

To Be Born Again?

“I tell you the truth no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”
(John 3:3)

“What does it mean to be born again?” This was the question of Nicodemus and yet the question of many even to these days. Nicodemus came to Jesus at the 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.”*** (John 3:2) Many were amazed to what Jesus was doing because He was teaching with authority and performing miracles; healing the sick, raising the dead, opening the eyes of the blind, making the mute to speak, the deaf to hear, and He multiplied the bread and fish to feed the thousands of people. These miracles that Nicodemus saw by his own eyes made him realize that Jesus is not an ordinary man but a teacher sent by God from heaven. But in reply to Nicodemus Jesus declared, ***“I tell you the truth no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”*** (John 3:3)

“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.”*** (John 3:4) Nicodemus was right that no mother could give birth again to a son who is already at the age of twenties or thirties. But the Bible speaks about the composition of a man – the body, the soul, and the spirit. And Jesus said, ***“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”***

- 1) ***The body:*** This includes all the body organs and all their function; stomach for food, limbs for moving, hands to work, mouth and tongue to speak, etc. In addition are the organs responsible for sensing, ears to hear, nose to smell, tongue to taste and skin to feel. These are the organs that feel the sensual thing and convey them to the brain of the person to warn the body about the coming changes or threats, preparing the body for the suitable and precise action.
- 2) ***The soul:*** This is the part of the human that is responsible for thinking and analyzing the data that is coming from outside received through body senses; what the body hears and sees. The soul in fact is the place where human emotions, feelings and affections take place. The soul is the part that causes man to love or to hate, to be sad or happy, to be relieved or anxious.

The man, when he is born from his mother, he is born with the body and soul. As the human grows and starts to be aware of life and his surroundings, his soul also starts to grow with his mind analyzing all what he receives from outside and he starts to make decisions and become accountable to every step he is taking. At this stage of accountability man becomes aware of many facts about life on earth especially to what he is basically exposed to.

- 3) ***The Spirit:*** This is the part of the human that knows about God, interacts with God and is conscious about God. The first man and woman that God created were fully aware who God is. But after they disobeyed God, they and the generations

after them fall away and forget who really God is. Man’s consciousness about God has totally been influenced by Satan and the world. Because of sin man is spiritually dead. Until Jesus came down from heaven, who, He is 100% human and 100% God. He is with God’s Spirit. Believing in Jesus and taking the decision to follow Him to take Him as our Lord and Saviour, we receive the Spirit of God that regenerates our spirits and we become a new creation. This is the third component of man that is to be born again. Once we accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord the Spirit of God makes us spiritually alive and God-conscious. We are born again in the spirit. Our mother in flesh gave birth to us as flesh or body, but God is Spirit, and He gives us new birth in the spirit. ***“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”*** When we are born by the Spirit, the Spirit of God will start to work in us and to change us. Our nature will be changed from being selfish to love; we turn away from anger, envy and jealousy toward gentleness, humility and patience; from a harmful person to be useful one not only for ourselves but a blessing to other people as well. ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.”*** (2 Corinthians 5:17) The Spirit of God that lives in us will guide our minds to take the right decision, to know the truth and to protect us from harm and temptations that Satan may bring in our paths. This Spirit of God that lives in us will always be with us as we faithfully trust in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. ***“Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the spirit and as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”*** (2 Corinthians 5:5)

At the age of accountability man is fully aware of his surroundings, and God also starts to speak to him; God approaches man by many ways, the Bible says that, ***“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in this last days he has spoken to us by His Son whom he appointed heir of all things and through whom he made the universe.”*** (Hebrew 1:1-2) The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being. Jesus is the image of the invisible God; He is God, He became man, He came to earth to speak to the people, to let them know God and to know the truth, and the way that God wants them to walk through. Jesus came from heaven to save us from our sins. He took our sins and died for us on the cross. His blood was shed for our forgiveness, and He rose from the dead to give eternal life to all those who believe in Him. When a person dies his body decays but his soul remains to be alive either for the kingdom of God or for judgment. But the Spirit that we receive as we accept Jesus, will bring us to eternal life and will spare us from eternal fire that is set for the wicked and those who refuse to believe in Jesus but prefer to live in the body and should and away from God.

We, like Nicodemus may accept that Jesus came from God, but we need to also accept that Jesus said, ***“No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”***

Lord Jesus, I accept You as my Lord as my Saviour, I believe in your words, and I joyfully receive your Spirit. Renew my life and quicken my spirit to be always obedient to You, I pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.