7). 4. And the "saved" are in Christ. (Col. I:I3-I4). Now we want to notice some parallel statements which are equal to being born again. Jesus says, "Except ye be converted, and becomme 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. I8:3).

Jesus says, "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 Mark I6:I5-I6, 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 John 3:5, where Jesus speaking to Nicodemus, saying, except ye be born of water and of the Spirit. This passage alone does not tell us just waht 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 the Apostles into all truth. (John 16:13; Luke 24:46-49; Acts I:4).

Jesus said in Luke 8:II 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's word is the principle that is sown in good and honest hearts, it brings forth fruits.

In Ephesians 6:17, Paul speaks of the word of God being the sword of the Spirit; not that the Spirit is going to use a 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 (Greek, 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 I Corinthians 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 in James I:18, "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth. In Ephesians I:3 Paul says, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

In I Peter I:22; "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love another with a pure heart fervently: (23 verse) Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

With the scriptures that I have mentioned, certainly proves beyond a shadow of a doubt , that the Spirit furn-

ished the word, which was spoken through the Apostles; certainly is the way the Spirit works in the new birth. So 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.

The Holy Spirit never did operate direct on the heart for the purpose to convict and convert a person. Even in the days of Spiritual Gifts, when a person was there was always a preacher which spoke the word to the person.

Example: Recorded in Acts 8th chapter, Philip and the Eunuch. Verse 26 says the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, "Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza which is desert." There he seen the Ethiopian Eunuch, and the 29th verse says, the "Spirit said unto philip". Will you notice the Spirit spake to the preacher, Philip, not to the Eunuch. The Eunuch was the one who needed to be saved; the Eunuch was lost. If the Spirit ever worked direct, here would have been a good time for it.

The example of Saul, (Who was later called Paul) Acts 9:5-6. Saul here speaking with Christ, Saul asked the Lord "what will thou have me to do?" Christ did not tell Saul what to do to be saved, but he said, "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." Ananias told Saul what to do. Acts 22:16, "And now why tarriest thou? thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

On the day of Pentecost, after the Church had been established, Peter preaching the first gospel sermon in fact, and for the first time the disciples, or Apostles began to tell of Christ's death, burrial and resurrection, which caused many to say, "What shall we do?" Peter answering and said; "Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name (or by the authority of Christ) Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38) Yes people were convicted by the Holy Spirit, but how? Simply by hearing the words of these inspired preachers preaching the gospel of Christ.

Acts 2:41, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

People must be taught the word. Jesus says in John 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". Note; God does the drawing. But how does he do it? Answer. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath hgard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me."

Paul says, in Romans Io:I7, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Heb. II: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 for proof to such passages of scripture as I John 5:I, which says: "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the ChristIS born of God." If this proves that is all you have to do, is just believe, then you are born again, it would prove too much. Why? Answer, It would prove you are born without Repentance, or confession, also baptism, or without love, etc. 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 I John 4:7 which says in the last part of the verse, "and every one that loveth is born of God." Then why not teach that all you would have to do to be born, just love?

Notice I John 2:29, last part of the verse, which says, "every one that doeth righteousness is born of God." What is righteousness? Answer: David said, "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness." The Bible teaches that we are saved by faith, but not by faith alone.

Heb. II: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. James 2:20, "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

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

Example of a working faith, notice. After the people at Jerusalem, on the day of pentecost, when the Apostles had preached the gospel unto them, and being pricked in

their hearts, said, "men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter answered and said unto them, "Repent" and be "Baptized" for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38). Then also verse 41 says, "Then they that gladly received his word, were baptized and the same day there were added unto them, about three thousand souls." Verse 47 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 in Luke 13:3-5, "I tell you Nay; but except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish."

Some may ask, "How do 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 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. "And the time of this ignorance God winked at, (overlooked) but now COMMANDETH ALL men every where to REPENT. (Acts 17:30).

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

Paul says, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Rom. 10:10). We have an example in Acts 8:37. The Eunuch, when Philip asked 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 condition of salvation where w 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 forgiveness of sins. 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. (Gal. 3:27).

Peter says, (I Pet. 3:21) "The like figurewhereunto even even baptism doth also now SAVE us, (not the putting away of the filth 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

I. 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; Matthew 3:11. WARNING; "Butthough we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Galatians I:8)

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BAPTISM

THERE IS BUT ONE WAY YOU CAN ENTER THE Body, which is the church. When you enter the Body you are in Christ, He is the head of the Body, You have been baptized into his death, and that baptism is in the Name of the Lord. Acts 10:46-48 Matthew 28:19-20

A. Salvation is conditional. (Heb. 5:8-9)

B. We must do his commandments. (Rev.22:14)

BIBLE BAPTISM

I. HOW MANY KINDS OF BAPTISM ARE THERE?
   I. Just one. Eph. 4:5.

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2. WHAT DOES TRUE BAPTISM REQUIRE?
   I. Water. Matt. 3:II, Acts 8:36.
   2. Much water. John 3:23.
   3. Coming to water, Acts 8:36.
   4. Going into water. Acts 8:38.
   5. Burial in water. Rom. 6:I-4.
   6. Resurrection from water. Col. 2:I2.
   7. Handling of candidate. Acts 8:38.
   8. Coming out of water. Acts 8:39.

3. WHY MUST ONE BE BAPTIZED?
   I. To imitate Christ. Matt. 3:I3-I7.
   2. It is commanded. Mark I6:I5-I6, Acts 2:38, Acts I0:48.
   3. To get into Christ. Gal. 3:27.
   4. To be forgiven of sins. Acts 2:38, 22:I6.
   5. To be born again. John 3:5.

4. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?
   I. Those who believe the gospel. Mark I6:I6.
   2. Those who repent. Acts 2:38.
   3. Those who confess Christ. Matt. I0:32-33, Acts 8:37, Rom. I0:I0.
   4. Infants need not be baptized. No need for it.

5. WHAT IS BAPTISM FOR?
   I. For remission of sins. Acts 2:38.
   2. To be saved. Mark I6:I5-I6.
   3. Puts one into Christ Where salvation is. Gal. 3:27.