

# The New Birth

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At Shiloh  
In The Promised Canaan Land  
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## **Dedication:**

This book is dedicated to my best friend and life companion, my precious wife Lydia. I see God at work in and through you in so many ways. Our lives together are testimony to the love, mercy and saving power of God. What an adventure our lives have been! What an adventure we continue to enjoy!

<p><b><u>Proverbs 4:18</u></b> The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. (NIV)</p>
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## **1-A** The New Birth

### Forward

This series of booklets is a compilation of teaching from the curriculum for *The School of the Local Church* Bible Study originally offered at Grace Christian Center in Killeen, Texas under the direction of Pastor Terry Whitley. Students often asked for a written text format of the teachings which would allow private personal study apart from class lectures. These Booklets are an intended answer to that need.

All quotes from scripture are shown in italics and are from the New King James Version (NKJV), unless otherwise noted. Any bold, capitalized or underlined text is my addition to serve to emphasize certain words or phrases. Any words or phrases in parentheses are also added by me to expand or clarify a word or concept. The Greek or Hebrew word from the original text is also sometimes placed in parenthesis behind the English word in a verse. These are in no way meant to add to or modify the meaning of scripture, but to enhance or clarify the concepts presented in the text. All scripture quotes are enclosed in boxes to distinguish them from surrounding text.

The foundation of Christian faith and any and all instruction about God, on the Kingdom of God, the Family of God, matters of salvation and judgment, of prophecy and of eternity can be found only in the Bible. Only in the Bible can mankind find reliable answers to life's most important questions. In this entire series of Booklets, the Bible will be the foundation of all teaching. I most fervently believe that Bible is in totality the perfect and inspired Word of God. Of course, not all interpretations of the Bible are perfect or inspired. Just as the Bible was given through men by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, so also proper and accurate interpretation of the Bible cannot occur without the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Each time you open the Word of God for study, ask God in prayer to open your heart and mind to receive from the Teacher, the Holy Spirit, and to give you an abundance of revelation from His Word. You will be surprised over time how the Bible begins to open up to your understanding.

With experience, you will find that the Bible interprets itself. By cross-referencing a certain topic or word throughout the Bible, a clear and concise understanding of the subject will be revealed. We must each be willing to lay aside any preconceptions we might have about Bible doctrine, because only then can we see the truth. It is a remarkable fact that most of what the majority of Christians believe of Bible doctrine comes not from any serious Bible study, but from hearsay of what a pastor, teacher or other Christian has said that the Bible teaches. I myself have had to 'unlearn' many untruths over the years in order to replace them with truth.

**Psalm 119:18** *Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.*

**Timothy 3:16** *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

**Hebrews 4:12** *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.<sup>13</sup> And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

**Matthew 4:4** *But He (Jesus) answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”*

**1 John 2:27** *But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

**Psalm 19:7** *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; <sup>8</sup> The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; <sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup> Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.*

**Psalm 119:97** *Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. <sup>98</sup> You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. <sup>99</sup> I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. <sup>100</sup> I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts. <sup>101</sup> I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. <sup>102</sup> I have not departed from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me. <sup>103</sup> How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth! <sup>104</sup> Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.*

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**Salvation is by grace through faith**  
**Faith believes in the heart, not in the mind**  
**Confession expresses what we believe**  
**We become what we declare and believe**  
**We believe and therefore speak**

## 1. Two Kinds of Birth – Natural and Spiritual

We begin our natural, physical lives with a natural, physical birth in the flesh. So also, we begin our spiritual lives with a spiritual birth. The flesh gives birth to flesh. The Spirit gives birth to spirit. The flesh cannot give birth to spirit. The Spirit cannot give birth to flesh. The key text from the Bible on this subject is as follows:

**John 3:1** *There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 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?” 5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 “Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 “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.” 9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? 11 “Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.*

Every human being on earth has been born once, which is the way we enter into this physical life. The first birth begins our physical or natural life. Jesus here is talking about another kind of birth – a second birth – as distinguished from the first kind of birth. He describes this as a spiritual birth or birth of the Spirit.

In the next chapter we will see that *mankind is triune* – made of three parts – just like the God who created us. We are made in His image or likeness. We are *spirit, soul* and *body*. The first birth is physical, that of the physical body. In the New or Second Birth, it is the spirit of man that changes, or is born anew. The Bible says we are given a *new spirit* or a *new heart*. Both terms mean the same.

Even though Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews, he apparently was completely unaware of the necessity of the New Birth – being Born Again – as a prerequisite to see and experience the operation of the Kingdom of God. In verse 8, Jesus compares the operations of the Spirit of God to those of the wind. You can see the effects of the wind blowing, but you cannot see the wind itself. The same is true for those who are Born Again. You can see the changes that occur in their lives, but you cannot see the Spirit Himself. This is brought out more clearly in the original Greek language: the Greek words for spirit, breath, air and wind are all related to the word for ‘spirit’, which is ‘*pneuma*’. For example, if you get an infection in your lungs, your breathing organ, we call it ‘*pneumonia*’.

There are different ideas about what it means to be ‘born of water’. Three ideas I have heard are: (1) the water is the amniotic fluid in the uterus that spills out just before physical birth. The pregnant woman is said to have ‘burst her water’ just before she delivers her baby. (2) The water is the water of baptism that a new-born Christian undergoes as a testimony to his or her faith in Christ. (3) The water represents the Word of God which cleanses the believer. For example:

**Ephesians 5:25** *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with **the washing of water by the word**,*

Born once – die twice. Born twice – die once.

When we are born the first time, we have the nature and likeness of the first Adam, which is a fallen, rebellious and sinful nature. ‘Like father, like son.’ ‘Like mother, like daughter.’

Let’s summarize what we have learned so far.

## 2 – The Triune Nature of Man

In order to understand the concept of the ‘*New Birth*’ or being ‘*Born Again*’, we must first realize that the nature of man is triune – we are made of three parts. This concept would certainly make sense. We know that God is triune, consisting of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us that God made man in His image. Therefore, it would be reasonable to expect that man also is triune. Consider this scripture:

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through (your whole being or completely). May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

This verse tells us that man is composed of *spirit, soul* and *body*. We have three parts and are therefore triune. Your spirit is the real you. You are a *spirit* being who has a *soul* and who lives in a physical *body*.

