

## DISCUSSION OF JOHN 3:1-6

In the First Verse, we read about a man who's name is Nicodemus. This Verse tells us that this man was very religious. How do we know that? Because this Verse says that he was a Pharisee. We are also told, that he was a Ruler of the Jews, which would mean, that he was one of the members of the Sanhedrin Court.

Verse two tells us that Nicodemus did not want others to see him while he was talking to Jesus. We also learn from Verse Two, that he and the ones who sat in court with him, knew that he was a Teacher come from God because, he addressed Him as Rabbi. Then he tells Jesus how they knew that He was a Teacher come from God, because, they knew that no one could do the miracles that He did, except God be with Him.

These First Two Verses tells us a lot about this man called Nicodemus. So he now knows, that he is very interested in what this Teacher from God can tell him about Salvation, and becoming a member of His Kingdom. Question? How do we know this? Because

Verse Three begins by saying, Jesus answered him, and said, So now we know for sure that his question had something to do with the New Birth. Jesus answers him by saying, verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be Born Again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. In Verse Four Nicodemus responds to Jesus' answer, by asking another question. His question was. How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time in his mother's womb and be born? Now lets notice some things that we need to discuss.

Jesus said, that a man, must be Born Again. Question? What kind of birth was Jesus referring to, fleshly or Spiritual? Another Question? What kind of birth did Nicodemus think that Jesus was referring to? He thought that Jesus, was referring to the fleshly birth because he goes back to his fleshly birth. Nicodemus also believes that Jesus is still talking about the fleshly birth when He says, that we must be Born Again, because, of what He says. he responds to what Jesus has just said, by saying, How can a man be Born Again when he is old? Can he enter again, into his mother's womb and be born?

We must follow Nicodemus in his thinking, so we can see, why he is saying these things. his mind is totally wrapped up in fleshly thoughts. Jesus mind, is totally on Spiritual things. Question? How do we know this? Because of what He says to Nicodemus in Verse Six. That which is born of flesh is flesh. Another Question?

What does Jesus expect for Nicodemus to understand from this remark? I believe He wants him to understand, that flesh can only beget flesh, and flesh cannot beget anything that is Spiritual.

Now let us look again at what Jesus tells Nicodemus in Verse five. He says, except a man be born of the Water and The Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom. Now let's pay close attention to how Nicodemus, is working this statement out in his mind, what Jesus has just said. He then comes to this conclusion. That the water that Jesus uses in this statement, is referring to the fleshly birth of man. Now let's notice why that is not a True Conclusion, of the statement, that Jesus made.

Question? How do We know that? Because Jesus has just told him, that flesh can only beget flesh. That means, the Water that is used in this statement, must beget a Spiritual Birth. Now let's take a closer look at the last part of Verse Six, where Jesus says, that which is Born of Spirit, is Spirit. Question? What does that mean? I believe that means, The Spirit begets that which is Spiritual. I do not believe that Jesus is talking about Two births when He says, you must be Born of the Water and The Spirit, or you cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. I believe that He is only talking about One birth and that is The Spiritual Birth.

I believe our first birth is when, we are born into this world, which would be flesh begetting flesh as Jesus

says in John 3:6. Now lets discuss the first birth a little further. I believe that Jesus means, that a fleshly conception between male and female cannot produce anything but flesh. Which means flesh plus flesh, can only produce a fleshly body and that only, which means that flesh cannot produce a Spiritual Body. This is what Jesus is saying when He said, flesh begets only flesh.

Now lets notice something else that Jesus says, that which is Born of Spirit is Spirit. What does Jesus mean by that statement? To me, that means, when a Spiritual conception takes place, only a Spiritual Birth can take place. I believe that Jesus knew that He was teaching a person who had absolutely no understanding of Spiritual things. For example, Nicodemus knew that by his first birth, which was a fleshly birth that He was born into the fleshly kingdom of God.

We also read in Acts 1:6, where Israelites believed that when Jesus ascended back into Heaven that Jesus at that time, would restore the kingdom back to Israel, which they had lost because of their unfaithfulness. What Nicodemus could not understand was, that Jesus was talking to him about a Spiritual Kingdom and not a fleshly kingdom. Doesn't that shed some light on why Jesus would tell him, that he must be Born Again or he could not see the Spiritual Kingdom of God? And in Verse Five that he must be born of the Water and The Spirit if he wanted to go to

Heaven. Doesn't this really help us to see why Jesus would say to Nicodemus, that he could not enter into God's Spiritual Kingdom?

