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John 3 Born Again

- **Genesis 6:3 - And the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive^[a] with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”**
- When Adam sinned, he lost his divine nature the spirit of God left him.
- The Holy spirit was the connection (pipeline between heaven and earth)
- Mankind was spiritually bankrupt. Our vessels fell from perfection.
- Our nature was marked by carnality and marred by sin.
- Holy Spirit could not dwell in our bodies because they had been corrupted with sin.
- Old Testament the spirit descended upon mankind but never dwelled in.
- Ex: Samson, Gideon, Saul, Elijah
- Our vessels had to be cleanse through Jesus blood so that the Holy spirit could dwell in us again and we could have one – on one communication with God.

John 3- ³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born ^[a]again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

- Background Nicodemus the Pharisee, conversation with Jesus
- The phrase born again can be translated as “born from above”
- What we have right here is a civil matter concerning citizenship.
- One of the ways you can gain citizenship in the United States is by being born in the United States.
- And what Jesus is saying if we want to see the Kingdom of God we must be born into the Kingdom from Heaven.
- The word see is ho-rah'-o – meaning to be aware or perceive, or experience.
- The only way one can experience Gods Kingdom is to transfer their citizenship from this world to the next one.
- Because Mankind was spiritually dead, we had to spiritually reborn into Gods family.

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of

promise, ¹⁴ who^[a] is the ^[b]guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

- The Bible says the Holy Spirit sealed us when we first heard and believe the truth of the Gospel.
- Ex: You would seal things that you own. Gods seal is his spirit which marks us as his property.
- It says the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance.
- The word Guarantee – (ar-hrab-own) – Which can refer to a deposit, or a payment you would be given in advance to confirm a full payment coming.
- Like you would pay a down payment on your car.
- God gives you a down payment a piece of Heaven the person of the Holy Spirit until the fullness of your salvation comes to pass.
- The Holy Spirit inside of a believer is the mark of God proof of salvation to come.

We have a new Nature

Nature – refers to the essence of something or inherent Nature, born qualities rooted in you.

I hear the term we I'm just a sinner save by Grace. You were a sinner, but Gods salvation doesn't just leave you a sinner he changes your nature to a saint.

Eph 2:3 -among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others

- Before Salvation human nature was defined by sin.
- You don't have to tell babies how to steal, cheat, lie, be jealous and manipulate, they know it inherently they were born with slaves to a sinful nature.
- Everybody born in Adam was under slavery to the horrible master Sin.
- We were slaves to sin meaning that sin owned our old man.
- Ex: Slave MASTER, Go get high, go smoke, go drink

Romans 6:5-10

⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be ^[a]done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been ^[b]freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

- When Christ died, he overcame sin on the cross. By never giving into sin but becoming it.

- *Now because he is risen, he is dead to sin forever.*
- *All those who put their faith in him, their old man (Sinful Nature) dies with him also and are risen with him and given the nature of sainthood.*
- *We did not need behavior modification we needed to be made new.*
- *They are no longer slaves to sin meaning the Sin nature that had power over them by Inherent right.*
- *Now they have a new Nature that is dead to sin and Alive to God. Instinctively Obedient to God. Instinctively pleasing to God because you have the nature of Christ.*
- *We have a new master, Righteousness.*

Salvation is a gift

- Like with any gift you don't work for it you just receive it.
- Like with any gift you either accept or reject it.
- Gifts are given as acts of kindness not obligation
- Salvation is God's gift to humanity it is up to us how we respond.

Eph 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- We are saved by Grace.
- Grace (Charis) – refers to the unmerited, undeserved, unearned favor of God
- .
- Salvation strictly is given to man by a favorable kind act of God not based on humanity efforts or moral behavior.
- God removed works from salvation so no one could boast. And he alone could receive Glory.
- Salvation is received through faith not because of faith. Faith does not save you grace does through faith/faith is just how we receive grace.
- Example: Like water flowing through a pipe, you don't blame the pipe for quenching your thirst, you give the pipe credit for delivery not the work.

- We can think of water flowing through a hose. The water is the important part, but it is communicated through the hose. The hose does not quench your thirst; the water does. But the hose brings water to the place you can benefit from it
- Faith - (pis'-tis) – To be persuaded, having confidence or trust in an object, or statement.
- We receive the Gift of salvation by being persuaded of God unmerited favor given to us through his son Jesus Christ.

John 6:44 - No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

- Salvation is not initiated by man but an inspired supernatural work of God.
- It is a Gift of God but also a miracle by because it is un-inspired from a man's heart.
- Unless God initiates the drawing to Christ no one would be saved.
- This drawing is a conviction of the Holy Spirit which does not contradict will but present the opportunity for repentance.

Acts 2

How to Lead Someone to Salvation

We see a good depiction or example of a roadmap to salvation being displayed in Acts 2.

The apostles are filled with the Holy Spirit for ministry, and we see there are unbelievers in that are from around the world.

Step 1: Acts 2:14 – 36 – Preach the Gospel.

Romans 10:14 -15 - ¹⁴How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

- If nobody hears the word of GOD preached or the Gospel preached, then how will they know what to believe.
- They must know why they need saving who is that savior and how does he provide it.

Romans 10:17 – So, then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

- They can only have Faith in what they hear.
- The first vital step in leading one to Salvation is to preach to them the good news.

Step 2: Acts 2:37 – The work of the Holy Spirit

John 16:8 – And when the Holy Spirit comes, he will convict the World of sin, righteousness and judgement.

- The work of conviction after preaching is not up to us but the Holy Spirit.
- After the Gospel is preached it is up to the Holy Spirit to convict the Unbeliever of their sin of unbelief on Jesus. Not Us!!!
- After Peter preached the Bible says they were cut to their heart, and they asked what they shall do. This is the work of the Holy Spirit to arouse the question of what I do with the conviction I feel.
- Our Job is to deliver, his Job is to convict.

Step 3: Acts 2:38 – The work of repentance

- There is no salvation outside repentance from unbelief.
- Repent – metanoia – to change one's mind (in accordance to the will of God)
- When they asked what they should do the first thing Peter told was not to get baptized it was to repent to change their mind and attitude about the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Many people today have an emotional experience with God but truly never repent from their thinking.

2 cor 7:10 -For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

- A true sign of repentance will always be shown by a gradual change of action. This is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit.
- Sorrow only produces bad emotions. Godly sorrows promotes change of heart that leads to change of action.
- Paul said this repentance leads to salvation therefore repentance is a necessary for salvation you can't separate the two.

Step 4: Acts 2:40-41 - A confession of faith.

- Baptism doesn't save you but if you are saved you will have a desire to be baptized.
- An outward display of your faith isn't proof to God you are saved. But proof to Man for accountability.
- If there is no desire to publicly display your faith in deeds of good works, then is the faith genuine.

James 2:17-18 - Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without ^[f]your works, and I will show you my faith by ^[g]my works.

- You can have dead faith. James ask can that Faith save you.
- God calls us to have living Faith.
- Living Faith is simply acting on what you believe.
- Because they believed Jesus Christ was the Messiah, they obeyed peter and got baptized.
- The work of baptism was a visible manifestation of invisible faith.