

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

“You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’” (John 3:7)

Jesus has been described as the Master of one syllable words. His teaching was so easily understood that the common people heard Him gladly (Mk. 12:37). Paradoxically, at the same time His message was revealed unto babes it was hidden from the wise and prudent (Lk. 10:21). His teaching about being born again is an interesting case in point. It should not surprise us!

Even little children understand that life comes from seeds. Further, even little children know that the kind of life you get depends upon the kind of seed you sow. This is not rocket science, if you want an apple tree, you have to plant an apple seed.

Jesus used this simple truth to teach Nicodemus about the kingdom of God. We have physical life because our earthly father planted a physical seed inside of our earthly mother. If you want spiritual life, of course, you must plant a spiritual seed. Jesus said it like this: “Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.” (John 3:6) Nicodemus already had physical life, and if he wanted to have spiritual life it would be necessary for him to be “born again”. How obvious! Those who experience this spiritual life can both “see” and “enter” into the Kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5).

Physical life is temporal just as earthly kingdoms are temporal. I am told that the average earthly kingdom lasts only about 200 years. The average life of a person, of course, is much less. Everyone can see that our present world is a world characterized by death and decay, but not everyone can see the Kingdom of God. Only those who are “born again” can see it!

Spiritual life, by contrast, is not temporal. It is eternal. It is not subject to death and decay. It cannot be destroyed by a bomb or killed by cancer. Peter said it up like this: “For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” (1 Pet 1:23) Since the Kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom it will continue to exist when our present heavens and earth disappear with a great noise (2 Pet. 3:10).

So the person who is “born again” has two kinds of life. His physical life is destined for the grave, but his spiritual life is not. This is why the Scriptures call it “eternal life”. Nicodemus died long ago and his body has returned to dust. His spirit, however, returned to God who gave it. (Eccl. 12:7). Spiritually speaking we can live forever. This wonderful truth is repeated often in Scripture.

- “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.” (John 3:16)
- Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)
- Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” (2 Cor 4:16)
- “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Cor 4:18)
- “For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.” (1 Cor 15:22)
- Etc.

Even though the Spirit within us is invisible, He manifests Himself through us in a change of behavior. Hidden inside of a physical seed is the capacity to sink down roots in corruption and produce fruit that is pure and sweet. Hidden inside of the Word of God is the same capacity. Christians live in world of corruption but still produce the “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22, 23) If there is spiritual fruit then obviously the spiritual seed is not growing. The Apostle John wrote: **“This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.” (1 Jn 3:10)**

DON'T FORGET! YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD!