

# NEW BIRTH

## What is the New Birth?

One of the great benefits derived from being called as a teacher in the Five-fold Ministry is having Jesus as my teacher. The Lord has showed me many great things from His word which would always cause the paradigm to shift over and over again. One of these teachings was when the Lord taught me about **"heavenly things."** Immediately I was able to see how mankind have erred and have missed God, not understanding when the Lord was talking **"heaven talk."** Well, God always talk heaven talk. That is where He is from (John 8:23, Isaiah 55:9), He can't help it.

Our God has been talking **"heaven talk"** to mankind from the foundation of the world, even when He said, **"let us make man in our image, after our likeness."** Yes, He was, and that word could not have been understood before Jesus came. That might be a little too heavy for you to understand so I will leave this and talk about the new birth.

After the Lord spoke that word in Genesis, He proceeded to **birth** the first man, Adam. You have to understand the *first birth* in order for you can understand the *second birth*. To be **born-again**, means to be **"born from above."** Immediately, we are beginning to see something. The first birthing was from the **earth**, the second birthing is from **heaven**.

The biblical passage concerning the new birth is found here. *"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly [verily], I say to you, unless one is **born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'*<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to Him, *'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his **mother's womb** and be born?'*<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, *"Most assuredly [verily], I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup> 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"* (John 3:5- 8 NKJV).

Nicodemus did not only misunderstand that the Lord was talking about heavenly things, but he also missed the identity of the earthly womb to which Christ was referring. Most theologians make no reference to the womb when they talk about the new birth, but **how is one born if not from a womb?** We have to locate the womb and to locate the womb; we have to locate the woman. This is only logical. *If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?* (John 3:12).

Before you can understand what it means to be **born of the water and the spirit** you need to understand the completeness of the process. I must declare that **the analogy of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ to depict the new birth is completely accurate.** Jesus said this next, *"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the*

# THE NEW BIRTH

[Page 2]

wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up” (John 3:14). The reason many do not see this analogy is because they do not connect the dots. Jesus was lifted up on the cross but He did not hung there forever, He was buried!

The dots have to be connected to this scripture, not found in John 3, but in Matthew 12. “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matthew 12:40). Did you get the picture yet? This is the **womb** to which Jesus was alluding. This is the **womb** from which man was birthed. Because of sin, man returned to the dust. This place had now become a tomb. In order for God to redeem us through Christ, He would have to redeem us from the power of the grave. The only part that needs to be connected now is the resurrection and thus the Lord would have proven to Nicodemus that he had not really known Him or knew what He came to do. This is a teaching all by itself.

Nicodemus was marveling because he saw it as an impossible thing for a man to enter into his mother’s womb and to be **born again**, but with God all things are possible. The womb that Jesus had in mind however, was not from a woman, but the one from which Adam was birthed; the belly of the woman, **earth**! The resurrection of Jesus would become the most marvellous miracle. A miracle often causes one to marvel.

This is so remarkable. The first man, Adam was birthed from the earth. *My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the **lowest parts of the earth** (Psalm 139:16). And the LORD God formed man **of the dust of the ground**, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (Genesis. 2:7). And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening [life-giving] spirit (1 Corinthians 15:45).* The coming of the spirit [breath][life] of God was that to which Jesus was alluding to Nicodemus. One is born again [**born from above**] [rebirthed] when one has received the [**breath**] [**Spirit**] [**Life**] from God into one’s spirit.

A great mystery is not seen by many and this is why they do not mention the womb **but one must first be baptized into Christ before one can be born again**. The terms, **baptism** and **infilling** of the Holy Ghost are used synonymously, and may appear as one act, but they are really two connected acts. As I said before, one has to be born from a womb? *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV).* One has to enter into Christ.

**The new creation takes place in Jesus Christ**, so Christ has therefore become the birthing chamber of a new breed! How did Christ become this birthing chamber [womb]? It is very simple. Again, the original **womb** became the “**tomb**” or grave as a result of

# THE NEW BIRTH

[Page 3]

man's sin and sin's penalty of death. "*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should **taste death** for every man*" (Hebrews 2:9). *But God will redeem my soul from **the power of the grave**: for he shall receive me (Psalm 49:15). I will ransom **them** from **the power of the grave**; I will redeem **them from death**: O death, I will be thy plagues; O **grave**, I will be thy destruction...*(Hosea 11:14 KJV).

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? **Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death**: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **newness of life**.<sup>5</sup> For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection (Romans 6:3-5 KJV).

And ye are complete **in him**, which is the head of all principality and power: <sup>11</sup> In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: <sup>12</sup> **Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God**, who hath raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he **quickened [made alive]** together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses (Col. 2:10-13 KJV).

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the **gift of the Holy Ghost**.<sup>39</sup> For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call (Acts 2:38, 39). He that believeth and is **baptized** shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16). And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him (Acts 5:32 KJV).

When one has come into the obedience of the faith and has repented, one is then baptized by **water**, sealing one's obedience. To "accept Christ" is to accept the gospel's requirements. To merely make a confession, or to say a "sinners' prayer" is not sufficient. One must be born of the **water** and of the **Spirit**. *There is also an antitype which now saves us - **baptism** (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:21 NKJV)*. Water baptism is therefore connected to the remission of sins and therefore the [removal of dead body, of sins]. Water baptism is absolutely essential as a symbol of burial.

A person is buried [put away] after he or she has died, therefore a person is baptized [buried in water] after he or she has died to sin and self [**repented**]. It is crime to bury a person who is alive! To die, we therefore must be crucified with Christ. **I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live**; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now

# THE NEW BIRTH

[Page 4]

*live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20). Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed**, that henceforth we should not serve sin.<sup>7</sup> For he that is dead is freed from sin (Romans 6:6,7 KJV).*

The baptism into Christ, however, is an “operation of God.” **For by one Spirit** are we all **baptized into one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to **drink into one Spirit** (1 Corinthians 12:13). Please note that there is both a **baptism** and a **drinking** involved. This verse is perfectly in line with this Old Testament prophecy, “**For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty**, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring” (Isaiah 44:3). Isn’t this amazing? As the water is being poured out on him, he opens his mouth to **drink** and to quench his thirst and is filled! God is so amazing.

A new life also requires a new body. Jesus announced at the tomb of Lazarus “**I Am the resurrection and the life**” (John 11:25). “Life” would have been useless to the decomposing corpse of Lazarus unless his body was also resurrected. Christ has really met us at this place where death has taken us. The term **born again** which means to be born **from above**, results in us receiving a **heavenly body** as our “**old man**” is put away [put off] [destroyed] [crucified], through the circumcision of Christ – 2 Cor. 5:1; Rom. 6:6; Col. 2:11- 13, 3:1- 4, 10.

We are made a new creation in Christ and continue to live in Him. Paul said, *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).* Also “**For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.** <sup>4</sup> **When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory** (Colossians 3:3-4). And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly (1 Cor. 15:49 KJV).

This is the process of the New Birth and as Jesus proved, He was the first man to be born again and to become the firstfruits of them that slept. The new birth is life coming out from death and that is where you find the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Repentance = Death**  
**Baptism = Burial**  
**New Birth = Resurrection**



THE FAITHFUL AND TRUE WITNESS  
APOSTOLIC CHURCH MINISTRIES

Apostle Leroy A. Smith  
[www.fatwacministries.org](http://www.fatwacministries.org)