



MC Chapel Fellowship
Sunday, March 14, 2021

Today's message:

Equipped for Life and Ministry Series

Part Two: Born Again and Eternal Security

Lesson One: Born of the Flesh, or of the Spirit

Text: John 3:1-8

Introduction: Born of the Flesh, or of the Spirit

- **The Biblical New Testament Phrase, “Born Again” – What does it Really Mean?**
- **The Billy Graham Crusades and Others Made this Phrase into “Instant Salvation”.**
- **Multitudes of Christians believed they Received Eternal Life – Never to Lose It!**
- **1st Lesson of Part Two “Born Again and Eternal Security” Clarifies Christ’s Words**
 - Many Christian think they are a “shoe in” for Eternal Security – Never to Lose their Salvation**
 - I Remember Jimmy Carty words “I am a Born Again” Christian.**
- **Main Course Objectives:**
 - Understand what it means to born of the Holy Spirit.**
 - To Learn How to “Work-Out” one’s Salvation in God’s Grace – Avoiding Legalism.**
 - What it Means to Grow Up into Salvation and Obtain Eternal Security**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **1 Peter 2:2-5**

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, 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 3:1-8**

Born of the Flesh, or of the Spirit

- **Americanized Gospel: Instant Coffee, Microwaved Dinner = Instant Salvation.**
- **Free “Gift” of Salvation – Misunderstanding of Prerequisites.**
 - Getting Born Again is not Like Buying Fire Insurance**
 - It is Not Like Getting a “Get Out of Jail” Card – a Free Pass Out of Hell.**
- **Becoming Born Again of the Holy Spirit is Not A Religious Act**
- **God Sees Our Motives of Heart, Our Inner Intentions that are Often Disguised.**
- **Apostle Paul wrote:** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
- **The Apostle wrote:** For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. **2 Corinthians 7:10**
- **Old Covenant – the Law was Given to Show what God’s Standards are for Eternal Life**
 - Old Covenant Believer Sought God by Faith, But Most Became Religious Hypocrites**
 - Those who Confessed True Issues of Heart, and Wanted God Came to Know God.**
 - These People, God Works With – Yet they never attained the Full Promises of God.**
 - Like John the Baptist – Always Suppresses and Pummeling the Sin Nature.**

Born of the Flesh, or of the Spirit

- **When one is born again:**

Unexplainable Love, Joy, Peace, and a Sense of Belonging to God and Eternity.

- **The New Covenant: Replaces the Old through Christ in Grace and Truth.**

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **John 1:16-17**

- **The Ten Commandments –versus- The Beatitudes:**

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself a carved image.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house, wife, or anything of your neighbor.

Born of the Flesh, or of the Spirit

- **Jesus Brings the Impossible into Reality – Faith in God’s Plan, Not the Commands**

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. **Matthew 5:3-12**

- **The Law was Given to lead us to Futility and Have Christ Transform Us.**

- **The Law Does Not Pass Away, but Rather is in Force to Show Us our Sinfulness.**

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code. **Romans 7:4-6**

Born of the Flesh, or of the Spirit

- **Over the Decades of Evangelism – Many Became Born Again But...**

But Few became Sanctified and Grew Up into Salvation and Eternal Security.

- **Many Fell Into one of Three Categories described in the Parable of the Sower:**

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. **Luke 8:11-15**

- **Many Good-Hearted New Believers Struggled and Fell from Grace.**

Why? Misinformed, Received Only Part of the Gospel of Christ.

Not Instructed on Working Out their Salvation in the Discipline of the Lord.

Wounded, Defiled, Doubleminded –

Not Instructed in God's Cleansing and Recovery Work.

Born of the Flesh, or of the Spirit

- **Many become Religious because they were born of the Flesh – Man’s Will**
The Holy Spirit did not Find a Genuine “Want To” in the Heart.
Many Went to Church and Did not Receive Sound Doctrine.
Many Did not See their True “Wretchedness” and Become Broken in Godly Grief.
Like Job and The Apostle Paul all must give up his/her self-righteousness
Many Were “Doubleminded” - Wounded and Defiled from the Past.
Many were Told all that Past Stuff is “Under the Blood” – to be Forgotten
Taught to Suppress the Red Flag Warnings of Bad Thoughts, ill Feelings etc.
- **That is Why in the Last Days Many will Fall Away.**
- **True Repentance means Turing away from our sinful ways and calling on God.**

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. **2 Timothy 2:22-26**

- **Next Lesson: “Working Out and Growing Up” into Salvation and Eternal Security.**