

THE FIVE GREATEST WORDS EVER SPOKEN

John 3:7

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Of all the words that have been spoken by man, of all the words spoken even by Jesus, there are none as important as five words Jesus said to Nicodemus. "...*Ye must be born again...*" Sadly the religious world has made the new birth Jesus was speaking of no more than merely making a decision, walking down some church aisle, saying a prayer and maybe filing out a card. "YOU" is everybody. "MUST" leaves no alternative. "BE" is not something a person can do, it is something that God does for a person. "BORN" is a gift of eternal life. As God created the world, God must create a new life in a person's soul. "AGAIN" is be born a second time. As one is born of sinful parents, in their image, the second birth is of incorruptible seed. It is to be be born spiritually. Being born again is something only God can do for a person and it is done God's way.

I. WHY MUST ONE BE BORN AGAIN?

1. Unless one is born again, he/she cannot understand anything spiritual. (John 3:3)
 - Nobody can understand spiritual things who has not been born again even though one may have much education and understanding of the things of the world.
 - Nobody is born with the capacity for spiritual knowledge as the heart is hard, cold, unbending and unaffected by spiritual things. (Romans 8:5)
 - 1 Corinthians 2:14
 - One cannot see the spiritual nature of God's law.
 - One cannot see the spiritual nature of sin.
 - One cannot see the glory of God in redemption.
 - One cannot see the spiritual condition of his/her own heart.
 - One cannot see the spiritual nature of salvation.
 - One cannot see the spiritual nature of obedience to God..
 - One cannot see the spiritual nature of faith and worship.
 - One cannot see the true character of God.
 - One cannot see the glory of God in Christ.
 - His suretyship
 - His incarnation
 - His substitutionary atonement
 - His ascension and exaltation
 - One cannot see the gospel of the grace of God.
2. Unless one is born again, he/she can never enter into the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)
 - One can reform his/her life without the new birth, be baptized without the new birth, join a church, be zealous in religion, teach, be a deacon, sadly even preach with much success, but unless one has been born again, he/she will never enter the kingdom of God.
 - 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 worship and fellowship of God's saints.
 - One will never be admitted into the presence of God's glory in the bliss of heaven.
 - Revelation 20:6; 21:27
 - Only NEW creatures will enter the new Jerusalem. Only HOLY people will walk into the Holy City. Only HEAVEN BORN citizens will possess the wonders of heaven.

3. One must be born again because he/she is by nature fallen, sinful and a depraved child of human flesh. (John 3:6)
 - In the eyes of God all flesh is defiled, corrupt, sinful, condemned and must die.
 - Unless one is born of the Spirit, he/she will die in his/her sins and be justly damned.
 - The "flesh" is one's natural, sinful self.

II. WHAT IS THE NEW BIRTH?

1. To be born again is to be raised from the dead. (Ephesians 2:1-5)
2. To be born again is to be made a partaker of the divine nature. (2 Peter 1:4)
 - A divine nature is created in a person's soul, so that he/she is born in the image of God.
3. To be born again is to have Christ formed in that person. (Galatians 4:19)
 - To have eternal life is to have the Lord Jesus Christ living within.
4. To be born again is to have a good seed implanted within by grace. (1 John 3:9-10)
 - By nature, one springs from bad seed - Adam, but in regeneration one is sprung from the good Seed, the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. To be born again is to be made a new creature in Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - A new heart to know and love God.
 - A new will to bow to the rule of Christ.
 - A new mind to understand the things of God.
 - A new spiritual nature to know, enjoy and live upon spiritual things.
 - New eyes, eyes of faith with which to see Christ.
 - New ears with which to hear the voice of Christ.
 - New hands, hands of faith with which to lay hold of Christ and do His will.
 - New feet, with which to run to Christ and walk with Him in the newness of life.
 - The great difference between the law and the gospel is that the law demands everything but gives nothing. The gospel demands nothing, but gives everything.

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

1. The divine, sovereign power and grace is required to give dead sinners life:
 - Moral reason cannot give people spiritual life.
 - Eloquence and logic cannot give people spiritual life.
 - Emotional stirrings cannot give people life.
 - A mere exercise of one's will cannot give him/her life.
2. Regeneration is the sovereign, irresistible work of God, the Holy Spirit. (John 3:8)
 - At the time appointed by, the Holy Spirit comes to the sinner who has chosen by grace and redeemed in Christ at Calvary and creates spiritual life in that sinner by His sovereign, irresistible, effectual grace.
3. The instrument by which the Holy Spirit causes people to be born again is the gospel of Christ. (John 3:12-16)
 - It pleased God that by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

4. Preaching the gospel is calling dead people to arise. (Ephesians 5:14)
- John 5:25; Revelation 20:6

IV. WHEN IS A PERSON BORN AGAIN?

1. When a person knows Christ, he/she is born again. (John 17:3)
2. When a person believes on Christ, he/she is born again. (John 3:15, 36; Isaiah 45:22)
3. When one has Christ, he/she is born again. (1 John 5:10-13)
- If one gets Christ in his/her life, he/she has life, but to miss Christ is to miss life.

CONCLUSION:

1. "Ye must be born again!"
2. Seek Christ and He shall be found.
3. Believe on Christ and one shall have everlasting life.
- "Seek, and ye shall find."
- "Knock, and it shall be opened unto you."
- "Ask, and it shall be given you."
- Look, and you shall life."
4. There is no other way into heaven except by being born again.