We are most familiar with the *body*. The body has five senses: the sense of touch, sight, hearing, taste and smell. These senses are the means by which we contact and receive information about the physical realm. Through the body, we operate and live in this physical world. However, since your body is fleshy or physical, you cannot contact the spirit realm, learn of spiritual matters, nor in any way find or fellowship with God or spirit beings through the body. The body simply has no connection with the spirit realm.

Your *soul* comprises your mind or intellect, will, and emotions. It is within the realm of the soul that you reason or think about issues in your life, process input from the body and spirit, make decisions and determine to act in a certain way, to pursue certain goals, to speak, etc. The soul is the ‘central processing center’ where input from your body (senses) and input from your spirit (extrasensory) is pondered, decisions made, and resulting courses of action decided. It is your mind then that tells your body what to do. Your soul is where emotions are experienced.

Your *spirit* is the real you. You are a spirit being, just as God is a spirit being. The bible teaches that God made man in his image. Since God is Spirit, then you are, too.

**John 4:24** *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

**Hebrews 12:9** Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. **Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?**

**John 3:6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

Notice that in Hebrews 12:9 the God is called the ‘Father of spirits’. God is spirit. Spirit gives birth to spirit. Therefore, when you are ‘born again’ – born of the Father who is Spirit – you become a new spirit being with now God as your Father. You are now in God’s Family, in the invisible spiritual Kingdom of God.

Your physical *body* is comprised of different anatomical parts, each of which has a certain function that is essential to proper function and health of the whole body. The eyes are designed to see. The ears hear. The muscles and skeleton allow you to move and work. Sweat glands produce sweat to cool the body when it is overheated, etc. Each part of the body has a function. In the same way, your *spirit* provides certain functions. Those are *conscience, intuition and communion*.

The *conscience* is in your spirit, in your heart. This is the part that feels ‘guilty’ when you do something wrong. The *conscience* is a built-in moral compass given by God to guide us in matters of life, warning of wrong decisions and encouraging right decisions. Actions against the conscience result in a sense of guilt or remorse that then compels the individual to correct the wrong and seek forgiveness to be free of the guilt. Actions in alignment with the leading of conscience result in a sense of satisfaction and of obedience.

*Intuition* is an instinctive knowing or understanding of something apart from the physical senses or reason. Intuition is a type of ‘extrasensory perception’. Since God is Spirit, He contacts and deals with us through our spirits. The process of receiving information or impressions within our spirit is *intuition*. Revelation from God is perceived in our spirit, and filters from there into our mind as conscious understanding. For example, conviction of sin occurs when the Holy Spirit reveals to your spirit that you are guilty of a sin. He (the Holy Spirit) reveals by *intuition* my guilt before God, that I do not meet God’s standard of righteousness, and that I am under judgment as a result. See the following:

**John 16:7** *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I (Jesus) go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (the Holy Spirit) will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you. 8 And when He has come, **He (the Holy Spirit) will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:***

See that? What aspect of our being does the Holy Spirit convict? He convicts you in your spirit. According to the bible, your spirit is your heart. That’s why we can say, “I feel conviction or guilt in my heart.” I don’t know about you, but when I sense conviction of guilt in my heart for sin, I sometimes find myself reasoning in my mind to rationalize the sin or to argue with the conviction that I’m not really guilty, and that the sin was really OK. Have you ever experienced this? This is an example of your soul receiving input from your spirit. You then reason in your mind, debating the issue of guilt. You then make a decision about whether to respond to the conviction and repent and change or to continue in the sin. You still have a choice about whether to obey.

When your body dies, you do not cease to exist; your spirit and soul simply leave your body. Consider this scripture:

**James 2:26** *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

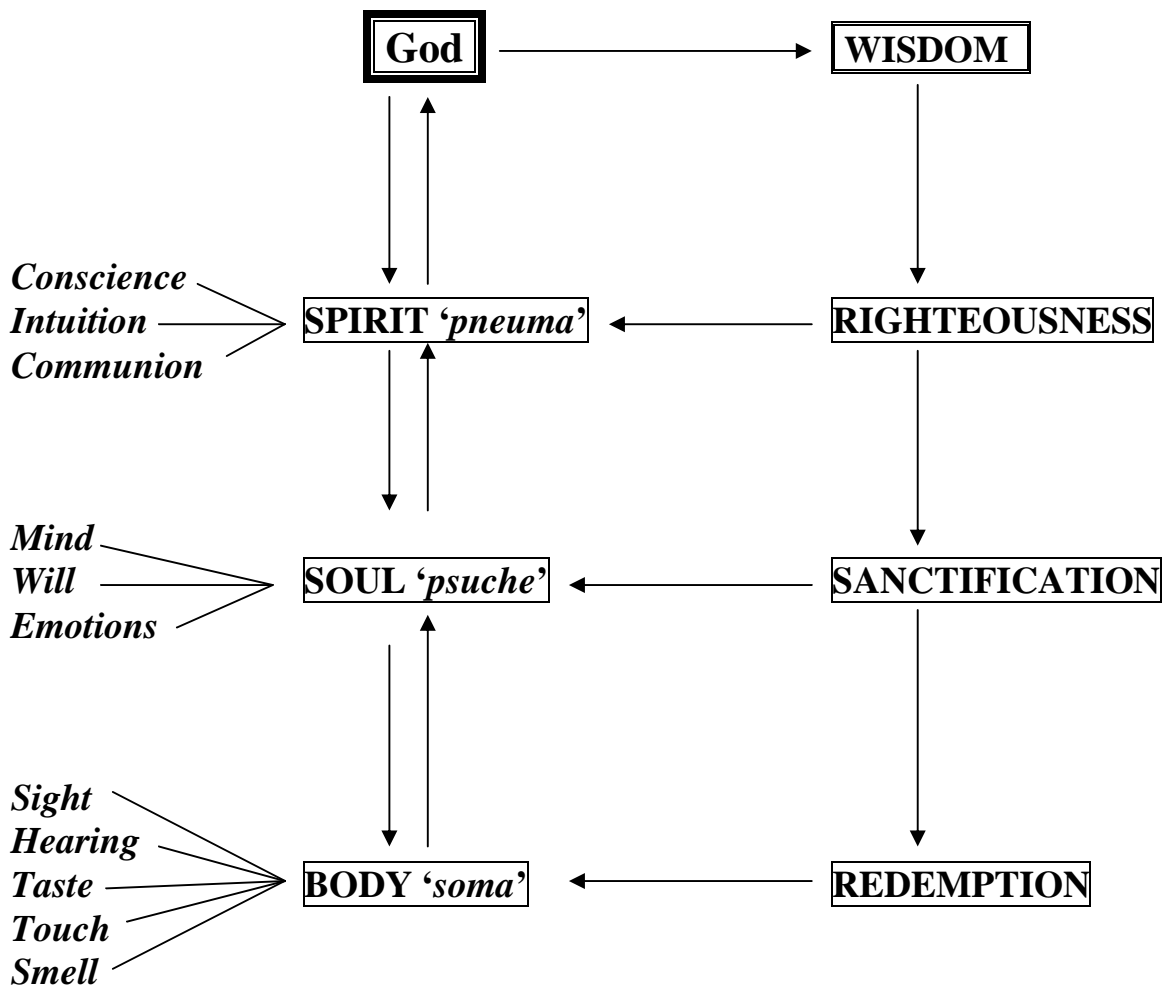
This verse tells us the death of the body is the point in time when you – your spirit – leaves your body. Your body is simply a temporary container for the real you, your spirit.