Question? Why couldn't he? Because he was born only of the flesh. Lets read I Cor. 15:50 where Paul says, Now this I say brethren, flesh and blood Cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. So the answer is very simple, a fleshly birth can only get one into a fleshly kingdom. So we must be Born of the Water ( Baptism ) and of The Spirit in order, to get into God's Spiritual Kingdom. This is not my words, but the words of Jesus. This would mean, that the word Water in Verse Five, could not mean a fleshly birth, because if it did, a fleshly birth, would also have to produce A Spiritual Birth at the same time. We just read in Verse Six, when Jesus said, that cannot be because flesh can only produce flesh. We must not miss the word And in this Verse Five. where Jesus said, Born of the Water And The Spirit. The word in the New Worlds Dictionary means --- To join elements of equal grammatical value --- which would make the two words, Water and Spirit joined together for the purpose of accomplishing the same thing. Now this should really help us to better understand what Jesus is saying to Nicodemus.

Now, lets go back and say a few words about the Eternal Life that every child is born with. We have already read where God says that flesh and blood Cannot inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. So what did

God choose to do so little children could go to Heaven if they died before they reached the Age of Accountability? A little child does not have the intelect to make a choice on where they will spent Eternity. So God in his Wisdom and Power sealed Their destination for them, by placing a Quality of His Eternal Life within them, and this Quality of Spiritual Life remains in them until they reach the Age of Accountability.

Question? How can they know when they reach this Age? Please read Rom. 2:14-15, also read Rom. 7:7-11. I believe that these Verses will tell us that the Age of Accountability is when a child reaches the Age, when they know, that they are not only breaking their parents law, but they are also breaking God's Law. At that moment, they are separated from the Eternal Life that God gave them. And also at that moment, they become Spiritually Dead, which means that they are then separated from God. So Jesus is telling Nicodemus, you must be Born Again, of the Water and The Spirit or you Cannot enter into the Spiritual Kingdom of God.

So the first birth, is not the Birth, that Jesus is talking about here when He uses the word Water. Lets remember that Jesus is talking to a man who is an Israelite, who was born into God's chosen fleshly family. He had no choice in his being born into God's fleshly family. Jesus is giving to Nicodemus a life saving message, when He tells him that you must be

Born Again, of the Water ( Baptism ) and of The Spirit which both takes place in Water Baptism. And If you do not,do this, you Cannot get into God's Spiritual Kingdom.

We must remember that Jesus statement to Nicodemus, that a man must be Born of the Water and of The Spirit, has absolutely nothing to do with a fleshly birth, but it has all to do, with the Spiritual Birth in being Born Again.

Now here is something for us to think about. How ridiculous it would have sounded to Nicodemus if Jesus had been referring to the fleshly birth when He said to him, Nicodemus, the first thing that you need to do, to enter into God's Spiritual kingdom is for you to be born into this world, and there he stood before Jesus already a middle age adult. Don't you imagine that Nicodemus would have shook his head, and walked away wondering if this Man had lost His mind. And how could he have addressed Him as Rabbi? Mary and I were having a Bible Study many years ago with a man and his wife. They were in their middle thirties, and we were studying these Verses. He told us that he believed, that the Water in this Verse, meant the water that breaks in the fleshly birth of a baby. I then asked him, what if Jesus was to tell you, before you can be Born of The Holy Spirit, you must first be born into the world. Would that make any sense to you?

Later on that night we took him and his wife and Baptized Them. While we were driving back home he said to me. When you made that remark, it made me feel so dumb, that I wanted to hit you. But that is what it took, to prove to me that Water Baptism, was essential to enter into the Spiritual Kingdom of God.

Now lets discuss this statement some more that Jesus made here in Verse Three and Verse Five, where He says, Except a man be Born of Water and and The Holy Spirit, he Cannot enter into The Kingdom of God. Jesus cannot make it any Plainer than this in these Two Verses. That man Cannot go to Heaven without complete obedience to what He has just said. There is not any If's or Maybe So's, in this word Cannot. Please notice, we have a very serious problem that has developed in the religious world today over this statement made by Jesus.

