

"REBIRTH"

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REBIRTH IS THE PREREQUISITE TO OUR JOURNEY TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

John 3:1-3 *There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you." Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."* (NLT)

WHY IS REBIRTH NECESSARY?

1. Our Natural Birth Disqualifies Us for Kingdom Citizenship.

Psalms 51:5 *For I was born a sinner – yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.* (NLT)

a. Our heredity makes us imperfect.

Rom. 5:19 *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners.* (NKJV)

Heb. 7:5 *The law of Moses could not make anything perfect. But now a better hope has been given to us, and with this hope we can come near to God.* (NCV)

b. Our birth nature is totally unrighteous.

Rom. 7:18 *And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't.* (NLT)

Rom. 7:5 *For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.* (NIV)

2. Rebirth Gives Us a New Spirit Life for Our Kingdom Journey.

Ezek. 36:26-27 *"And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations."* (NLT)

2 Cor. 5:17 *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!* (NLT)

Rom. 7:6 *But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.* (NLT)

How Our New Spirit Life Qualifies Us for Kingdom Life

a. New Purity - We have the desire to worship.

Ezek. 36:25 *"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols."* (NLT)

b. New Identity - We have the desire to trust God's plan.

Eph. 2:10 *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.* (NLT)

c. New Inclination - We have the desire to grow.

Jer. 31:33 *"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts."* (NIV)

d. New Power - We have the desire to obey.

Phil. 2:13 *For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.* (NLT)

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE REBIRTHING AGENT.

John 3:4-7 *"What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'"* (NLT)

Titus 3:5 *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.* (NASB)

WE RECEIVE SPIRITUAL REBIRTH BY BELIEVING IN JESUS.

John 3:14-18 *"And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son.* (NLT)