## The Triune Man Diagram

God created man in His image. Since God is triune, it therefore makes sense that you and I are triune. To be triune means that we are made up of three essential parts or aspects of our being. Consider the following diagram:

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole SPIRIT, SOUL and BODY be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**1 Corinthians 1:30** *But of him are you in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us WISDOM, and RIGHTEOUSNESS, and SANCTIFICATION, & REDEMPTION:*



Another term for the '*spirit*' of man in the Bible is the '*heart*' of man. In the Bible, these terms are usually synonymous.

In the book **The Triune Man**, we will go into a lot more detail about these aspects of our being, and how they function and interrelate with one another and with our physical and spiritual surroundings.

### 3 – Your Spirit is Your Heart

This verse tells us that it is the human spirit that gives life to the body, which animates the body. The body with your spirit is therefore physically alive, but the body without your spirit is physically dead. Death occurs when the spirit of an individual leaves his or her body. Now look at this scripture:

**Deuteronomy 6:4** *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”*

In this text, God is commanding Israel to love God with the whole of their being. He then lists the three parts of their being as heart, soul, and strength. The soul is obviously the soul. ‘**Strength**’ here represents the physical body. Therefore ‘**heart**’ must be the same as the spirit. Man is spirit, soul and body. Your heart is your spirit, the center of your being. You are a spirit, you have a soul, and you live for now in a physical body.

Several scriptures in the Bible show that your spirit is your ‘heart’, the center of your being. I am not talking about the physical heart in your chest that pumps blood to the body. We can better understand the ‘heart’ by looking through the Bible for verses that have both the words **heart** and **spirit**. Look at the following scriptures:

**1 Peter 3:3** *Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the HEART, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet SPIRIT, which is very precious in the sight of God.*

This verse tells us that the **heart** of a person is their **spirit** – they are one and the same. Peter here is teaching women in the church that outward adornment is ‘superficial’. Inward adornment is where real beauty lies – in the heart or spirit of the individual.

**Psalm 34:18** *The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart. And saves such as have a contrite spirit.*

This verse tells us that a broken heart is the same as a contrite spirit. Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary defines ‘**contrition**’ as follows: “sorrow for sin arising from fear of damnation.” Therefore, a contrite spirit or heart that is sorrowful for sin. This is the same as a broken heart – sorrow for committed sin. Remember that earlier we said that one function of the spirit or the heart is ‘**conscience**’. That is the part of your being that feels guilty when sin is committed. God is close to that person to provide forgiveness and cleansing of the sin and restoration of the person. Repentance results in forgiveness. But the point is this: **your spirit IS your heart**.

**Psalm 51:17** *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart. O God, thou wilt not despise. (KJV)*

There is an ‘**outward man**’ and an ‘**inward man**’. The outward man is our body, the visible part of your being. Your spirit or heart is the inward man, also called the ‘**hidden man of the heart**’ in 1 Peter 3:3 in the KJV. The real you – your spirit man – your heart – is hidden from view within your body. Another human being cannot see your heart, but God can and in fact

judges us by our hearts, not on our outward appearance. When Samuel was looking at the sons of Jesse to choose the next king of Israel to follow Saul, he was looking at their outward appearance and judging whether they looked like a king should look. But the Spirit of God spoke to Samuel as follows:

**1 Samuel 16:7** *But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the HEART.”*

The spirit or heart of a person determines all the motivations, actions, and purposes of his or her life. An evil heart produces an evil life. A good heart produces a good life.

Can you see that your spirit is your heart, and your heart is your spirit?

**Ezekiel 36:24** *“For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you A NEW HEART and put A NEW SPIRIT in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put MY SPIRIT IN YOU and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. 28 You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God.”*

This is a prophecy of the New Birth from the Old Testament, and describes in some detail the exact process or events that occur when one is Born Again.

**2 Corinthians 4:16** *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*

**BUT, our hearts are corrupt. We need a new heart.**

### **3 – The Necessity of the New Birth**

The reason mankind needs a savior is because every single human being is born a sinner. We are by nature rebellious and sinful and have no power whatsoever to change that reality. It is our spirit – our heart – that is corrupt. We are unrighteous by nature, because we inherit the sin nature from our fore parents all the way back to Adam and Eve in the garden. Like the leopard cannot change his spots, so the sinner cannot become righteous.

**Genesis 6:5** *Then **the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his HEART was only evil continually.***

**Jeremiah 17:9** *“**The HEART is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?**”*

**Mark 7:18** *So He said to them, “Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, <sup>19</sup> because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?” <sup>20</sup> And He said, “**What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.** <sup>21</sup> **For from within, out of the HEART of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,** <sup>22</sup> **thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.** <sup>23</sup> **All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”***

That’s why God doesn’t ask us to stop sinning, and then He will save us. NO!! He asks us to come to Him just as we are, sins and all, for He will accept us just as we are. He then will clean us up. We have a bad heart – a corrupt spirit. We need a new heart – a new spirit. In the New Birth, God takes away our corrupt heart of stone and gives us a new heart by putting His spirit in us. We are born of the Spirit into the Family of God. God becomes our Father, and we become his child. Look at these Old Testament scripture that prophecy the New Birth:

**Ezekiel 11:19** *Then I will give them **one HEART**, and **I will put a NEW SPIRIT within them**, and **take the STONY HEART out** of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, <sup>20</sup> that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.*

**Ezekiel 18:31** *Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and **get yourselves a NEW HEART and a NEW SPIRIT.** For why should you die, O house of Israel?*

When God created mankind in the first creation, he began with one man:

**GEN 2:7** *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.** (KJV)*

We can see herein the triune nature of man. The physical **body** was formed by God out of the dust of the ground. God then breathed or blew into his nostrils the breath of life. This is the **spirit** of man. The result was that man became a living **soul**. So we again see spirit, soul and body. The Hebrew word for ‘ground’ in this text is ‘**adamah**’, so the man was called ‘**Adam**’, since he came from the ground. God then laid Adam down in a deep sleep and took something out of the side of Adam, from which He made Eve. God then raised Adam back up, presented Eve to him, and gave them a commission:

**Genesis 1:27** *So **God created man in His own image**; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.** <sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them, and **God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”***

At this point, Adam and Eve are sinless and in fellowship with God. We know the story how the serpent, who is Satan, comes into the garden of Eden and deceives Eve to eat of the fruit of the forbidden tree – The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

**Genesis 5:1** *This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup> He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created. <sup>3</sup> And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and **begot a son in his own likeness**, after his image, and named him Seth.*

The human race is descended from the First Adam. God began the first race of human beings with one man and all are descended from him. God in the Bible promises a new heaven and a new earth in which dwells righteousness. He promises a new people who will love and serve Him. This new race of people are born of this Last Adam.

Jesus is called the Last Adam.

## **4 – The Nature of the New Birth**

**1 Corinthians 15:45** *So also it is written, “The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. (NASB)*

## **5 – Salvation and the New Birth**

The New Birth is when salvation of the spirit of man, the real you, occurs.

**Titus 3:4** *But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 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,***

**Romans 10:8** *But what does it say? “**The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart**” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that **if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.** 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 13 For “**whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be SAVED.**”*

**Titus 3:4** *But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 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,***

## 5 – Three Ways to Enter a Family

In the natural realm, there are three ways in which one can enter into a family. The first is by *birth*, but another is by *marriage* and another by *adoption*. Remarkably, the bible teaches that we enter God’s family also in all three of these ways! Truly, natural things parallel and can teach us of spiritual truth.

The bible teaches that when we are born again it is a spiritual rebirth. “That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” God gives us a new heart – a new spirit – by placing His Holy Spirit into our spirits. We are born of the Holy Spirit into the family of God. We are given a free gift of righteousness. So, the first way we enter into the family of God is by birth of the spirit, which is salvation of the spirit.

**1 John 3:9** *Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot (continue in) sin, because he has been born of God.<sup>10</sup> In this the **children of God** and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.*

The Bible then teaches that as a new-born babe in Christ, we are betrothed or promised in marriage to the lamb, who is Jesus Christ. In a sense, we are “engaged” to Christ. The actual marriage occurs shortly after the second coming of Christ at the beginning of the Millennial reign of Christ on the Earth. The church is the Bride of Christ. The white wedding clothes we wear at the wedding represents our holiness or sanctification. Sanctification is salvation of the soul. So the second way we enter into the family of God is by marriage to Jesus.

**Romans 7:4** *Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, **that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.***

At the last trumpet, the rapture occurs. Those dead in Christ are immediately resurrected and given new bodies that are perfect, incorruptible and immortal. Those believers who are alive on the earth at this time are also immediately transformed and given new incorruptible bodies and caught up to meet the Lord in the air. The bible teaches that at that time we are adopted by the Father. Therefore, the third way we enter into the family of God is by adoption which also is at the salvation of our bodies.

**Romans 8:23** *Not only that, but **we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the ADOPTION, the REDEMPTION OF OUR BODY.***

So, in summary, the new birth is the salvation of the spirit man, when we initially are born into the family of God. We are born of the Spirit, betrothed in marriage to the Lamb, and promised adoption by the Father. We will ultimately enter God’s family in all three ways. The New Birth is the salvation of the spirit. The betrothal and marriage are the salvation of the soul. The rapture is the salvation of the body.

## **6 – Evidence of the New Birth**

When a person is born again, he or she is born of the Spirit. God places His Spirit into the spirit of this person. The Bible calls this process giving them a new heart. The person is born spiritually into God's Kingdom, becomes a newborn baby in God's Family. He or she is now a believer, a Christian, a convert. For the first time, they can 'see' (with spiritual eyes) the Kingdom of God and its operation. The Kingdom of God is currently an invisible kingdom.

**1 John 3:9** ***Whoever has been born of God does not sin**, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot (continually) sin, because he has been born of God.<sup>10</sup> In this the **children of God** and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.*

## **7 – The Role of the Word in the New Birth**

The more one studies the Bible, the more apparent it is that everything God does, He does so by simply speaking His Word. The Word is God's creative will, which is then fulfilled by the power of the Holy Spirit. Think about this as you read these scripture texts:

**Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then **God SAID, “Let there be light”; and there was light.***

**Isaiah 55:10** *“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> **So shall My WORD be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.***

**Psalms 33:6** ***By the WORD of the LORD were the heavens made,** their starry host by the breath of his mouth.*

**John 1:1** ***In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.***

**Hebrews 1:1** *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; <sup>3</sup> who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and **upholding all things by the WORD of His power,** when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

**Hebrews 11:3** *By faith we understand that **the worlds were framed by the WORD of God,** so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

The Bible is God's Word given to mankind. The Word of God **IS** God. It is alive. It has creative power. It is eternal. It can give life. It is a living seed. God watches over His Word in order to perform it. The Holy Spirit acts on the Word when it is planted in our hearts to bring it to pass. The essence or heart of the Word of God is the Gospel message. The Gospel is the power of God to bring salvation to everyone who believes it. When the seed of the Word is planted in the human heart, it springs to life and begins a process to change us into God's likeness. We become a new creature, a new creation.

