

Baptism is only the outward sign of this transformation that has taken place within us.

Being baptized without this change from within does not make one a Born again Christian.

It is also not a feeling. Feelings change or go away.

The true “Born Again” experience is a change in principles, a radical change turning us towards God and all things heavenly.

*“If this transformation has not been experienced by you, rest not. Seek the Lord with all your hearts. Make this the all-important business of your lives.”*

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We now have a new life, we are a new creature or a new creation, we have been recreated, transformed and born again.

We now have a new heart, we now love the things Jesus loves, our heart is not with the world anymore. Our mind, our purposes and motives are different. Many claim to be born again, but are they really?

We need to inspect ourselves and see whether we have been transformed into a new person.

Jesus says that we can see it by our fruits, or deeds, our lives.

*“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”* Matt. 7:20

Born again of the Spirit, means we live in the Spirit and the Bible says if we live

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Daniel Webster, an American statesman, was dining with a group of Boston literary men. During the conversation, he frankly stated that he believed Jesus Christ to be the divine Son of God.

“But, Mr. Webster,” objected one of the men, “can you comprehend how Christ could, at once, be both the Son of God and the Son of man?”

“No, my friend,” Daniel replied honestly, “I cannot understand how He could be both God and man. But if I could understand that, then He would be no greater than I am. I need a divine Saviour.”

Have you ever thought of the awesome miracle that was involved in the birth of Jesus Christ – and what it means to you?

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In order for Jesus to be born of the Spirit, there had to be a union between the human and the divine. This union was made by the power of the Holy Spirit. This same power provided by the Holy Spirit, was present with the creation of the world, where everything was made out of nothing. Gen 1:1-2.

This power of God was placed within Mary’s womb. A body was formed. A period of formation or transformation followed and then the actual birth into a new life.

This process of creation, transformation and birth need to be the experience of every Christian in order for them to enter the Kingdom of God. There needs to be a union of the human with the divine.

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*Meekness, **temperance**:*” - Gal 5:19-23

The Bible says that there are some who are: *“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:”* 2 Tim 3:5

We should be careful not to make just a mere external change. A heart change is needed to avoid having only a form of godliness but denying that power of the Holy Spirit who is to bring the transformation from within.

Just as the transformation took place in the womb and in the soil, so our transformation should start from within, and this only the Holy Spirit can do.

*“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know*

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Now Jesus says that He was sent to save the world and that we need to believe in Him if we want eternal life. Jesus then continues and talks about Himself being “the Light” and that those who will not inherit eternal life are those who prefer to keep on sinning. They prefer their sins over coming to Jesus and believing in Him. James says that what we believe will be revealed in our lives - James 2:14-20

Believing is not just saying you believe but *living* your faith. An acceptance of the Word into our lives will lead us to pray with King David, *“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”* Psalm 51:10

God answers this prayer and says, *“from all your filthiness... will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a*

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This act of Christ of taking on human nature has ever been, and will ever remain a mystery.

Like Daniel Webster recognized, if man could explain God, then God would not be any greater than we are.

It was necessary that Jesus be human so that He could experience the life of man in the same fallen nature as man and be tempted just as man and then in our nature overcome sin. Heb 4:15

Thus Jesus would be made in the likeness of man, “in the likeness of sinful flesh”. Php 2:7, Rom 8:3

But Jesus was also born of the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:21 says, *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:”*

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In the case of the good ground we read the following:

*“And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.”, “And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.”* Mark 4:8, 20

Jesus pointed out what would unfortunately prevent many from being born again:

*“the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word.”* Mark 4:19

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And in 1 John 2:6 it says, “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

Does this then mean we need to be born again or born of the Spirit? “How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?” – John 3:4

Jesus says that anyone who wants to see the Kingdom of God and enter it, **should** be born again, or born of the Spirit.

“...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” John 3:3,5

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Just as a baby or a seedling only has to use what has been freely given it for its transformation which will lead to the birth or emerging from the soil; the word is given to us freely, we only need to receive it and not resist it.

The acceptance of the Word will lead us into the germination/creation, transformation and birth experience. We are to be “born of the Spirit”. The Holy Spirit is responsible for this experience. Yet there cannot be an experience without the acceptance of the Word and the truths given within it. Jesus talks about this when addressing Nicodemus.

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the

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in the Spirit we should walk in the Spirit. Our lives testify of our walk. Let us look at some of the fruits of the flesh and some of the fruits of the Spirit.

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, **fornication**, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, **drunkenness**, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **longsuffering**, **gentleness**, goodness, faith

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world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” John 3:14-21

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The Bible tells us in John 3:6, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

In Matt. 1:18-20 we are told, “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost...for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

And in Luke 1:35 the angel says, “...The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee...”

We see here that the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary – there was a union that took place between the human being and the divine being.

2

This same principle is given in the vegetable world. “So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;” - Mark 4:26

First the seed is planted within the ground, something happens that is not visible to the eye, the seed germinates, and then there is transformation beneath the soil before it emerges from the ground.

The parable of the sower and the seed in Matthew 4 illustrates some important points to consider. The sower was sowing seed and the seed landed on 4 different types of ground. In the explanation Jesus gives, He says the seed is the Word of God, and the soil represents the heart.

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that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.”

1 John 3:4-10

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new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.”

After we have accepted Jesus into our lives and prayed this prayer and confessed all our sins before Jesus, He promises to clean us from all our sins, he forgives us of all past sins, then he gives us a new Heart and new Mind, He gives us His Spirit. 1 John 1:9, Rom 3:25

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” – 2 Cor. 5:17

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