Question? What is it? There are at least Two completely different views on these words of Jesus. We will list them as View #1 and View # 2. View #1, believes that the word Water that Jesus uses in Verse Five means fleshly birth. View # 2, believes that the Water that Jesus uses here in Verse Five means Water Baptism. These are Two, completely different views. This should be of the utmost importance to everyone who desires to go to Heaven, because, Jesus Cannot Lie, and in essence, He is saying, that one of these Views cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Now after thinking about this a little more



seriously, shouldn't we place this study on the top of our priority list? Everyone who reads Rom. 3:4, where it says, Let God be True and Every man a Liar, will spend hours and hours studying these Two Verses. Please don't take my view or the view of someone else, until you have made your own study of this word " Water," that Jesus uses in Verse Five. The word Water in Verse Five, in the Greek means, Water as in a Rain, literal or figurative Water.

Now this is every word that is said about the definition of this word Water. The reason I am saying this is , I want everyone who reads this lesson to know that I have not gone through several meanings of this word Water and just picked out, the meaning of this word, to help prove what I believe. Now lets listen to this statement very closly. If this word Water means, the water which breaks just before the birth of a baby, then the Greek definition of this word, would have said so.

We read in Rom. 14:12, where it says, So then everyone of us, shall give account, of himself, unto God. So there is no problem, after reading this Verse, who it is, that is going to stand before God and give account of ourselves. It is me, and it is you. I feel like there may be some who may after reading these Verses, may say in their hearts. I can never understand this word " Water " and just lay this lesson down and just give up. Please keep reading, there are plenty of Scriptures that I will be sharing

with you in this lesson that will build up your confidence, in your being able to understand for yourself, what the word " Water " means here in this study.

One of the most important Verses in the Bible that I know of for encouraging us, to the building up of our confidence is found in Isaiah 35:8. There is a highway through life, and it is called the way of Holiness, that the wayfaring man, need not to err therein. The wayfaring man, means the least educated person among us, can understand the Words of God, especially the Plan of Salvation. I don't know about you, but this Verse really helps me.

Here are some Guide Lines that will really help Us in studying the Bible and learning what is Truth.

#1. We must read the Bible with an Open MInd. What does that mean? That means that we do not study the Bible, just to prove our beliefs. We study the Bible to get our beliefs. If we don't have this kind of Attitude when we study the Bible, we will never learn anymore than we know right now.

#2. It always helps to notice the Context in which Verses are written.

#3. Never take Verses out of the Context in which they are written. If we do this, We will not have the Truth.

#4. Always be sure, that All other Scriptures on the same Subject that we are studying, Harmonize with each other.

#5. Buy ourselves a Word Study Bible Concordance and use it regularly. There are more resources than these, but these will help you.

I would like to share a Verse here, that we all should know in our hearts and use if for a motivation to study. It is found in John 8:32. You shall Know the Truth and the Truth, will Set You Free.

Now lets continue our discussion on the Two Views of the word " Water " in John 3:5. Now again, let's remember what those Two Views are. View #1 --- water, represents fleshly birth. View #2 --- Water represents Baptism. This means that View #1 believes that Water Baptism is Not Essential to Salvation. This is one of the most controversial Verses in the Bible.

Now lets open our Bibles to the Third Chapter of Matthew and see what John the Baptist has to say on this subject. John the Baptist was sent before Jesus to prepare the way for Him. He was called The Baptist because his mission was to teach the people about the Coming of Jesus and then baptize them for the remission of their sins. We can read this in Mark 1:4. John did Baptize in the wilderness, and preached the

Baptism of repentance, for the remission of sins. Luke 3:3, says the same thing. Now here is something to put into our memory bank. The Holy Spirit tells us, that John's Baptism was for the forgiveness of sins.

Lets notice who it was that went out to John to be baptized of him. We can read it in Matt 3:5. Then went out to him, Jerusalem, all of Judah and all the Region round about Jordan, and were Baptized of him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Notice what John the Baptist says to the ones that he has just Baptized in water. He says, I have just Baptized you in Water unto repentance, but He that cometh after me, is Mightier than I, whose shoes, I am not worthy to bear. He shall Baptize you with The Holy Spirit, and with Fire.

Lets turn Our attention now to how John uses the word " Water." Does he use it as those who believe in View #1, or does he use it as those who believe in View #2? The answer is very easy. He did not believe that the word " Water " meant fleshly birth, because He showed what he believed " Water " meant. So he Baptized them in Water.

