

## NEW LIFE NEW IDENTITY

What a wonderful day it was when I made the decision to give my life over to Jesus Christ. At the time, I had no idea of the effect it would create and the blessings that would follow in my life. In the next few letters, Lord willing, I will cover the subject of what it means to be “born again”. We will also discuss the divine purpose and positive results that it can produce in our lives.

One of the greatest events in our world’s history is Jesus being crucified on the cross at Calvary. In this momentous event, we discover the heavenly purpose of the cross; that every person has now been given a second chance. You may ask a second chance for what? What I am speaking of is what Jesus called, “born again”. God has provided a way to give every man, women and child the opportunity; the choice to start the process of a “newness” of life, one that will last eternally. Think about that, it will last FOREVER.

In **John 3:1-2**, a Pharisee named Nicodemus came to Jesus at night privately to speak to him, saying “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do, unless God is with him.” Now Nicodemus was a teacher, a ruler to the nation of Israel. Jesus said some things to him that was very profound. In **verse 3** he said, “most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again (**Greek:** Born from above) he cannot see the kingdom of God”. Of course Nicodemus was responding from a carnal perspective. He replied, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

Jesus went on to say in **verse 6** “that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”. When a person is born into this natural world he comes into this world as a physical being, called flesh. The Bible is clear, mankind consists of three parts. First spirit, then soul, and he lives in a body (**1 Thessalonians 5:23**).

It is not too difficult for us to comprehend born of the flesh, but not as easily understood; born of the spirit. We know as believers when we are birthed into this world we have what we term, the “outward man and the inner man”.

The outer man is flesh, the inner man is spirit. We possess both when we are born into this world. I want to briefly mention this one part; “the soul”. We only have 1 soul, but inside this soul are two different minds; the mind of the senses and the mind of the spirit. I will go into more detail on this subject throughout the next few newsletters. But for now, let us understand that we all have a human spirit within us when we were born (natural birth) into this world.

Jesus is telling Nicodemus in **John 3:3** you must be born again. In **verse 6** Jesus says “that which is born of THE Spirit (Holy Spirit) is (human) spirit”. The puzzled response that came from Nicodemus was obvious; he was only thinking from a natural, physical birth. Jesus was introducing a deep spiritual truth to someone who was not yet born again. In **John 3:8** Jesus continues to tell Nicodemus “the wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is BORN OF THE SPIRIT”.

He was speaking prophetically of the day of Pentecost. **Acts 2:1-2** says, “When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as a rushing mighty wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.” (They were all born again) Continuing on in **verse 3 & 4**, the scripture explains how they were filled with the Holy Spirit. What a miraculous moment it was!

Next month we will continue exploring this profound truth of what it means to be born again of the spirit. Jesus said you cannot see the kingdom of God without this understanding; you must be Born Again!

Love,

JANN T. BUTLER



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