*A simple statement of the Gospel is as follows:* God originally created Adam and Eve in perfect harmony with Himself in the Garden of Eden. God's enemy, Satan, then deceived Eve to disobey God and eat of the forbidden Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. She then Gave the fruit to Adam who did the same. The two were immediately estranged from God, and felt naked and afraid. God covered their nakedness with animal skins, showing that a sacrifice and the shedding of blood of an innocent substitute was necessary to cover or atone for the sin of man. Through their own free

**1 Peter 1:23** *For you have been **BORN AGAIN, not of perishable seed (spora), but of imperishable, through the living and enduring WORD OF GOD,** <sup>24</sup> because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls*

away, 25 **But the WORD OF THE LORD endures forever.**” Now **this is the WORD which by the GOSPEL was preached to you.**

**Romans 1:16** *I am not ashamed of **the GOSPEL**, because it **is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes**: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.*

**John 6:63** ***It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The WORDS that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.***

**1 Corinthians 15:1** *Now, brothers, I want to remind you of **the GOSPEL I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.** 2 **By this GOSPEL you are saved, if you hold firmly to the WORD I preached to you.** Otherwise, you have believed in vain.*

**John 6:63** ***“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The WORDS that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.***

**Luke 8:11** *“This is the meaning of the parable: **The seed is the word of God.** 12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then **the devil comes and takes away the WORD from their hearts,** so that they may not believe and be saved. 13 Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. 15 **But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.***

I can give personal testimony to the power of the Word of God to transform lives. I was born in 1951 in Norton, Kansas as the oldest of four sons to my parents. We all grew up in Manhattan, Kansas where my dad owned and operated a plumbing, heating and air conditioning business. My parents were Lutheran, and so brought us pretty faithfully to church and Sunday school during childhood. However, I was never actually born again during those years, so I ceased attending church in any way by the time I was 18 years of age. From the age of 18 to 28, I became an ardent atheist. During my university years studying chemistry, physics and other sciences, and then postgraduate training in medicine, science became my ‘God’. To me, religion was simply a crutch for the weak, and the existence of a supreme God a ridiculous speculation. Science was the true savior of the human race and the only true hope for mankind.

During medical school at Kansas University Medical Center in Kansas City I joined the army reserve in order to receive funds to pay for tuition, supplies, and room and board. Once I finished medical school, I became an active duty captain in the U.S. Army, and was stationed at the Presidio Army Base in San Francisco where I received training in Internal Medicine and Diagnostic Radiology at Letterman Army Medical Center. I was well known for my atheistic beliefs, and debated the subject frequently. As the end of my medical training approached, I was told by my commander that I would probably be reassigned to Eisenhower Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia in June, 1980. For that reason, I arranged to attend a medical meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in November, 1979 so I could drive to Augusta and look the community over.

During last week in November, 1979 I rented a car and drove from Atlanta to Augusta and rented a motel room for a couple of nights. One evening while in the motel room, I had been drinking fairly heavily, as was my custom. For some still unknown reason, I opened the drawer of the night stand next to the bed, and found a Gideon Bible. I picked it up, and began flipping through and reading from various areas. Then I started reading the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew. All of a sudden, it was like a light turned on in my heart. In an instant I knew without any doubt whatsoever that God was real, and that He was talking straight to my heart from that

Gideon Bible. I called my wife Lydia, whom I had assured many times that there was no God, and now told her that God was real after all. All she could think about was Jim Jones and the cult in San Francisco which was fresh in the news. She thought I was a fanatic.

For the next several years I studied my Bible virtually day and night. Somehow I knew without any doubt that the Bible was truly God's Word. In an instant that night in November, 1979 while reading the words of Jesus, God changed my heart for good. Not a moment of doubt about the existence of God has occurred since.

## **8 – Spiritual Growth after the New Birth**

Not only is the Word of God the living seed by which a person is born again, the Word is also is the spiritual food by which the newborn grows and matures spiritually. Just as physical, natural food is necessary for a physical growth and maturation, so also spiritual food is essential for spiritual growth and maturation to the newborn Christian.

**1 Peter 2:2** *as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the **WORD**, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

There are many different kinds of natural food, but a baby normally can partake only of the simplest, such as milk, juice, baby formula, etc. You certainly cannot feed a steak to a baby. The same is true for spiritual food. Some aspects of the word are '**meat**' that can only be partaken or understood by the mature believer. Other aspects of the Word are '**milk**' and therefore can be partaken and understood by the beginner. There is milk in the Word, as well as meat in the Word. 1 Peter 2:2 tells us that newborn believers are spiritual babies, but that they should crave or desire the milk of the Word of God, since it is the means by which to grow spiritually. Verse 3 tells us that this command is only to those who have tasted God's grace in receiving salvation.

**Ephesians 2:8** *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

In the following verses, Paul is scolding the believers at Corinth for not maturing spiritually as they should. There apparently was envy, strife and division among them, creating chaos in the group. They were acting like little babies in fighting, having tantrums and wanting their own way. Paul is telling them to grow up and stop acting like babies. He reminds them that he had fed them with **milk** from the Word, but they didn't pay heed to it and mature. They were not and are still not mature enough for **meat** from the Word, because they are still carnal and not spiritual. To be '**carnal**' is to follow the desires of the '**flesh**', which is the old sin nature we inherit from Adam. To be spiritual, one must crucify or put to death the deeds of the carnal nature and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in becoming like Christ.