Question? Does John tell them after he has Baptized them, that they now have The Holy Spirit dwelling in them? No,. he does not. Another Question? What does he tell them about The Holy Spirit? We have just read it. He tells them, that Jesus Will Baptize them with The Holy Spirit. Notice these words----Will

Baptize them. This means, at a later time, Jesus will Baptize them with the Holy Spirit. Why didn't these Jews, receive the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit, when they were Baptized? We can read the answer in John 7:39. That The Holy Spirit was not yet given, Because Jesus had not yet been Glorified. Please notice here in this Verse how Important it is to Harmonize All Scripture, or we do not have The Truth. There are many people who believe and teach, that those who were Baptized by John the Baptist did receive The Holy Spirit. We have just read a Verse which plainly says that they did not, because that was impossible. The Holy Spirit had not even been given at that time. Now who are we going to believe, God's Word, or man's word?

This is exactly what Rom. 3:4 is referring to when it says, Let God Be True and every man a liar. Question? Has God's Word, said anything yet, that is difficult to understand? Another Question? Who is it, thus far, that has made it much more difficult for us to understand? No doubt about it, it is man. Now, I believe there would be no better time in this lesson to prove what John the Baptist has just said about Jesus, that in the near future, He Will Baptize them with The Holy Spirit.

Lets turn our Bibles to Acts 2:37-38, and lets read together. We have here in this Second Chapter of

Acts a great multitude of people including every nation under Heaven, ( Verse Five.) This is the first gospel sermon preached to man after Jesus had ascended back to his Father in Heaven. The Apostle Peter is the main speaker. We must first read what Jesus commissioned him to preach. In Matt 16:18-19, Jesus told Peter, ( now listen closely to what Jesus said.) I will give unto you the Keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, and what so ever that thou shalt Bind on Earth shall be Bound in Heaven, and what so ever thou shalt Loose on Earth shall be Loosed in Heaven.

Question? What does that mean? To me it means, that whatever The Holy Spirit tells Peter, to tell the people to do, to be saved, those words will be Bound on Earth which means, man cannot change its meaning and please God in so doing. And it also means that, No One from Heaven will ever come and change the words of Peter, about the entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven. I would like to show us how the Apostle Paul puts his amen on this saying. In Gal. 1:8 he says, ( please note the name that he uses.) He says, that if an Angel come from Heaven teaches anything other than what I have preached unto you, let him be accursed. Just notice how easy God makes his Word for us to understand as we continue this lesson?

Now lets notice, what Peter"s sermon is all about. He tells them in Verse 36, for them to know assuredly,

that they had Crucified Jesus, their Lord and Saviour. And at that time, they were pricked in their hearts, and they cried out to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, men and brethern, what shall we do? In Verse 38 Peter said, Repent and be Baptized, everyone of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the Remission of your Sins, and you will receive the Gift of The Holy Spirit.

Lets remember, what John the Baptist said back in Matt. 3:11 to those who had just been Baptized in Water. that in the near future, Jesus would Baptize them with The Holy Spirit, This is the fulfillment of that promise. We must remember what Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:5, except a man be Born of the Water and of The Spirit he cannot, enter into the Kingdom of God.

Now lets check out which view Peter believes to be true, View #1 or View #2. We have just read, which view he believed to be true. It was View #2. Question? What was Peter's purpose in giving these people, these instructions in Verse 38? He did this, so they would know how to enter, into the Kingdom of God, and not only for them, but for all people til the end of time. We can easily see, that Peter knew that Water Baptism was essential to Salvation. He also knew that they had to be Baptized in the Name of Jesus, so they could receive the Gift of The Holy Spirit. We must note something else here. Peter did not mention, that these people must experience the fleshly birth, before they could be Born of The Spirit.

Lets again notice, all of our questions that Peter answers for us in the First Gospel Sermon that was preached after Jesus arose from the grave and ascended back to his Heavenly Father.

#1. That Peter's instructions on how to enter into the Kingdom of God would never be changed on Earth, by any man, and still get men into the Kingdom of God, and there would not be Anyone from Heaven, who would ever change Peter's instructions on how to enter into the Kingdom of God.

#2. We learned that those who obeyed Peter's preaching were believers, Verse 37.

#3. Peter told them that they must repent, Verse 38.

