

## LESSON 1

# THE NEW BIRTH

### Memorize:

*“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.”*

**(John 3:3)**

## INTRODUCTION

The Lord said in **Luke 13:24**, *Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.* We don't just automatically make heaven our home when we die. God has a path that leads to life. Before we even start this journey, we must qualify by being born again. This supernatural experience consists of repentance (death to our will/a change of mind), birth of water (baptism) and birth of Spirit (Holy Ghost). This lesson is structured to give you a basic knowledge of the new birth, for without it, you cannot be part of His kingdom.

## **YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!**

1. Can flesh and blood enter into the kingdom of God? **(1 Corinthians 15:50)**

\_\_\_\_\_ That is why we must be born a second time.

2. The new birth consists of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
**(John 3:5)**
3. Before we can experience “new life” and be spiritually fruitful, we must be like a kernel of wheat and \_\_\_\_\_. **(John 12:24)**

## **REPENTANCE (Death)**

The word *repentance* comes from the Greek word *metanoia* which means “a change of mind.” It means to experience a change in your heart and mind *to turn from sin and turn toward God*. It is regret that needs to be accompanied by a decision.

1. If we turn from our sins, we will surely \_\_\_\_\_, and will not \_\_\_\_\_.  
**(Ezekiel 18:21)**
2. What happens to those who do not repent? **(Luke 13:5)**  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. God is “...not willing that \_\_\_\_\_, but that all should \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.” **(2 Peter 3:9)**
4. We do not arrive at the place of repentance on our own, but it is the \_\_\_\_\_  
Of God that leads us there. **(Romans 2:4)**
5. We must \_\_\_\_\_ our ways, \_\_\_\_\_ the voice of God to turn away from God’s wrath toward those that disobey Him. **(Jeremiah 26:13)**
6. **2 Corinthians 7:9-10** tells us that there are two kinds of sorrow. What are they?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
7. **Proverbs 28:13** says that “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper...” What must one do with his sins to find mercy? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
8. There was a time when ignorance of God’s ways was an excuse, but now God \_\_\_\_\_ all men to \_\_\_\_\_. **(Acts 17:30)**
9. **Acts 3:19** says if we repent and be converted, our sins will be \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Peter answered those who asked, “What shall we do?” by telling them they need to \_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_ in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and they shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **(Acts 2:37-38)**

## **BORN OF WATER (Burial)**

The word “baptism” comes from the Greek word “bapto” which means to immerse or dip. The New Testament was originally written in the Greek language and used the word with its original, literal meaning. This word has lost its true meaning of immersion because the method of sprinkling was substituted for convenience.

However, let's review the scriptures where water baptism was carried out and see how it was done.

1. Does water baptism save us? (1 Peter 3:20-21) \_\_\_\_\_

*"He that believeth and is \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_..."*  
(Mark 16:16)

2. Whose counsel did the Pharisees and lawyers reject by not being baptized?

(Luke 7:29-30) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Water baptism is for the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins. (Acts 2:38)

4. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ that washes away our sins.

(Revelation 1:5, Matthew 26:28)

The blood is applied through faith and our sins are \_\_\_\_\_ away when we are baptized. (Acts 22:16) *It is our faith in Jesus Christ and our obedience to the Word of God that validates our water baptism.*

5. Our sins are washed away when we are baptized in the Name of

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:38; 8:15-17; 10:43; 19:4-5; 22:16; 1  
Corinthians 6:9-11)

Not once did any of the apostles baptize using the titles, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but in each account of water baptism, they obeyed **Matthew 28:19** by baptizing new Christians in the Name of Jesus Christ.

### **HISTORICAL EVIDENCE THAT THE FORMULA OF BAPTISM IN "JESUS NAME" HAD BEEN CHANGED**

**Britannica Encyclopedia**, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, Volume 3, pages 365-366 – Baptism was changed from the **Name of Jesus** to words Father, Son, and Holy Ghost in the second century.

**Canney Encyclopedia of Religion**, page 53 – The early church baptized in the **Name of the Lord Jesus** until the second century.

**Hastings Encyclopedia of Religion**, Volume 2 – Christian baptism was administered using the words, “**in the Name of Jesus**” page 377. Baptism was always in the **Name of Jesus** until time of Justin Martyr, page 389.

**Catholic Encyclopedia**, Volume 2, page 263 – Here the authors acknowledged that the baptismal formula was changed by their church.

**Schaff – Herzog Religious Encyclopedia**, Volume 1, page 453 – The New Testament knows only the baptism in the **Name of Jesus**.

**Hastings Dictionary of Bible**, page 88 – It must be acknowledged that the three-fold name of **Matthew 28:19** does not appear to have been used by the primitive church, but rather in the **Name of Jesus, Jesus Christ** or **Lord Jesus**.