**1 Corinthians 3:1** *And **I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.** <sup>2</sup> **I fed you with milk and not with solid food (meat in the KJV); for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;** <sup>3</sup> **for you are still carnal.** For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men (unbelievers)?*

The reality is that all spiritual growth as a child of God occurs in **direct proportion** to the amount of time and effort we put into studying and obeying the Word of God. To be strong and stable spiritually, we must lay aside unimportant matters like television, pursuit of worldly riches, fame, selfish desires, etc.

**Matthew 4:4** *But He answered and said, "It is written, '**Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every WORD that proceeds from the mouth of God.**' "*

**John 6:63** *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. **The WORDS that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.***

So far in this text, several terms are used to identify a person who has been 'born again'. These include the following: a Christian, a believer, a child of God,

## **9 – Change Comes With the New Birth**

Mankind tries to change people's behavior by passing laws that the people are to obey. However, passing and enforcing laws cannot change anyone's heart. The Old Testament law is a perfect example of this reality. Even God's own people were not able by their own power or determination to keep God's laws. The reason God gave the Law was NOT as a means of salvation by keeping the Law. This is very important to understand. In fact, the purpose for the Law is to show beyond doubt that every human heart is LAWLESS. The purpose of the Law is to convince every human being that they do not have the power to keep the Law. The purpose of the Law is to show each of us that we are sinners in need of a savior.

With the New Birth comes a new heart given by God as He places His Spirit in my spirit.

**1 John 2:28** *And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. 29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that **everyone who practices righteousness is BORN OF HIM.***

**1 John 3:8** *He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.** 9 **Whoever has been BORN OF GOD does not (continue in) sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot (continue in) sin, because he has been born of God.***

**1 John 5:18** *We know that **whoever is BORN OF GOD does not (continue in) sin; but he who has been BORN OF GOD keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.***

**1 John 4:7** *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and **everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.** 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

**Ezekiel 11:19** *Then I will give them **one HEART,** and **I will put a NEW SPIRIT within them,** and **take the STONY HEART out** of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.*

**Ezekiel 36:24** *""For **I will take you out of the nations;** I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; **I will cleanse you from all your impurities** and from all your idols. 26 **I will give you A NEW HEART and put A NEW SPIRIT in you;** I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And **I will put MY SPIRIT IN YOU and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.** 28 You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and **I will be your God.***

## **10 – The Family Name**

## 11 – Salvation of the Spirit

**Titus 3:4** *But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 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.*

**Romans 2:28** *A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. 29 No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.*

**Romans 8:14** *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*

Barabbas story.

**1 Corinthians 3:16** *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?*

## **12 – The Rock on Which the Church Is Built**

**Matthew 16:15** He said to them, “**But who do you say that I am?**” 16 Simon **Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** 17 Jesus answered and said to him, “**Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.** 18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**

**1 John 5:1** **Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is BORN OF GOD,** and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for **everyone BORN OF GOD overcomes the world.** This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 **Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.**

**1 John 5:11** And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 **He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.** 13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God **so that you may know that you HAVE eternal life.**

## **13 – Old Testament Prophecies of the New Birth**

### **The New Covenant**

**Ezekiel 36:24** "For **I will take you out of the nations**; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; **I will cleanse you from all your impurities** and from all your idols. 26 **I will give you A NEW HEART and put A NEW SPIRIT in you**; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And **I will put MY SPIRIT IN YOU and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws**. 28 You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; **you will be my people, and I will be your God**.

**Psalm 51:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**Ezekiel 11:19** Then I will give them one heart, and **I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh**, and give them a heart of flesh,<sup>20</sup> that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

**Jeremiah 17:9** "**The HEART is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked**; Who can know it?

**Mark 7:21** "For **from within, out of THE HEART of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders**,<sup>22</sup> "thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 "All **these evil things come from within and defile a man**."

**Jeremiah 31:31** The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.<sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.<sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (NRSV)

## 15 – There is Only One Way to Heaven

**John 10:10** *The thief* cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

**John 14:6** *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT BY ME.*

**Acts 4:12** *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is NO OTHER NAME under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*"

**1 Timothy 2:3** *This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God and ONE MEDIATOR between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.*

**John 11:25** *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. <sup>26</sup> And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

## **16 – How to Be Born Again – To Be Saved from Sin**

For God, salvation from sin is BOTH salvation from the penalty of sin and salvation from the power of sin. Holiness is God's goal.

When instructed from the Bible on this matter of the New Birth, the natural desire of the individual is to experience this blessing personally. In Acts 16:16-34 we are told the story of how Paul and Silas were beaten and whipped and then placed in stocks in an inner prison after they cast out a demon spirit of divination from a slave girl. But at midnight Paul and Silas a certain jailer When the jailer in charge of guarding Paul and Silas in the

**Acts 16:30** *He (the jailer) then brought them (Paul and Silas) out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household.**" 32 Then **they spoke THE WORD OF THE LORD to him and to all the others in his house.***

Make a vow. Decree a thing. Declare and believe. We believe, therefore we speak. God creates with the spoken Word. We do the same.

**Romans 10:8** *But what does it say? "**The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart**" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that **if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.** 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 13 For "**whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be SAVED.**"*

**John 1:12** *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 **who were BORN, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.***

**Ephesians 2:8** *For it is **by grace you have been saved, through faith**—and this not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God**— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Here again is the text of John 3:1-13 which has been the basis for our discussion of the New Birth and its essential importance in entering the Family of God. As we have seen from many scripture references, when a person is born again – born of the Spirit – God takes away the old corrupted heart of sin, and gives us a new heart. He places the Holy Spirit in our spirits so our motives change from pursuing sin to that of pursuing God. The Holy Spirit opens our spiritual eyes to perceive and experience the operation of the invisible Kingdom of God in the earth. We ourselves are translated at the New Birth out of the Kingdom of Darkness into the Kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit within opens our hearts to perceive and our minds to receive and understand the Word and Work of God. The Spirit opens our spiritual ears to hear the Spirit

speaking the Words of God. Life for the believer changes from simply and natural life to a supernatural life in relationship with God our Creator.

