

BORN AGAIN: YOUR NEW SPIRIT

Happy New Year everyone. In this first newsletter for 2022 we are going to pick up where we left off from the November 2021 newsletter.

We mentioned back in November out of **Romans 5:12** where Paul wrote, “through one man, the nature to sin spread to all men because all sinned”. **Genesis 6:3** clearly describes man was going out of God to the point he lost his true identity as a spiritual being. The apostle Paul in **Romans 1:18-32** gives us the witness of the generation before the flood. **Romans 1:21** paraphrased from the Greek says, “because knowing God they glorified him not as God or thanked him. But became vain in the reasoning of them, and the understanding of them was darkened”. This word darkened means to deprive of light. This would imply darkness began to grow in their spiritual understanding to the point they “sold themselves out” to their own physical being. **Romans 1:23** says “and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into the likeness of an image of corruptible man.” They even began to place the animal kingdom on an equality with man. This is why Christ had to come into the world, to save the world from sin (spiritual death). **1 Corinthians 15:45** says “And so it is written, ‘The first man Adam became a living being.’ The last Adam became a live-giving spirit.”

When I gave my life to Christ on July 11, 1971, the first thing I remember being taught was that I was born again (**John 3**). The church that I chose to attend was known as a full gospel church. I thought being born again was because I received the Holy Spirit, which was true, according to **John 3:5**. I was saved, because no one can be saved without the Holy Spirit. It was not until several years later while preparing a meeting on the coast of Oregon, the music minister who assisted me asked me this question. “What part of us is born again?” I told him, it was when we received the Holy Spirit. He replied back to me, “Yes, but what part of me is born again, spirit... soul or body?” He had been sitting in the meetings listening to me teach on the topic of man as a tri-part being. He was beginning to see perhaps it was his human spirit that was born again, not just the Holy Spirit taking residence within us.

The Holy Spirit creates the birthing in us (**Colossians 3:10**) but was there more than just Him in the equation? It’s interesting how often we can use biblical terms without really

stopping to think through the true meaning and purpose they have for our life. The term “Born again” is one of these phrases that I am referring to. My music minister could discern that this was possibly the case with me; preaching something that I did not have an understanding of myself. Because he was unsure, he asked me this very specific question. Thank God he did ask, because it opened up a new door of understanding for me, to comprehend more fully, the new life God gave me through Jesus.

Now when I look back on my life in those early days as a believer, I really had no idea as to what God had done in my life. It was on the day my friend asked me this question I began a lifelong journey of discovery as to what took place in me when I was born again. It was as if someone had placed a GPS in my hand to help me locate the area to begin, and the direction to reach my destination.

When we talk about the meaning of born again, it is similar to a natural birth. It’s where a whole new life begins, followed by a continual growth into maturity. **John 3:6** (paraphrased in the Greek) “the thing having been born of the flesh is flesh, and the thing having been born of the spirit (The Holy Spirit), is spirit.” (the human spirit). This helps us bring clarity to Peter’s statement in **1 Peter 1:2**. “As newborn babes, desire the spiritual pure milk in order that by it you may grow to salvation.” This word milk is indicating a nourishment necessary for our spiritual growth.

Next month we will continue on the subject of being born again. This is so critical to bring clarity and identity to what God is doing in our hearts. It really does matter greatly as Peter stated in **1 Peter 1:2**, we must know how to desire and partake of the spiritual pure milk which causes us to grow.

LOVE,
JANN T. BUTLER

