



Rebirth

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A man often walked through a cemetery on his way home. One night, though, unaware that a new grave had been dug in his path, he tumbled in. For some time he struggled to get out of the 7 foot deep grave, but finally gave up and settled down for the night.

An hour later, a farmer out possum hunting came walking through the cemetery and he too fell into the grave. He began a desperate attempt to get out, unaware that there was anyone else in the grave. The first man listened to him for a few minutes, then reached over in the pitch darkness and laid a hand on his shoulder. "You can't get out of here," he said... but he did.

I bet you'd freak out too if you fell into a grave and someone touched your shoulder and said you couldn't get out!!! This is a funny story about how afraid of death the farmer was. The ironic thing is that there are a lot of people in our world all around us that are walking dead. Sure they are alive physically, but spiritually they are as dead as my old pet gerbils (God rest their souls, haha). The point is that there are many people, maybe even some here in this room tonight; that haven't experienced a spiritual birth. They don't even know they are dead, but without life, what else are they. Let's take a look at what the Bible says about being born again.

John 3:1-6

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. [2] He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

[3] In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

[4] "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

[5] Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. [6] Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

In this instance a Pharisee named Nicodemus comes up to Jesus at night and admits that Jesus is a teacher sent from God. Typical of Jesus', He changes the subject, from Himself to Nicodemus. Jesus points out every person's need for rebirth, because He was concerned for Nicodemus's spiritual condition. Nicodemus was a teacher of the Jewish people, a Pharisee, a "top dog" in the religious world, but that doesn't promise him spiritual life. It is possible to go to church, even preach and teach, and still not be Born Again!! Jesus pointed out to old "Nicky" that, (vs. 3) "no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Our boy Nick didn't know what to think about that. ASK: What did he say next?? Somebody read vs. 4 again... Nicodemus was totally missing the point, Jesus wasn't talking about being born again by your mom, wearing nothing but your birthday suit. Jesus goes on to explain more clearly the concept of rebirth. Vs. 5-6 Everybody who wants to go to heaven must be born physically and **spiritually!!!**

So the big question is... How can we be born spiritually??? Anybody know?

Look at verses 16-18

John 3:16-18

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. [18] Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Being born of the spirit means you come to life spiritually. Rather than facing death in eternity we have eternal life to look forward to if we are born again. We shall not perish, but have eternal life. Jesus came into the world to save the world. Last week we talked about Jesus' birth. Tonight we are talking about what He was born for... to save the world. Jesus was born so that He could die and pay for our sin debt. Only because of His life and death, can we have eternal life. Plainly put, if we believe in Jesus we have eternal life, if not, than all we have to look forward to is death. To be born again you must believe in Jesus Christ. Nothing more, nothing less... Salvation is as simple as that.

Ephes. 1:5-8

He (the Father) predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- [6] to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. [7] In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace [8] that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

The Father God adopts us into the family of God through Jesus Christ. When we receive Jesus free gift of eternal life, we are joining with Him. When we unite with Christ, we become children of God along with Him. We are redeemed (or bought) by the blood of Jesus Christ. In accepting His payment for our sin we are made new. To experience a spiritual birth all we do is trust in Jesus blood to pay for our sin. When we trust in Him we are forgiven of everything we've ever done against God. Salvation is simple... be born again. Trust Jesus for your salvation.

Pray