**John 3:1** *There was a man of the Pharisees named **Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.** 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” 3 **Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** 4 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?” 5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.** 6 **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** 7 “Do not marvel that I said to you, **‘You must be born again.’** 8 “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.**” 9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? 11 “Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. 14 “And **as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,** 15 “that **whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.** 16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

**1 Corinthians 1:18** *For the message of the cross is **foolishness** to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, **God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.***

**1 Corinthians 2:14** *But **the natural man** receiveth not **the things of the Spirit of God**: for **they are foolishness unto him**: neither can he know them, **because they are spiritually discerned.***

**2 Corinthians 4:3** *And even **if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.** 4 **The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel** of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

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

**Colossians 1:12** *giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of **the saints in the kingdom of light.** 13 For **he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,** 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, **the FIRSTBORN over all creation.***

## **Dictionary of Terms**

Righteousness

The flesh

Sanctification

Redemption

Spirit

Soul

Body

The Sin Nature

Carnal

Spiritual

Redemption

## **1-A** Questions: The New Birth

Use your bible, a concordance, this book and your own study to answer all the questions.

1. **To whom** was Jesus speaking when he made the statement in **John 3:3: "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again"**? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* Was Jesus describing **a natural or a spiritual birth** here? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* **Is the Kingdom of God a visible or and invisible kingdom?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* **Is this a discrepancy?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. **The bible teaches that man is triune, just as is God.** What are the 3 parts of your being? **Give both the English & Greek names of each part:**

English

Greek

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* **Give a Bible reference** for the triune nature of man: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. **Which part of your being** is changed or "Born Again" at the New Birth? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* **Give reference(s)** from a Major Prophet in the Old Testament **where a prophecy of the New Birth can be found:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Are you Born Again?** If so, **write below a brief account of your New Birth**, including a description of the time, place and circumstances when you became a Christian Believer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. The Bible teaches that we are **Born Again from an 'incorruptible or imperishable seed'**. **What is that seed?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. **What OTHER scriptures teach that the Word of God or the Gospel is the means of salvation?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* **What is the Greek word for 'gospel' and its meaning?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. **Paul said:** "For I am not ashamed of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, for it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God to \_\_\_\_\_ for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (NKJ)

\* **Give the book, chapter & verse** for this scripture: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. **What part(s) of your being are NOT saved at the time of the New Birth?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* Write out **1 Corinthians 1:30:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. **Sanctification** corresponds to the salvation of what part of your being? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* **Redemption** corresponds to the salvation of what part of your being? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* **In what part of your being does the Holy Spirit dwell?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What scripture reference(s) the Bible BEST describes **HOW to be Born Again?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* **Write down this (these) scripture verse(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. What are the **TWO things** that this scripture states that one must do **to be Born Again?** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. **T F** The New Birth saves one not only from the **PENALTY of sin**, but also from the **POWER of sin**, so the child of God can live a holy life. **Give scripture:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**T F** In the Gospels, Jesus is called the **ONLY** son born of the Father. In the epistles, He is the **FIRSTBORN** of many in the New Creation. **Scripture:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**T F** The seed by which God gives life is His **WORD**. The soil into which it is sown are **MEN'S HEARTS** (their spirits). **Give Scripture:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. **Fill in the Blanks:** For by \_\_\_\_\_ you have been saved through \_\_\_\_\_, and that not of yourselves; it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, not of \_\_\_\_\_, lest anyone should boast. (NKJ)

\* **Give the scripture reference** for these verses: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Is this scripture **past tense, present tense or future tense?** \_\_\_\_\_

14. There are **2 spiritual Kingdoms in this world.** Name them & give at least 2 references for each:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

15. What are the **THREE WAYS you enter either into a human family OR into the Family of God:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

16. Give scripture showing we are **BORN of the Spirit:** \_\_\_\_\_

Give scripture showing we are **BETROTHED to Christ Jesus:** \_\_\_\_\_

Give scripture showing we are **ADOPTED by the Father:** \_\_\_\_\_

17. There are **3 kinds of men (people) in the Bible: (1) Natural Man, (2) Carnal Man, & (3) Spiritual Man.** Give a brief description and a scripture reference for each: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which type are you?** \_\_\_\_\_

18. Once one experiences spiritual birth into God's family, **what is the spiritual FOOD by which he or she grows spiritually?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. **The GREAT QUESTION that every human being must answer is 'Who is Jesus to you?'**  
What was Peter's answer to that question? How did he know the answer to that question? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. **WHAT is the ROCK on which Jesus will build His church, against which the gates of hell shall NOT prevail?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\* Give a scripture proving that **this revelation is THE TEST of being born again:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

21. **Write out 1 John 5:3-5:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22. **How are YOU to overcome the world & keep God's commandments?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

23. **T F** Anyone born of the First Adam has the nature and likeness of the First Adam. But anyone born of the Last Adam has the nature and likeness of the Last Adam – and is a **NEW CREATION.**

\* **Give scripture** for this statement: \_\_\_\_\_

24. Give scripture proof that **anyone born of God already HAS eternal life:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. **Summarize in your own words** some of the more important points you learned in this lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations! You finished the first of four tests from Course I, The New Birth & Salvation.

## **1-A** Questions: The New Birth

Use your bible, a concordance, this book and your own study to answer all the questions.

