

SEPTEMBER
2014



UNDERSTANDING THE NEW BIRTH

One dark night, many years ago, an educated, religious Jewish leader met secretly with Jesus. Like many people throughout the ages, Nicodemus was searching for more than dead religious duty and tradition. He was drawn to Jesus and desired something meaningful and life giving. Nicodemus was baffled by Jesus's statement, *"Unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."* (John 3:3). He is not the only person who has been puzzled by the term "born again". Even many in the church today don't fully understand what Jesus meant by this phrase. Only by looking to Scripture can we understand the meaning of the new birth experience. Once we fully understand the new birth, we can enjoy the benefits of it in our own lives.

WHAT IS IT TO BE "BORN AGAIN"?

When Jesus told Nicodemus about the necessity to be born again, he responded in his confusion, *"What do you mean?"* exclaimed Nicodemus. *"How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"* Jesus replied, *"I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is*

going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."(John 3:4-8) Like so many people today, Nicodemus was thinking about a natural experience instead of a spiritual one!

In order to understand what the new birth is, let's first look at what it's not. Being born again is not church membership, confirmation, receiving sacraments, observing religious duties, an intellectual understanding of Christianity, church attendance, prayer, Bible reading, moral living, doing good deeds, or living clean. The new birth cannot be earned or achieved by any of these practices, although some of these practices may become part of a born-again person's lifestyle!

A SPIRITUAL, NOT NATURAL EXPERIENCE

The born again experience is a supernatural spiritual experience that occurs in the spirit, or heart of a person. Although one might experience some emotional, mental, and even physiological changes when being born again, it is solely a spiritual experience. Jesus said to Nicodemus *"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (John 3:3 KJV) In a brief and simplified way, we can describe being born again as receiving new life through faith in Christ. This occurs when a person believes Jesus is the Son of God and that He is the way of salvation. A supernatural

Our **vision** is to be a voice to our generation imparting truth, instilling hope, and motivating positive change.

Our **objective** is to present God's Word in a practical, relevant way through:

Life-changing teaching.

Inspiring guest interviews.

Distributing newsletters.

Providing resource materials.

Hosting workshops & seminars in First Nations Communities.

You can help by becoming a monthly partner. As a partner, you can:

Apply your faith in prayer.

Make financial contributions.

Lend your time and skills to help in program production.

Promote the program by telling others about it.

Encourage us with your letters and praise reports.

transformation occurs inside a person when they receive eternal life into their heart. Throughout his ministry, Jesus revealed that he was God's own son and he was the way of salvation, not only for the Jewish nation, but for the entire world. He also taught that receiving salvation happens on this side of life not afterwards. Paul refers to the born again experience as "becoming a new creation." (2 Corinthians 5:17) Some other scriptural terms for the new birth include: **being saved, receiving salvation, having new life, eternal life, and everlasting life.** The apostle Peter said, *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."* (1 Peter 1:23 KJV) The scripture teaches that we are born again by receiving God's word,

believing Jesus is the Savior of the world.

The Bible has much to say about this topic. Take some time to study the following Scriptures to learn what we have received through the New Birth.

RESULTS OF BEING BORN AGAIN

- you have passed from death to life **(John 5:24)**
- you are no longer living under the power of sin **(Romans 6:14)**
- you are no longer spiritually dead **(Ephesians 2:1-5)**
- you are now a new creation **(2 Corinthians 5:17)**
- you have power to change your life **(Colossians 1:3)**

by Pastor Roma Fisher

PARTNER COMMENTS

"The newsletter I received in the spring was such a blessing. Your message and God's Word was so fitting to all my problems and lifted me to higher ground. It was just what I needed!" --Edith, Oshawa

"We attended a service in Regina where Pastor Roma was ministering. At the end of the service I received prayer for healing for a painful arthritic condition. The presence of Jesus took away the pain and I was able to have liberty in movement! Praise the Lord and thank you Pastor Roma and Anita for obeying the call of God for the body of Christ! - Paula, Ontario

NEWS & EVENTS

**Spirit Alive Partner Weekend
October 17 - 19, Thunder Bay**

Join us for these exciting events:
Friday Night Annual Partnership Banquet
Workshops, Live Taping, Special Services (Sat & Sun)
With First Nations Ministry Guests from across Canada
See spiritalive.org or call 807-344-1956 for details.



Faith Life Bible School

Now accepting applications for the 2014-2015 school year. For more information or to request an application, please call 807-344-1956 or visit www.flbs.ca

Join Pastor Roma Sunday Mornings Live at 10:30 am (EST)!

- Find link on Faith City Church Facebook page
- Go to www.faithcitychurch.ca



Upcoming Programs

- September 7 - What Manner of Man Are You Pt. 1
- September 14 - What Manner of Man Are You Pt. 2

BROADCAST SCHEDULE

GLOBAL Thunder Bay
Sunday 9:30 am EST

CKWS/CHEX TV
Sunday 5:00 am EST

HOPE TV
Bell 591
Rogers 174
Shaw/MTS 11
Sunday 3:00 pm EST

View all programs on www.spiritalive.org

