

"The Lord's Encouragement to ALL Believers"

Part 11

1 Peter 1:1-2:10

Introduction: Last week in our study we stopped in the middle of 1 Peter 1:23 and it was in this verse that Peter was speaking about the new birth of the believer. Tonight, we are going to look closer at the new birth.

I. Love for One Another

Notice 1 Peter 1:22

Here Peter reminds his readers that they had purified their souls by believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They were not the same people they used to be.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹ And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

They now had within them the Spirit of God and therefore they were to love one another fervently and this means to love one another with a sincere love. Peter understood how important close fellowship was all the time and especially in the face of persecution. They needed one another. They were hated and despised by the world but in the body of Christ they were to find and ever abiding, sincere, unconditional love for each other.

Application:

This is what we are to have within the church today. We are to understand that we are all one body, and we are to love one another. There will be times in the world when we are hated and despised but that should never be the case within the church. This should be the place we long be at because it should be here that we are loved with a sincere love even when we are not perfect.

II. Born Again

Notice 1 Peter 1:23

Here we see that Peter reminds his readers that they are born again.

This makes me ask a question, "What does it mean to be born again?" To understand this statement, we must understand our first birth. When we were born physically, we were born spiritually dead.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

³ *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

When we were born physically, we were born spiritually dead which means we were born separated from God. Death in the Bible means separation. We, therefore, had no spiritual life and in our flesh, we lived in sin and we lived to satisfy the flesh. We were spiritually dead sinners with no connection with God at all.

Isaiah 59:2-3

² *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

³ *For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.*

Paul makes our past condition very clear in Romans 3.

Romans 3:10-18

¹⁰ *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

¹¹ *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

¹² *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

¹³ Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

¹⁴ Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

¹⁵ Their feet are swift to shed blood:

¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways:

¹⁷ And the way of peace have they not known:

¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes.

So, since we are spiritually dead, we need a new birth to give us life.

John 3:1-8

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

² The 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.

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

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.

⁸ 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**.

We must be born of the Spirit in order to have eternal life. This takes place when we place our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Let us look at John 3:5 again.

John 3:5

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.*

Jesus tells Nicodemus that every person must be born of WATER and the SPIRIT. What does the WATER refer to? Let me first of all tell you what it does not refer to. It does not refer to baptism as many teach. Baptism is important but it is not required for salvation.

Let me show you several verses that will answer our question.

Titus 3:5

⁵ *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

When we were saved there was a washing that took place. This is the washing by the WATER. Now let us see what the WATER is.

Ephesians 5:25-26

²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

²⁶ *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.*

We were washed by the WORD of God.

Notice 1 Peter 1:23 again.

We were born again by the Word of God. So, when we were saved, we were made alive by the Spirit which is the new birth, and we were washed by the Word of God. I want to take this a little further.

Apart from the Word of God no one can be saved.

Romans 10:13-17

¹³ *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

¹⁴ *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Let us get back to the new birth/born again. Let us continue to look at the Words of our Lord as He spoke to Nicodemus.

John 3:15-17

15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

It is the Holy Spirit who brings about the new birth in the believer. He gives us eternal life. He gives life to the soul that was dead. That is being BORN AGAIN. It is a literal birth that takes place the moment we place our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Now, I want to raise a question that came into my mind as I was typing this lesson.

“Were the Old Testament saints born again as we are today?”

They were born again but they were not given the Holy Spirit.

They were saved by faith, but they were not permanently indwelt by the Spirit as we are today. It is the Holy Spirit who gives life and the Holy Spirit was active in the Old Testament.

Genesis 6:3

3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

The Spirit was active and caused believers to be born again but they were not given the Spirit as we are.

John 6:63

⁶³ It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

The Holy Spirit was not given until Pentecost.

John 7:37-39

³⁷ *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.*

³⁸ *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*

³⁹ *(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

Now let us consider again what Jesus said in John 3.

John 3:3

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

The Kingdom was promised to the Nation of Israel and to see the Kingdom they had to be born again.

Now let us get back to 1 Peter.

Notice 1 Peter 1:23 again.

Peter is contrasting here our physical birth and our spiritual birth. With our physical birth we were born of corruptible seed, that is the seed of our early fathers. But when we are born again, we are born of incorruptible Seed, by the Word of God. The Word of God is the means through which we are born again. The incorruptible Seed is of God. When we are born again, we are born of God. He is now our Father, and we are His children. Our earthly father gave us a sin nature through conception, but our Heavenly Father has given us His nature through the new birth.

Conclusion:

Since we are not who we were once were and now, we are born again into the family of God, we should live holy lives to glorify our Father while we are here. We now have a Divine nature, and it is the Divine nature that should lead and control us.