#4. Peter also told them, that they had to be Baptized for the remission of their sins. Verse 38.

#5. He also tells us exactly when we receive the Indwelling of The Holy spirit and that was in Water Baptism.

Remember what I said a few pages back in this lesson, that God's Word was not hard to understand, and we used Isaiah 35:8 to prove that statement was true. Question? Do we believe that every word that Peter teaches these people are true? If not, then we must be able, by scriptures to show where Peter is a



liar. This would be totally impossible because, All Scriptures are inspired by God, 2 Tim. 3:16. We also read in Titus 1;2 that God cannot lie. In Heb. 6:18 we read, where it is impossible for God to lie.

So there is no doubt, that every word that Peter teaches in these Verses is Absolutely Infallable, and we have just read where these words will last until the End of Time.

Question? What has happened? Because in our day and time, the Plan of Salvation, does not even resemble the Plan, that the Apostle gave here in these Verses that we have just read.

Now lets compare the Plan of Salvation that is taught by most religious churches today, so it will be very easy for us to see how man has changed God's Plan of Salvation.

View #2. God's Plan of Salvation. we must Believe that Jesus is the Son of God and our Saviour. Acts 2:36

View #1. man's plan of salvation. we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God and our Saviour.

View #2. God's Plan of Salvation. we must Repent of our Sins. Acts. 2:38

View #1. mans plan of salvation. we must repent of our sins.

This looks good so far, now, look what happens.

View #2. God's Plan of Salvation. Baptism is for the Remission of Sins. Acts. 2:38

View #1. man's plan of salvation. baptism is not for the remission of sins.

View #2. God's Plan of Salvation. Remission of Sins comes after Water Baptism. Acts. 2:38

View #1. man's plan of salvation. remission of sins comes when man believes, and asks Jesus to come into his heart.

View #2. God's Plan of Salvation. we Receive the Indwelling of The Holy Spirit after Water Baptism. Acts 2:38

View #1. man's plan of salvation. we receive The Holy Spirit before Water Baptism.

View #2. God's Plan of Salvation, God adds the Obedient Believers to His Church. Acts 2:47

View #1. man's plan of salvation. man adds the obedient believers to their church by their votes.

View #2. God's Plan for the Obedient Believers for their Giving is, to Give as I have Prospered you. 1 Cor. 16:2

View #1. man's plan of giving for the obedient believers is, to give ten percent. This was given under the Old Testament Law.

View #2. In God's Plan of Salvation, God does not say, that if man will say, a so called Sinners Prayer, that he will be saved.

View #1. man's plan of salvation, if man will say the so called sinners prayer, that he will be saved.

View #2. God's Plan of Salvation, also includes the Name that He wants His Church to Wear. we can read it in Rom. 16:16. we also can read it in 1 Cor. 10:13. we are to

Give All the Glory to Christ, in the Name that we Wear on our Temples.

View #1. man's plan of salvation. It makes no difference which name you wear. you just wear the name of your choice.

There are hundreds of changes, that have been made by man during the last several hundred years. But there are some who still preach and teach the same Plan of Salvation that the Apostle Peter taught on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:36-47, the year was A. D. 33 at Jerusalem.

Question? If God's Plan of Salvation saved people then, it will still save people today. Another Question? Will we continue to let the teaching of man, over-rule, the teaching of The Holy Spirit? Each one of us will stand before God on Judgment Day, and give an account unto God.

"Question? Why do we choose, to follow man's plan

of salvation, instead of God's Plan of Salvation? we must not forget, that on the Judgment Day, God becomes a Righteous Judge. That means, that God's mercy is in effect now, and not on the Judgment Day. On Judgment Day, we will receive exactly what our choices have been

Why take a chance on the Salvation of our Souls, when we don't have to. It is just as easy to Obey the Truth of God's Word, as it is to obey the untruth of man's word.

Now lets continue our study on John 3:5 where Jesus says, that man must be Born of the Water and of The Spirit, or we cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

Question? Do we have any Scriptures in the Bible that tells us that water has anything to do with our Salvation? If it did, wouldn't that be enough to prove that the word " Water " does not refer to a fleshly birth? It sure would. Lets read 1 Pet. 3:21. The like figure where unto even Baptism doeth also now save us. Not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God. Please notice what The Holy Spirit says that Baptism accomplishes in our life. First, lets notice what The Holy Spirit says that Baptism does not accomplish. It is not to wash the filth from our fleshly body. But it does answer a good conscience toward God.

