



What Does it Mean to be “Born Again”?

John 3:3: (NASB) *Jesus answered and said to him, truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.*



...unless one is born again. This phrase carries great meaning no matter what Christian denomination you come from. The meaning of the phrase certainly changes depending upon your particular belief system but the power of the phrase remains intact. To be “born again” in all cases implies one of the most significant spiritual changes that any person can ever experience. When does being “born again” happen and what does it really mean? Does this spiritual change happen when one is baptized as an infant or when one commits their life to God through Jesus or when one is baptized as an adult or when one dies? Is this spiritual change a prepaid one-way ticket to heaven or an opportunity for power and control in your present

life or is it a sober and humbling opportunity to sacrifice all that you have and all that you are?

Let us begin with the typical approach to *born again*. It is often interpreted as a feeling.



“Born Again,” (Verse one) Janet Paschal

A long, long time ago, I did not know about Jesus and his love.
You see I heard about it, but I never felt it, this manna that comes from above.
And this life of sin, I could no longer stand.
I asked my mother, "How could I get to know the man?"
She said, "You must be, can't you see, you've got to be born again."
Let me tell you
You must have that firing Holy Ghost.

(As in that song, some Bible translations change “Holy Spirit” to “Holy Ghost.” These translations give the entirely wrong impression. The proper translation is “Holy Spirit,” which is the power and influence of God in our life.)

To find the meaning of “born again” we need to start with the context beginning at the end of the previous chapter of John:



John 2:23-25: (NASB) ²³Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in his name, observing his signs which he was doing. ²⁴But Jesus, on his part, was not entrusting himself to them, for he knew all men, ²⁵and because he did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for he himself knew what was in man.

Jesus was drawing large crowds and many believed in him, but Jesus did not entrust himself to them. Why?

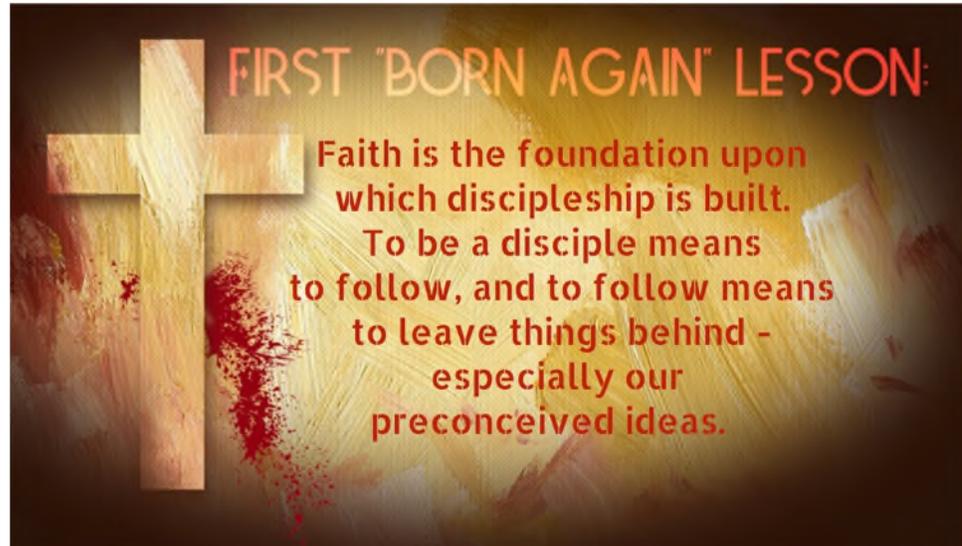
Their belief was just a beginning that would need the test of time:

John 8:30-33: (NASB) ³⁰As he spoke these things, many came to believe in him. ³¹So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed him, **if you continue in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine;** ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. (Belief is good, but Jesus was looking for the test of time.) ³³They answered him, we are Abraham's



descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that you say, you will become free?

See the doubt? They tried to fit their belief in Jesus into their preconceived ideas. They were watching how Jesus interacted with others and how he drew people in.



John 3:1-3: (KJV) *¹There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:*

(Source: Bible commentary by Albert Barnes) Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: One of the Sanhedrin, or great council of the nation. He is twice mentioned after this as being friendly to our Savior; in the first instance as advocating his cause, and defending him against the unjust suspicion of the Jews, John 7:50, and in the second instance as one who came to aid in embalming his body, John 19:39.

²The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

³Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus needs to talk with Jesus and comes to him by night. Jesus responds to him with truth. Why? Jesus saw Nicodemus' faith as one that was looking for nourishment and he fed it! Jesus chose Nicodemus because he had genuine faith of the heart and mind which is important in understanding what it means to be born again.

**Our faith must be the kind of faith that leads to following.
Is this how we are born again?**

The process is not yet at the born again point. Similar to our conversation with Todd Alexander on how God touches our hearts, the road to being born again is a process. Please see CQ episode from August 7, 2017, "How Does God Touch Your Heart?" Jesus here is beginning to unfold how to understand what this whole idea of being born again is and as we will shortly see, what we typically think it means might be very different than what Jesus taught.



John 3:4-7: (KJV) ⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, how can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. (Response to Nicodemus' comments in verse 4 coming up soon.)

In the following audio clip, observe the symptoms of those who have had born again experiences.

 **The experience, *The Born Again Experience*, Valerie Tarico**

- *For many Christians, being born again is unlike anything they have ever known. A sense of personal conviction, yielding or release followed by indescribable peace and joy. This is the stuff of spiritual transformation. Once experienced, it is unforgettable, and many people can recall small details years later. Listen to these descriptions: “I prayed harder, and then I felt like everything I was saying was being sucked into a vacuum. When I stood up, I felt like thin air. I had to brace myself. I felt this energy. It was a kind of ecstasy.” - from a woman named Cathy. “Something began to flow in me, a kind of energy. Then came the strange sensation that water was not only running down my cheeks but surging through my body as well, cleansing and cooling as it went” - Coleson. “It was a beautiful feeling of well-being warmth, and loving. I went home and all night long these warm feelings kept coming up my body.” - Jean. “I felt something real warm overwhelming me. It was in just a moment, yet it was like eternity. A joy, such a joy hit me with such a tremendous force that I jumped and ran.” - Helen*

They had a memorable, euphoric, emotional experience. Is this what it means to be born again? Let's start with what the word “born” means:

Born: Strongs #1080 to procreate
(properly, of the father, but by extension of the mother); figuratively, to regenerate



The following examples translate this word in the sense of begetting (conceived) - not giving birth. This would be *the masculine* use of the word. In the Greek language, there is a *masculine* and *feminine* use of the same word, and they have a significantly different shade of meaning.

Matthew 1:2: (KJV) Abraham **begat** <1080> Isaac; and Isaac **begat** <1080> Jacob; and Jacob **begat** <1080> Judas and his brethren;

Abraham did not give birth to Isaac, but he conceived him so that later Isaac could be born.

Matthew 1:20: (KJV) *But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is **conceived** <1080> in her is of the Holy Ghost (Spirit).*

This is the same Strongs' word for *born*, but it is certainly not talking about when Jesus was born. It is talking about when he was begotten (conceived), which is the masculine form of the word. There is a big difference between being conceived/begotten and being born, as shown by these examples.



Philemon 1:10: (KJV) *I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have **begotten** <1080> in my bonds:*

Apostle Paul is talking about Onesimus to Philemon, whom he was able, by God's grace, to plant the seed of spirituality within.

There is a theme here with the word *begotten*. It is from the male perspective and always focuses on the conception, not the birth. In the ancient Greek language, they used both a masculine and feminine use of the word to describe two phases of the same process.



The following examples translate this same word in the sense of giving birth. This would be *the feminine* use of the word:

Matthew 2:1: (KJV) *Now when Jesus was **born** <1080> in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,*

Jesus was born of a woman. Again, this same word is used for two different phases of the creation of life.

Luke 1:13: (KJV) *But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall **bear** <1080> thee a son (she shall give birth to a son), and thou shalt call his name John.*

Strong's #1080
(Begot, Begotten, Conceived, Born, Bear)
In the Greek language there is a masculine and feminine use of the same word.