*First century Christians **INVOKED** or **CALLED** the Name of Jesus over believers in water baptism, If, as some say, “the Name of Jesus means the authority of Jesus, “ then so much more should the **NAME** rather than titles, be called over an individual in water baptism. (See **Matthew 28:18, Acts 4:12 and Colossians 2:9**)*

## HOW WERE SOULS BAPTIZED ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES?

THOSE BAPTIZED IN JESUS' NAME	THOSE THAT WERE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST
<b>JEWS</b> – “...Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ...” <b>Acts 2:38</b>	
<b>SAMARITANS</b> - “...they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” <b>Acts 8:16</b>	
<b>GENTILES</b> – “And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.” <b>Acts 10:48</b>	
<b>EPHESIANS</b> – “When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” <b>Acts 19:5</b>	

6. Is there any other Name whereby we must be saved? (**Acts 4:10-12**) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Why was John baptizing in the location of Aenon? **(John 3:23)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Jesus, when baptized by John, was fully immersed in the water. **Matthew 3:16** says, "Jesus, when He was baptized \_\_\_\_\_ straightway

\_\_\_\_\_...."

9. After Philip preached to the eunuch, he asked Philip to baptize him since they were conveniently near some water. **Acts 8:38-39** says that "...they went

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip..."

10. **Colossians 2:12** says we are \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ in baptism.

### **BORN OF THE SPIRIT (*Resurrection*)**

People first experienced the birth of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost **(Acts 2:1-4)**.

Peter explained that this was a fulfillment of prophecy that God would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh **(Acts 2:16-17)**.

1. Why is it necessary to be born of the water and of the Spirit? **(John 3:1-8)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Can you be a part of the Body of Christ without the indwelling presence of the Holy Ghost? **(Romans 8:9-11)** \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the "promise" that would be given by God? **(Acts 1:4-5)**

\_\_\_\_\_

4. When they received the "promise," they all \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ **(Acts 2:4)**

5. Did Mary, the mother of Jesus speak in tongues when she received the Holy Ghost? **(Acts 1:14; 2:1-4, 33)** \_\_\_\_\_

Did Paul, the apostle who wrote the letter to the Corinthian church speak in tongues?

**(1 Corinthians 1:1; 14:18, 39)** \_\_\_\_\_

Did the Ephesians speak in tongues? (**Acts 19:6**) \_\_\_\_\_

6. How did Peter know that Cornelius and his household received the Holy Ghost while he was yet preaching to them? (**Acts 10:45-46**)

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7. Is the “promise” still for us today? (**Acts 2:39**) \_\_\_\_\_

8. What do we receive with the Holy Ghost? (**Acts 1:8**)

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This power enables us to be a witness – which is the ability to live the Christians life, and to proclaim the Word of God.

## WHY ARE SOME NOT SAVED?

In **Matthew 7:14**, we read that the only souls that entered into heaven were the ones that found the way. This lets us know that each of us is responsible for finding out what God’s Word says about how we can enter into His kingdom.

1. Many do not know or understand the gospel. This is an indication that they are \_\_\_\_\_. (**2 Corinthians 4:3**)
2. Who has blinded the minds of them that believe not? (**2 Corinthians 4:4**)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What will happen to those that do not receive the love of the truth because they had pleasure in unrighteousness? (**2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Another reason why some have not obeyed the gospel is that they have not \_\_\_\_\_ it. (**Romans 10:14-17**)

## CAN YOU LOSE YOUR SALVATION?

**Philippians 2:12** tells us that we must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. We are warned not to take our salvation for granted. It is a gift, but at the same time, it is possible to forfeit or forsake the gift He has given us.

1. Was Paul concerned that even he could lose out with God? (**1 Corinthians 10:12**)  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. **Hebrews 3:13-14** tells us that we can be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Under what conditions can we become partakers of Christ?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. According to **Hebrews 6:4-8**, is it possible for those who were once enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift to fall away? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. John says that if we \_\_\_\_\_ in God's Word, then we are His disciples. Only if we keep His Word will we not see \_\_\_\_\_.  
**(John 8:31, 51)**
  
5. If we do not keep God's Word and go back to obvious acts of our sinful nature such as sexual immorality, drunkenness and reveling, can we still be accepted into the Kingdom of God? \_\_\_\_\_ **(Galatians 5:19-21)**
  
6. "Having damnation, because they have \_\_\_\_\_ their first faith (pledge)."  
**(1 Timothy 5:12)**
  
7. **2 Chronicles 15:2** and **Deuteronomy 30:17-18** tells us that if we forsake the Lord, he will \_\_\_\_\_ us.
  
8. If we continue sinning, is there any more sacrifice for our sins? (**Hebrews 10:26**)  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
9. Matthew 10:22 tells us that "...he that endureth (stands) to the end shall be \_\_\_\_\_."

## SUMMARY

When we repent, are baptized in Jesus' Name for the remission of sins and filled with the Holy Ghost we identify with Christ's death, burial and resurrection as illustrated in the following verses taken from the New International Version:

“...We died to sin, how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized in His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (*Romans 6:2-4, NIV*)

## NOTES:

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS