

“Ye Must Be Born Again”
John 3:1-10

Introduction: Not only was Benjamin Franklin a great statesman and inventor, but he was also a great correspondent and received letters from famous people from all over the world. One day he received what could well have been the most important letter ever to come to his desk. It was from the well-known British preacher George Whitefield.

“I find that you grow more and more famous in the learned world,” Whitefield wrote. “As you have made such progress in investigating the mysteries of electricity, I now humbly urge you to give diligent heed to the mystery of the new birth. It is a most important and interesting study and, when mastered, will richly repay you for your pains.”

1. The New Birth Is Essential
 - a. You better not be confused about it.
 - b. You do not manufacture Christians any more than you manufacture babies! The only way to enter God’s family is through the new birth.
2. The New Birth Is Evident
 - a. A spiritual birth produces a spiritual life.
 - b. You will look at things differently if you are born again.
 - c. No change, no birth!
 - d. I John 2:29- *“If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.”*
 - e. If they fight, they are not born of God.
 - f. I Samuel 15:23- *“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”*
 - g. I John 3:9- *“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”*
 - h. I John 4:7- *“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.”*
 - i. I John 5:4- *“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”*
3. The New Birth Is Everlasting
 - a. You cannot reverse it!

Body: Let us look at John 3 and examine the doctrine of the new birth.

- I. The Person vs. 1-2
 - A. Nicodemus heard about Jesus in John 2:23-25
 - B. Nicodemus was:
 1. A Pharisee Luke 18:11-12
 2. A Teacher John 3:1, 10
 3. He was rich, respected, religious, and a ruler.
 - C. Sincerity is not salvation

- II. The Proposition v. 3
- A. There are two persons, two births, and two kingdoms (physical and spiritual)
 - B. I Corinthians 15:44- *“It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”*
 - C. Jesus got to the point: *“Ye must...”*
 - D. Again implies a previous birth
 - E. Comparison:
 1. Born
 - a. Of corruptible seed
 - b. Of flesh
 - c. Physically
 2. Born Again
 - a. Of incorruptible seed
 - b. Of God John 1:12-13- *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”*
 - c. Spiritually
- III. The Problem v. 4
- A. Just because you believe does not mean that you are saved.
 - B. James 2:19- *“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”*
 - C. He was spiritually blind
 - D. I Corinthians 2:14- *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*
- IV. The Preparation vs. 5-8 (There must be a new birth)
- A. There are two parents for a physical birth; there are two parents for a spiritual birth.
 1. The Spirit of God
 - a. John 3:5- *“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.”*
 - b. John 3:8- *“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.”*
 2. The Word of God
 - a. I Peter 1:23- *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”*
 - B. The Spirit of God takes the Word of God and imparts the life of God.
- V. The Perplexity v. 9
- A. He could not believe that he was not fit for heaven

- B. Mark 10:21- *“Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.”*

VI. The Provision vs. 14-18

- A. A new baby has no past
B. God must give this new birth

Conclusion: Why should we be born again?

1. To see the kingdom of God John 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.”*
2. To enter the kingdom of God John 3:5- *“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.”*
3. You do not get into the kingdom of God different ways, but only by being born again.
4. Did it work? John 19:38-42

What is left now?

1. Conviction: The Awareness of Our Sins
 - a. John 6:44- *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”*
 - b. John 16:7-11- *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”*
2. Contrition: The Agony Over Our Sins
 - a. Psalms 51:17- *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”*
 - b. Psalms 34:18- *“The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”*
3. Confession: The Acknowledging of Our Sins
 - a. Romans 10:9-10- *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*
4. Conversion: The Abandoning of Our Sins
 - a. Matthew 18:3- *“And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*

Will you accept Jesus?

1. Luke 18:22- *“Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.”*
2. Acts 16:30- *“And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”*
3. Acts 26:28- *“Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”*