1. **To whom** was Jesus speaking when he made the statement in **John 3:1, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again"**? *To Nicodemus directly, but also to anyone else throughout all time who reads or hears those words from Jesus.*

\* Was Jesus describing **a natural or a spiritual birth here**? *A spiritual birth (birth of the spirit)*

\* **Is the Kingdom of God a visible or and invisible kingdom**? *An invisible kingdom (Luke 17:20-21)*

\* **Is this a discrepancy**? *NO! A spiritual kingdom can only be seen or discerned by spirit.*

2. **The bible teaches that man is triune, just as is God.** What are the 3 parts of your being? **Give both the English & Greek names of each part:**

<u>English</u>	<u>Greek</u>
<i>spirit</i>	<i>pneuma</i>
<i>soul</i>	<i>psuche</i>
<i>body</i>	<i>soma</i>

\* **Give a Bible reference** for the triune nature of man: **1 Thessalonians 5:23** *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit (pneuma), soul (psuche), and body (soma) be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NKJ)*

3. **Which part of your being is changed or "Born Again" at the New Birth**? *My spirit (pneuma)*

\* **Give reference(s) from a Major Prophet in the Old Testament where a prophecy of the New Birth can be found:** *Ezekiel 11:19-20 and Ezekiel 36:26-27*

4. **Are you Born Again?** **If so, write below a brief account of your New Birth, including a description of the time, place and circumstances when you became a Christian Believer:** *Answer for yourself*

5. **The Bible teaches that we are Born Again from an 'incorruptible or imperishable seed'. What is that seed?** *The living and abiding Word of God: 1 Peter 1:23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the WORD OF GOD which lives and abides forever, (NKJ)*

6. **What OTHER scriptures teach that the Word of God or the Gospel is the means of salvation?**

**1CO 15:1** *Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (NKJ)* **ROM 1:16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (NKJ)*

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\* **What is the Greek word for ‘gospel’ and its meaning?** Euaggelion = ‘good news’ or ‘glad tidings’

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7. **Paul said:** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (NKJ)

\* **Give the book, chapter & verse for this scripture:** Romans 1:16

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8. **What part(s) of your being are NOT saved at the time of the New Birth?** My soul and my body
- 

\* Write out **1 Corinthians 1:30:** But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God— and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— (NKJ)

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9. **Sanctification** corresponds to the salvation of what part of your being? My soul

\* **Redemption** corresponds to the salvation of what part of your being? My body

\* **In what part of your being does the Holy Spirit dwell?** In my spirit

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10. What scripture reference(s) in the Bible BEST describes **HOW to be Born Again?**  
Romans 10:9-10
- 

\* **Write down this (these) scripture verse(s):** ROM 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (NKJ)

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11. What are the **TWO things** that this scripture states that one must do **to be Born Again?**  
Confess with my mouth the Lordship of Christ, and believe with my heart that God raised Jesus from the dead
- 

12.  **F** The New Birth saves one not only from the **PENALTY of sin**, but also from the **POWER of sin**, so the child of God can live a holy life. **Give scripture:** ROM 6:14; IJO 5:3-5;
- 

**F** In the Gospels, Jesus is called the **ONLY** son born of the Father. In the epistles, He is the **FIRSTBORN** of many in the New Creation. **Scripture:** JOH 1:14, 18; 3:16-18; ROM 8:29; COL 1:15-18; HEB 12:22-24

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**F** The seed by which God gives life is His **WORD**. The soil into which it is sown are **MEN’S HEARTS** (their spirits). **Give Scripture:** LUK 8:5-15; MAT 13:24-43;

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13. **Fill in the Blanks:** 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. (NKJ)

\* **Give the scripture reference** for these verses: Ephesians 2:8-9

\* Is this scripture **past tense, present tense or future tense?** Past tense

14. There are **2 spiritual Kingdoms in this world**. Name them & give at least 2 references for each:

1. Kingdom of God--MAT 6:32, 12:28, 19:24, MAR 1:14-15, 4:11, 26-29, JOH 3:3-8, etc.

2. Kingdom of Darkness (Satan)--MAT 12:25-28, ACT 26:17-18, COL 1:13, etc.

15. What are the **THREE WAYS you enter either into a human family OR into the Family of God:**

1. by birth—we are born of the Spirit

2. by marriage—we are betrothed in marriage to the Lamb

3. by adoption—we are adopted by the Father God

16. Give scripture showing we are **BORN of the Spirit:** John 3:1-8; 1 Corinthians 2:11-16

Give scripture showing we are **BETROTHED to Christ Jesus:** Romans 7:4; 2Corinthians 11:2; Isaiah 54:5; Jeremiah 3:14

\* Give scripture showing we are **ADOPTED by the Father:** Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:4-7; EPH 1:3-6

17. There are **3 kinds of men (people) in the Bible: (1) Natural Man, (2) Carnal Man, & (3) Spiritual Man**. Give a brief description & a scripture reference for each: Natural Man (Gk=psuchikos)— Unsaved man without the Spirit of God, 1CO 2:14; Carnal Man (Gk=Sarkikos)—saved but still dominated by flesh, the carnal Adamic nature; ROM 7:14-25; 1CO 3:1-4; Spiritual Man (Gk=Pneumatikos)—saved & matured, has crucified the flesh, led by his/her spirit by the Holy Spirit within; 1CO 2:15; 3:1; GAL 6:1;

**Which type are you?** Answer for yourself

18. Once one experiences spiritual birth into God's family, **what is the spiritual FOOD by which he or she grows spiritually?** Matthew 4:4 But He (Jesus) answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' 1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, (NKJ) Also Hebrews 5:12-14

19. **The GREAT QUESTION that every human being must answer is 'Who is Jesus to you?'** What was Peter's answer to that question? How did he know the answer to that question? MAT 16:15 He (Jesus) said to them, "But who do YOU say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (NKJ)

20. **WHAT is the ROCK on which Jesus will build His church, against which the gates of hell shall NOT prevail?** The revelation from the Father that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

\* Give a scripture proving that **this revelation is THE test of being born again:** 1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. (NKJ)

21. **Write out 1 John 5:3-5:** 1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is BORN OF GOD overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (NKJ)

22. **How are YOU to overcome the world & keep God's commandments?** By continuing faith & confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and by following and imitation all that He said and did in the Word.

23. **T F** Anyone born of the First Adam has the nature and likeness of the First Adam. But anyone born of the Last Adam has the nature and likeness of the Last Adam – and is a **NEW CREATION.**

\* **Give scripture for this statement:** 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (NKJ)

24. **Give scripture proof that anyone born of God already HAS eternal life:** 1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony: that God HAS GIVEN us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you HAVE eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. (HKJ)

25. **Summarize in your own words some of the more important points you learned in this lesson:** Answer for yourself

Congratulations! You finished the first of four tests from Course I, The New Birth & Salvation.