Question? How does Baptism in Water do that? Lets read Rom. 7:9, and see what Paul says about his life

after he reached the Age of Accountability. he writes, for I was alive, without the law once, but when the commandment come, sin revived and he died. was Paul talking about physical or Spiritual death? he was talking about Spiritual death. How do we know that? because, he wrote many books in the Bible after that. In Rom. 7:14 we read where Paul said, after he sinned and died Spiritually, that he then became carnal and was sold under sin. He then writes in Verse 24, that he became a wretched man because, of his inability to please God, which means that his conscience always carried the guilt of his sins.

Now what kind of Plan had God already set in order, for those who reach the Age of Accountability and then sins, and are separated from God? Isaiah 59:2 says, that sin will separate us from God. So we can read the Plan that God sets forth by His Son in John 3:3-5, where we read, that man must be Born of the Water, and of The Spirit. Now how does this relate to the Verse that we just read in 1 Pet. 3;21? When we are Buried in the Waters of Baptism, we then come in contact with the Blood of Jesus and it Washes our Sins away, and then when we come up out of the Watery Grave of Baptism, we then stand before God without a guilty conscience, because, we have been forgiven of all of our sins.

Question? How do we know, that our sins have been Washed Away by Water Baptism? Because the Bible tells us so. In Acts 2:38 the Apostle Peter tells us so.

In Acts 22:16 the Apostle Paul tells us the exact same thing. There are so many ridiculous teachings in the religious world today. One of the most popular teachings is, believe and ask Jesus to come into our hearts. Now lets see if this is a true saying. In Rev. 3:20 we can read the Words of Jesus himself. Please listen to what He says, and see if it sounds like the words of man. Jesus said, Behold I stand at the door of your heart and knock: If anyone, will open the door, I will come in and sup with them, and them with me.

Did we notice how man has completely changed the Love of God that He has for sinners, from standing before the door of their hearts and knocking, wanting to come in, to begging Jesus to come in. does this sound like the same Jesus, who's love, for the sinner was so great, that He volunteers to Be Crucified on that terrible Cross and Paid a Debt for man, that man could not pay for himself. And now we hear man begging Jesus to come into their heart. Their understanding of the Love and the Mercy that Jesus has manifested for them, has slipped right through their minds without the slightest detection.

Now lets notice another very popular religious doctrine that is in the world today and that is, faith only will save you. Please listen carefully. These two words Faith Only cannot be found but one place in the entire Bible, and that is James 2:24. And it says the opposite to what man says. It reads. we are not Saved by Faith Only. Doesn't that sound a little

ridiculous. It sure does to me. I have already mentioned this statement once before in this lesson. But when it comes to ridiculous, I believe it is worth mentioning again. And that is ( man must be physically born into this world before he can go to Heaven.) Yet, there are millions of people who believe that Jesus told Nicodemus that, in John 3:5.

Now lets spend a little time studying John 3:3, where Jesus says to Nicodemus, Except a man be Born Again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. We read in Col. 2:12 where the Apostle Paul tells the Church of Colosse that they have been Buried with Christ in Baptism, where in also you are Risen with Him, through the Faith of the Operation of God, who has Raised Him from the dead. Now let's read Verse 13. And you being dead in your sins, and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having Forgiven you of All of your Trespasses.

Question? What do we learn from these two Verses about being Born Again? The first thing that we learn is, being Immersed in Water Baptism with Jesus definitely has something to do with it. Another thing that we learn is, while we are Under the Water God Cuts off the fleshly body of sin, and Raises men from the dead. These Verses also shows us, that before man is Immersed in Water, he is Spiritually Dead ( first death ). Verse 12 says, man has been Raised from the Dead, when he was Raised Up out of the

Water. This is the Spiritual Birth that Jesus was telling Nicodemus about. It also really nails down The Truth when we look up this word Quickened in the Greek word study. It means To Be Made Alive Again. Doesn't that really help us to understand what it means to be Born Again.

Now lets open our Bibles to Romans 6:1-8. In Verse 3, As many as are Baptized into Jesus Christ were Baptized, into his Death. Verse 4, Therefore we are Buried with Christ by Baptism into Death, that like as Christ was Raised up from the Dead by the Glory of The Father, even so we also should walk in a New Life. What have we learned from these Verses? we have learned that Baptism is a Burial, in Water, not a Sprinkling, or a Pouring, of water on one's head. we also learn that our old man was Crucified with Christ, in Water Baptism, in Verses 5-6. Verse 4, also tells us, So now we are Raised up from the dead that we should Walk in a New Life. All of these Verses harmonize exactly with the Verses that we read in Col. 2:12-13.

Now, if we summarize what we have been taught by Paul, here is what we will come up with. When man Believes, and Repents of his sins, and is Immersed in Water Baptism, his sins are Washed Away, by the Blood of Jesus, and while a person is under the Water, Jesus Baptizes him with The Holy Spirit just like John the Baptist said that Jesus would do in Matt. 3:11. I can just hear some people saying, that cannot



be right because, Eph. 4:4 says There is only One Baptism. Please remember what we have just read in Rom. 6:1-8 and in Col. 2:12-13. The Apostle Paul in these Verses has No Problem in showing us, that this All Happens in One Baptism. It has to be that way because, John the Baptist said That was the way it was to be. If this is Not True, John did not know what he was talking about in Matt. 3:11 when he told the multitude of people, that he had just Baptized in Water, that Someday in the Near Future that Jesus Would Baptize them with The Holy Spirit and Fire. Then I can hear others say, that John was talking about, the Baptism of The Holy Spirit, that Jesus promised to the Apostles.

Please listen carefully. The promise that John the Baptist made to this multitude of people who he had just Baptized in Water was a Completely different Baptism, than the one that Jesus Promised to the 12 Apostles. I believe that it is Very Important that we read word for word what John the Baptist said to these people. Listen carefully. I have indeed Baptized you with Water, unto Repentance, but He that cometh after me is Mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear. He Shall Baptize you, with The Holy Spirit.

Question? Who did John say, that Jesus was going to Baptize with The Holy Spirit? We can read it straight from John's mouth in Matt. 3:5-6. Then went out to him Jerusalem and All Judea and All the Regions

around about Jordan, and were Baptized by John. Now lets notice Verse 11. I indeed Baptize you with Water. Question? Now, who did John say that Jesus was going to Baptize in Water? Was it the 12 Apostles or was it those he had just Baptized in Water? John could not have made it Any Plainer than he did. It was not the Apostles. When John preached that sermon, Jesus had not, even chosen the Twelve Apostles. Now lets notice again what John the Baptist said. I indeed Baptize you with Water, but Jesus would Baptize them, with The Holy Spirit and with Fire.

Now lets notice what Jesus told Nicodemus. He said you must be Born Again, ( John 3:3 ) and then He says, Except you be Born of the Water and of The Holy Spirit, you cannot enter The Kingdom of God. I sure hope we are harmonizing what Jesus is saying, and what John is saying. I believe that what John the Baptist is saying, must be fulfilled by Jesus or no one could enter into The Kingdom of God. Why do I believe that? Because John said it was going to happen. There was, no doubt in his words. If I don't believe his words in this matter, how could I believe anything else he had to say?

John said that he was a man sent from God, that is enough for me to believe what he says. When he said Jesus would Baptize those, that he had just Baptized in Water, that Jesus would Baptize them with The Holy Spirit, I believe that is exactly what God told him

to say. Why try to explain it away, when it harmonizes perfectly with all other Scriptures on this subject? I see no need, to explain the differences in Jesus Promise to the 12 Apostles about what He says to them in Acts 1:5 about Baptizing them with The Holy Spirit. They were, for Two Completely Different Purposes.

Jesus' Baptism with The Holy Spirit to all obedient believers was to give them the Indwelling of The Holy Spirit in their lives, that they may have the Spiritual Power, so we could live victoriously over the devil in this life. The Baptism that Jesus Baptized the 12 Apostles with, gave them Power to preach the Gospel without making any mistakes and be able to speak All Languages, and to perform All Kinds of Miracles, that the obedient believer could not do, unless One of the Apostles had Laid their Hands upon them. Please read Acts 8:18-19. I believe the bible teaches that this in the Only Way that an obedient believer can receive one of the Miraculous Spiritual Gifts.

In closing, I am not trying to bind my view, on this subject, on anyone. All that I am asking for you to do, is to read this lesson with an open mind.

IN CHRISTIAN LOVE ;

Herb Trout