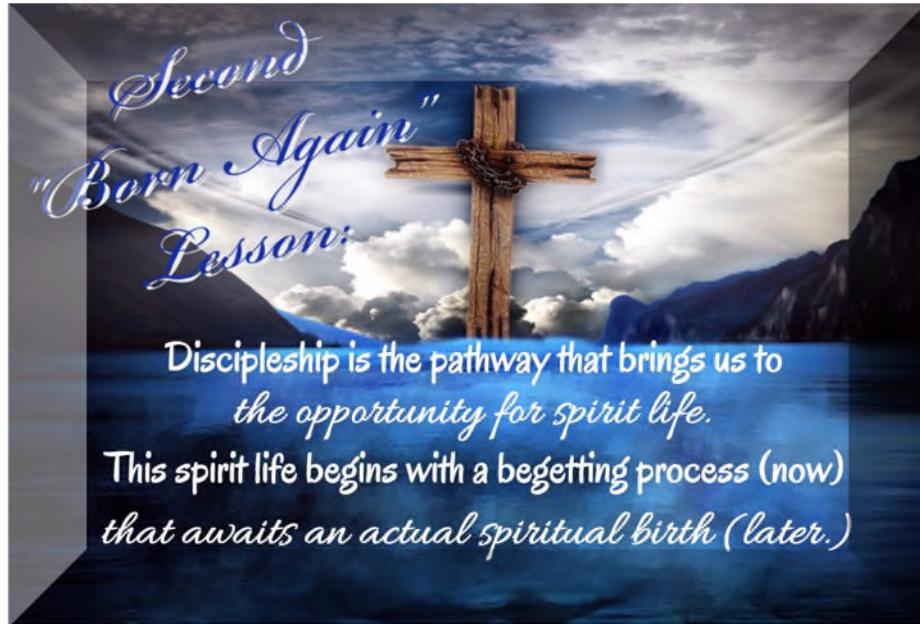
<p>Masculine use of the word: To conceive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begot • Begotten • Conceived 	<p>Feminine use of the word: Give birth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born • Bear
--	---

Begetting and birth are two different things but the same word.
 What can we conclude from the use of this word?
 Its meaning is related to both parts of the creation of life – one relating to the begetting by the father (male) and the other to the birth by the mother (female.)

Spirit begetting is now and is subject to our faithfulness:

1 Peter 1:3: (KJV) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath **begotten** <313> (conceived) us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Begotten: Strong's #313, from #303 and #1080, to beget



We are differentiating between spirit begetting and spirit birth. We are suggesting spirit begetting is what happens now and spirit birth happens later.

Our first two Born Again Lessons show us that faith is the foundation upon which discipleship is built, and discipleship is this pathway that brings us to the *opportunity* for spirit life. It does not *guarantee* us spirit life.

**How do we know for sure that “born” here really only means “begotten”?
What does this change?**

We can know by further looking at Scriptures that verify the masculine and feminine uses of the word as well as looking even more deeply into our phrase in question. We have talked about the word for *born*, but what about the word *again*? This is where our discussion gets fascinating!

Let’s look at this again:

John 3:4-7: (KJV) ⁴*Nicodemus saith unto him, how can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?* ⁵*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.* ⁶*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* ⁷*Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again.*

In the previous audio clip, they talked about euphoric born again experiences. What happens after the fact?

 ***The Aftermath, The Born Again Experience, Valerie Tarico***

- In the aftermath of such a moment, an alcoholic may stop drinking or a criminal fugitive may hand himself into the authorities. A housewife may sail through her tasks for weeks, flooded by a sense of God’s love flowing through her to her children. A normally introverted programmer may begin inviting his co-workers to church. This experience, more than any other, creates a sense of certainty about Christian belief and so makes belief impervious to rational argumentation. A believer knows what he or she has experienced. Even converts who don’t feel radically transformed after praying “the sinner’s*



prayer” may feel overwhelmed by God’s presence during subsequent prayer or worship.

In many cases there is a positive aftermath after these euphoric moments. Is that what it means to be born again? Before answering, we will develop our scriptural perspective a little further.

Born again - focusing on the word *again*.

Again: Strongs #509 from above; by analogy, from the first; by implication, anew

The word literally means “from above.” How could “again” mean “from above”? Think of our English expression “take it from the top.”

Nicodemus’ question on the surface seems to support the thought of “again” and not “from above,” but Jesus’ words are pointing in a different direction. We suggest Jesus intended this word to be “from above” and he was saying, “A man needs to be begotten from above,” which is a totally different meaning.

A few other uses of the word:

Luke 1:3: (KJV) *It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the **very first <509>**, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus.*

Same word #509 - the word “very first” means “from above” or “take it from the top.” This gives the sense of a chronological unfolding.

John 3:31: (KJV) *He that cometh **from above <509>** (from heaven) is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.*

The word “again” does not fit or make sense. You would not say, “He that cometh from again is above...”

James 1:17: (KJV) *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from **above <509>**, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

What are we saying? We are suggesting the verses in John 3:1-7 read very differently than their typical interpretation.

- ⊕ Jesus is teaching Nicodemus that faith is a foundation on which to build discipleship. Faith is not the end of it, it is the beginning.
- ⊕ True discipleship - seeing/perceiving the kingdom (verse 3) is not a natural event - it requires a begetting, a conception to a new life through God’s spirit or power working in your everyday life.

John 3:3-7: (A Conservative Version) ³*Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to thee, **if any man is not begotten from above**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

This translation is not one we typically use, but we chose it because it was the simplest version that captured what we believe Jesus was teaching.

Nicodemus challenges this new, strange and spiritual thought, but he still wants to learn:

⁴*Nicodemus says to him, how can a man be begotten, being old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s belly, and be born?*



Nicodemus was thinking with a natural mind so it did not make sense to him.

If I am begotten from above by God, if it is not birth and it is just begettal, could there be a miscarriage?

(Answer on page nine.)

- ✚ Entering/being part of the kingdom (verse 5) requires the actions of life (the symbol of water baptism) built on faith and provoked by God's spirit.

The symbol of baptism (a full immersion) is when you are lowered back into the water - symbolically buried - and then raised back up to the newness of life. Baptism is a symbol of what takes place in your heart and mind - your begettal. It is the giving up of your will to become a true disciple. When you become a true disciple, you must leave things behind.



⁵Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to thee, if any man is not begotten from water and Spirit (God's power and influence working in your everyday life), he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Being *begotten from water and Spirit* does not guarantee entrance into the kingdom of God but it positions you or gives you an opportunity.

- ✚ Jesus now tells Nicodemus this spiritual begetting is a NEW and DIFFERENT life:

⁶That which is begotten from the flesh is flesh, and that which is begotten from the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Marvel not that I said to thee, ye must be begotten from above.

To be begotten from above is to actually have a new spiritual life conceived within you.



Third "Born Again" Lesson:

This life when proven faithful will be born to its heavenly home.

It is important to understand "begotten from above" instead of "born again."



This is radical! Are we saying that the Christian phrase "born again" is commonly misapplied?

Yes, we are saying that as we critically examine the words and intentions of Jesus, his lesson points to a spirit life built upon the foundation of faith and constructed with the actions of discipleship. All of this merely *conceives* a new spiritual life that has not yet been born but has begun to develop.

When a Christian asks, "Have you been born again?" we are suggesting that the wrong idea and words are being used. None of us have been born again, but we may have been "begotten from above," in hopes of living faithfully so in the future we can be born to the spirit realm.

Common exuberance, The Born Again Experience, Valerie Tarico

- *Evangelical and Pentecostal forms of Christianity that are gaining ground around the world particularly emphasize emotional peaks such as faith healing or speaking in tongues. Worshipers may get caught up in exuberant singing, shouting, dancing and tears of joy. What most Christians don't know is that these experiences are not unique to Christianity. In fact, the words that I just quoted come from two born again Christians, a Moonie and an encounter group participant. Their quotes were gathered by a pair of researchers, Flo Conway and Jim Siegelman for their book Snapping, which is about sudden personality change.*

The quotes from the previous audio clips were not all from Christians, but they all had the same euphoric, emotional experience. We are not denying the experience, but that is not what the born again experience is.

The next verse is just plain confusing. Who or what is it talking about?

John 3:8: (KJV) *The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

It is important to understand that "wind" and "spirit" are exactly the same word. Another translation:

John 3:8: (Concordant Version) *The blast (spirit - Greek word pneuma) is blowing where it wills, and the sound of it you are hearing, but you are not aware whence it is coming and where it is going...*

Jesus is saying that *the blast* - the spirit - breathes its influence where it will. None of us are privy to it. God can send His power and will wherever He chooses. You can discern the effects of the spirit but you do not know where or who it will affect next. Remember, Jesus himself was speaking to Nicodemus according to God's spirit - God's influence in Jesus' life right then! Nicodemus had no idea when he sought Jesus out to question him that the power of God's influence was going to confront him with this truth.

...Thus, is everyone who is begotten by the water and the spirit.

And so it is with those who have taken action as disciples and are begotten by the spirit now - you do not know who will be affected next or what you will be directed to do.





**Fourth
"Born Again"
Lesson:**

Spirit Begetting  **A New Creature**

Begetting by God's power and influence conceives a life driven by that which is above and counteracts our fallen nature. Begetting does not equal birth.

In answer to our previous question - the new spiritual life must be carried to full term. Being begotten of the spirit is not a guarantee for spiritual birth. Walking away from God's spirit working in your everyday life can lead to a miscarriage of the spirit of God.

Here is what the spirit looks like in our begotten lives: There is new life!

2 Corinthians 5:17-18: (NASB) ¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...



This new life is conceived through God's own power. His power helps us with all things:

Romans 8:26-27: (NASB) ²⁶In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself (itself) intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He (it) intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

God's spirit intercedes because God's will must be done in the life of one who went down in baptism and became a disciple of Christ and came up in that newness of life.

This newly conceived life must be sought in our decisions for we are still fallen humanity:

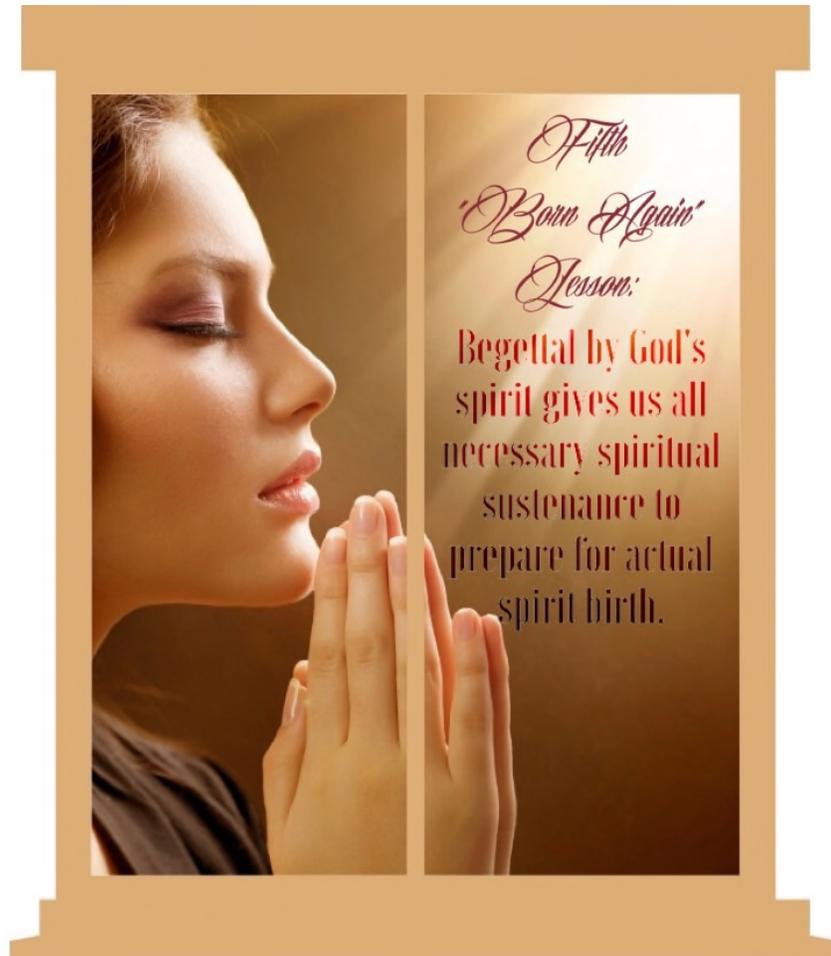
James 4:13-15: (NASB) ¹³Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit. ¹⁴Yet you do not



know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.

Back to Jesus teaching Nicodemus:

John 3:9-12: (KJV) ⁹Nicodemus answered and said unto him, how can these things be? ¹⁰Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? ¹¹Verily, verily, I say unto thee, we speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness (you are not ready to hear this). ¹²If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?



**Most Christians believe that being “born again” is our spirit birth.
How can we be sure that it is just the start?**



This is the core question in our discussion. We are convinced that *true spirit birth* is only attainable after the completion of a sacrificial life and we will frame this next part of our conversation in the biblical concept of regeneration. Many of our Christian friends see regeneration happening at the moment of accepting Jesus or at baptism - for some as infants, for others as adults.



Common conversion, *The Born Again Experience*, Valerie Tarico

- *How can a Moonie, an encounter group participant and Christians sound so much the same? Because the born again experience doesn't require a specific set of beliefs. It requires a specific social-emotional process and the dogmas and explanations are secondary. Conversion is a process that begins with social influence. As sociologists like to say, "Our sense of reality is socially constructed." We will come back to this later. Suffice for now to say that missionary work typically begins with simple offers of friendship or conversations about shared interests. As prospective converts are drawn in, a group may envelope them in warmth, good will, thoughtful conversations and playful activities, always with gentle pressure toward the group reality.*

They are saying it is not about belief, but rather a social structure. The Scriptures do *not* tell us that the born again experience is an emotional thing. They do tell us it is transformative and the direction our life will take.

Romans 6:4: (NASB) *Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

There is no great euphoria here. It is talking about death and being buried with Jesus.

Is this *newness of life* actual "regeneration"? No!

Regeneration: Strongs #3824 (spiritual) rebirth (the state or the act), i.e. (figuratively) spiritual renovation; specifically, Messianic restoration

This word is only used twice in the New Testament.

Matthew 19:27-28: (NASB) ²⁷*Then Peter said to him, behold, we have left everything and followed you; what then will there be for us?* ²⁸*And Jesus said to them, Truly I say to you, that you who have followed me, in the **regeneration** <3824> when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

THE regeneration is clearly a future time of glory when all of the faithful are in heaven with Jesus. This is spirit birth - not begettal!

If this is the case, then what is the newness of life from the previous Romans' Scripture?

Titus 3:4-7: (NASB) ⁴*But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, ⁵He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of **regeneration** <3824> (this washing of regeneration is now) and **renewing** <342> (renovation) by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.*

Renewing: Strongs #342 renovation

Many of our Christian friends, especially those of the Catholic persuasion, baptize infants and look at that as *washing of regeneration* to a new life with God. We see this as a tremendous error in scriptural understanding!

The newness is the privilege to be called to and prepared for the hope of a spiritual life based on grace, faith and the actions of discipleship. Washed for the end purpose of THE regeneration.



⁷so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Ephesians 1: 13-14: (KJV) *¹³In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

The gift of God's spirit is *the earnest of our inheritance*. This is like an engagement ring. When you have an engagement ring you are not actually married. Marriage is a guarantee of what will happen as long as you stay faithful to that promise.



This washing of regeneration is the preparation for us to be clean for the work in heaven.

Revelation 2:10: (KJV) *...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*



A surgeon washes his hands *in preparation* before operating. The washing is not operating, but operating should not happen if washing and preparation does not take place first. The washing of regeneration is the *preparing* of our lives for our future heavenly work. We also need our minds renovated to handle such work.

We are not born again now. We are begotten from above. We are preparing to be part of the ministry of reconciliation. Everyone who believes in the name of Jesus does not end up being part of that ministry. You must put yourself in a position so God can trust you with eternity.

Romans 12:2: (NASB) *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing <342>** (renovation) of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

The transformation happens after the begetting of God's spirit. The embryo is growing and developing over time. Our job now is not to be born again but is to be begotten from above.

Being born again was not the point Jesus was making to Nicodemus. The point is that we are "begotten" from above.

This work can only be completed when we have completed our transformation:

1 Corinthians 15:50,53: (NASB) *⁵⁰Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable... ⁵³For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

What we are is not what we will be. *The old things are passed away and all things will become new.* This new creature is begotten from above with the capacity to be born into the spirit realm.

We are now children of God running to be chosen sons of God - thoroughly transformed and crystallized in character to live with Jesus:

1 John 3:2-3: (NASB) *²Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when he appears, we will be like him, because we will see him just as he is. ³And everyone who has this hope fixed on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.*



Spirit birth is a hope, not a guarantee. Being begotten from above is the beginning of a process.



God gives us the opportunity for this incredible work. This work must be done by someone who is trustworthy. You do not become trustworthy unless God calls you, you answer the call, and then God begets you with His spirit. We are begotten from above - *not* born again - so we can work our way toward being faithful unto death to then be born again.

*So, what does it mean to be "born again"?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



Further along, we see the same theme of spiritual versus earthly missions that Jesus taught to Nicodemus being taught by John the Baptist:

John 3:26-31: (KJV) ²⁶And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him. ²⁷John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. ²⁸Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. ²⁹He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. ³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease. ³¹He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.



Another reminder that faith is a foundation upon which many things can be built - and all of them are not good.

John 12:42-43: (NASB) ⁴²Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

A more exhaustive look - born again - focusing on the word “again”.

Again: Strongs #509 from 507; from above; by analogy, from the first; by implication, anew

Again: Strongs #507 upward or on the top

All uses of Strongs #509:

Luke 1:3: (KJV) *It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the **very first <509>**, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,*

John 3:3: (KJV) *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be **born again <509>**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

John 3:7: (KJV) *Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be **born again <509>**.*

John 3:31: (KJV) *He that cometh from **above <509>** is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.*

John 19:11: (KJV) *Jesus answered, thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from **above <509>**: therefore, he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.*

John 19:23: (KJV) *Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also, his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the **top <509>** throughout.*

Acts 26:5: (KJV) *Which knew me from the **beginning <509>**, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.*

Galatians 4:9: (KJV) *But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire **again <509>** to be in bondage?*

James 1:17: (KJV) *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from **above <509>**, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

James 3:15: (KJV) *This wisdom descendeth not from **above <509>**, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.*

James 3:17: (KJV) *But the wisdom that is from **above <509>** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*

Born (Strongs #1080) translated both born and begotten:

1 John 5:1: (KJV) *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is **born <1080>** of God: and everyone that loveth him that **begat <1080>** loveth him also that is **begotten <1080>** of him.*

1 John 5:18: (KJV) *We know that whosoever is **born <1080>** of God sinneth not; but he that is **begotten <1080>** of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*



Spirit begetting is now, and subject to our faithfulness:

1 Peter 1:3: (KJV) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Begotten: Strongs #313, from #303 and #1080, to beget

Galatians 6:15: (NRSV) *For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything!*

Romans 8:18-19: (NRSV) ¹⁸*I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.* ¹⁹*For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;*

Philippians 3:7-14: (KJV) ⁷*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.* ⁸*Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,* ⁹*And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:* ¹⁰*That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;* ¹¹*If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.* ¹²*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.* ¹³*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,* ¹⁴*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

1 John 3:4-9: (KJV) ⁴*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.* ⁵*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.* ⁶*Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.* ⁷*Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.* ⁸*He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.* ⁹*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

1 John 2:1-2: (KJV) ¹*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:* ²*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Romans 7:18-25: (KJV) ¹⁸*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.* ¹⁹*For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.* ²⁰*Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.* ²¹*I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.* ²²*For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:* ²³*But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.* ²⁴*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?* ²⁵*I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*

Colossians 2:11-12: (NASB) ¹¹*and in him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;* ¹²*having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.*

Finally, a more exhaustive look at John 3:8:

⁸*The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.*



John 3:8: (Rotherham) *The spirit, where it pleaseth, doth breathe, and, the sound thereof, thou hearest; but knowest now, whence it cometh and whither it goeth: thus, is everyone who hath been born of the spirit.*

Wind and Spirit: Strongs #4151 from #4154; wind, spirit

Blows: Greek-English Lexicon #4154 1) to breathe, to blow 1a) of the wind

Chooses: Greek-English Lexicon #2309 1) to will, have in mind, intend to be resolved or determined, to purpose 2) to desire, to wish 3) to love to like to do a thing, be fond of doing 4) to take delight in, have pleasure

Sound: Strongs #5456 probably akin to #5316 through the idea of disclosure; Greek-English Lexicon 1) a sound, a tone 1a) of inanimate things, as musical instruments 2) a voice 2a) of the sound of uttered words 3) speech 3a) of a language, tongue

John 20:19-22: (NRSV) ¹⁹*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, Peace be with you.* ²⁰*After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.* ²¹*Jesus said to them again, Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.* ²²*When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.*