

THE FIVE GREATEST WORDS

John 3:1-7

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: "...*Ye Must Be Born Again...*" are the five greatest words a person can hear or read. "YE" is a message for the person hearing or reading these words. Any person who is without the Lord Jesus Christ needs to see and hear this message of five words. "MUST" is the word that indicates that time is short, it is imperative, it is vital, it is necessary that "Ye must be born again" otherwise you will die under the wrath of God. "BE" is something that you/one cannot do, only God can do it for you. One cannot spiritually birth him/herself any more than he/she did when born into the world as a human. "BORN" is not just any ordinary gift, it is the gift of eternal life. Your only hope is that God, through the Holy Spirit will give you eternal life. God must breathe into you the breath of life. "AGAIN" is a mystery of grace, not understandable, not explainable, but is the work of God beyond understanding. It means "You must be born from above" and it means "You must be born a second time." Your parents gave you your first birth into their image. The second birth is of God and one is born into HIS image. Your first birth was in slavery to sin but the second birth is freedom from the domination of sin.

I. WHY MUST A PERSON BE BORN AGAIN?

1. One cannot understand spiritual things unless he/she has been born again. (v3)
 - Cannot see the spiritual nature of God's law. (*Matthew 5:21, 27, 38, 43, 48*)
 - Cannot see the spiritual nature of sin. (*Matthew 15:17-19*)
 - Cannot see the glory of God in redemption. (*Romans 3:24-26*)
 - Cannot see the spiritual condition of one's own heart. (*Jeremiah 17:9*)
 - Cannot see the spiritual nature of salvation, being a work of the heart. (*Ezekiel 36:25-27*)
 - Cannot see the spiritual nature of obedience to God. (*1 Samuel 16:7; Romans 14:17*)
 - Cannot see the spiritual nature of faith and worship. (*Philippians 3:3*)
 - Cannot see the true character of God. (*Exodus 33:18-34:7*)
 - Cannot see the glory of God in the Lord Jesus Christ. (*2 Corinthians 4:6*)
 - His being a part of the God-head.
 - His being born as a human being.
 - His substitutionary atonement.
 - His ascension and exaltation.
 - Cannot see the gospel of the grace of God. (*2 Corinthians 5:18-21*)
2. One cannot enter into the Kingdom of God unless he/she has been born again. (v5)
 - One can join a church, be baptized, teach a class, serve as a deacon, even preach and never have been born again.
 - One will never be a part of the church and family of God.
 - One will never have eternal life.
 - One will never enter into the true worship and fellowship of God's Children.
 - One will never be admitted into the presence of God's glory and the wonders of heaven.
 - Only new "creatures" will enter into Heaven. Only holy feet will walk the streets of the Holy City. Only heaven-born citizens will possess the mansions of heaven.
 - All flesh is corrupt, sinful and condemned and must die.
 - Unless one is born of the Holy Spirit of God, he/she will die in his/her sins and be damned.

II. JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS THE NEW BIRTH?

1. To be born again is to be raised from the dead. (*Ephesians 1:1-4*)
2. To be born again is to be made a partaker of the divine nature. (*2 Peter 1:4*)
3. To be born again is to be made a new creature in the Lord Jesus Christ. (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)
 - It is to have a new heart.
 - It is to have a new will.
 - It is to have a new mind.
 - It is to have a new nature.

III. HOW IS ONE BORN AGAIN BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD ?

1. Only by the divine sovereign power and grace of God can give dead sinners life.
 - Logic and reason cannot give eternal life.
 - Eloquence and personality cannot give eternal life.
 - Emotional feelings cannot give eternal life.
2. Being born again (regeneration) is totally the work of God and the Holy Spirit. (v8)
 - The Holy Spirit comes to the lost sinner, convicts and leads to belief in the Lord Jesus Christ and thus creates new life in that sinner, all by the grace of God. (*Galatians 4:4-7*)
3. The Holy Spirit uses the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to cause people to be born again.
 - **"...It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe..."**
4. In preaching the gospel, it is calling upon dead sinners to arise. (*Ephesians 5:14*)
 - Though one is dead, hearing the gospel can give a new birth and one can live eternally.

IV. WHEN DOES BEING BORN AGAIN HAPPEN?

1. When one knows the Lord Jesus Christ, he/she is born again. (*John 17:3*)
2. When one believes on the Lord Jesus Christ he/she is born again. (*John 3:15, 36*)
3. When one has the Lord Jesus Christ, he/she is born again. (*1 John 5:11-13*)

CONCLUSION:

1. **"...YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!..."**
2. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and one is born again and given eternal life.
 - **"...seek and ye shall find".. "knock and it shall be opened unto you..." "...ask and it shall be given you..." "look, and ye shall l live..."**