



BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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Series : "The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit"

Sunday February 19, 2006 : Study 4

"BORN OF THE SPIRIT"

Notes by Rev. Gary Lockyer

INTRODUCTION

Today's Study is the second of four that examine the Work of the Holy Spirit in our lives in bringing us to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. These Studies are : Drawn by the Spirit (Last Sunday), Born of the Spirit (today), Sealed by the Spirit, and Baptised With the Spirit.

I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit. **John 3:6-9**

Again we highlight the record of Jesus' words to Nicodemus. According to Jesus, a person **MUST** be born of the Spirit or be born again. Why is the Spirit's work so essential?

In pursuing this, in Study 3 (Last Sunday) we asked the question, "What is it about us that requires the Spirit's life-giving work? ... Because we have rebelled against God, we are all spiritually dead.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins. **Eph2:1-3**

We saw, also, the evidences of spiritual death.

... the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. **Rom8:6-8** The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them.... **1Cor2:14**

Because we are unable to help ourselves

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. **Jn6:44** God acts

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ. It is by grace you have been saved **Eph2:4-5**

The basis? God's LOVE, MERCY and GRACE. : All of God, nothing of us.

The result? Made us ALIVE : Because of the Spirit's work, we are REGENERATED (born again)

A. THE NATURE OF REGENERATION

But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. **Titus 3:4-7**

Just improved, reformed, modified? The result of the Spirit's work is a complete rebirth and renewal.

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come. **1Cor5:17**

1. The past cannot TOUCH us : we are forgiven (**Jer31:34**)

He saved us ... through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Titus 3: 5-6**

If anyone is in Christ the past has gone. **1Cor5:17**

2. We have a new STATUS before God:

having been justified by his grace **Titus 3:7**

Once you were alienated from God but now he has reconciled you to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation. **Col1:21-22**

3. We Have A New RELATIONSHIP With God... adopted by him.

having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs Titus 3:7

In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ Eph1:5

... those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God ... The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, Rom8:14-17

4. A New FUTURE Is Ours already realised in part, in the present.

having the hope of eternal life Titus 3:7

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. Jn3:16

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. Col1:13

B. THE EVIDENCES OF REGENERATION

1. A New Relationship With OTHERS

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 1Jn4:7

2. A New FREEDOM For Living

No one who is born of God will continue to sin ... he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God ... 1Jn3:9

Not sinless perfection : If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves ... 1Jn1:8 Only when he (Jesus) appears, we shall be like him .. 1Jn3:2. **Notice the will continue to sin?? Our lives will not have the same pattern of sin and defeat. Once we could not please God, born again we ... may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way ... Col1:10 (See Rom6:1-13; Eph4:22-24)**

3. The Formation Of A Christ-like CHARACTER

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. ... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Gal5:18, 22-23

4. A New FOCUS not living for ourselves, but for Christ

(Christ) died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2Cor5:14

C. IMPLICATIONS

1. God Is HONOURED : As Regeneration is God's work in us, it's not based on anything within our selves - only on God's grace & mercy. (Eph2:4-5, 2Tim1:8-9) To God alone belongs glory.

Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord 1Cor1:31. (see context from v.18. Also Eph2:4-9)

2. CONFIDENCE In Prayer as we pray to a Sovereign God for others as suggested

God may grant that they will repent and come to know the truth. 2Tm2:24 The Lord opened (Lydia's) heart to give heed to what was said by Paul Acts16:14

3. CERTAINTY In Evangelism : Our task is to faithfully share the gospel by our words and deeds but the results are in God's hands.

My message and preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. 1Cor2:4-5 .

4. GRATITUDE In Worship : How could we not give praise and honour to the One who has shown us such great mercy!

... so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God 2Cor4:15