

## ***SPIRITUAL BIRTH***

1. Since the fall, every human being is born born physically alive but spiritually dead (Ge 2:17; Eph 2:1, 5). We all need spiritual birth in order to restore our relationship with God and fulfil our original purpose as human beings. We need newness of life (Ro 6:4; Eph 2:5).
2. God sent his uniquely-begotten Son, Jesus, to save us and give us eternal, spiritual life (Jn 3:16). Jesus' blood atonement is what makes our spiritual birth possible (Jn 3:14-15). Without Jesus' substitutionally death and bodily resurrection, we could not be born again (Jn 3:3).
3. It is through hearing and believing the gospel message about Jesus that we are born again (1 Pe 1:23-25). Faith in Jesus is the only requirement for spiritual birth (Jn 1:12). Everyone who believes in Jesus is immediately born of God and becomes a child of God, without exception (Jn 1:12-13). We are to preach the gospel so that more and more people might be born again (1 Pe 1:23-25).
4. Conversely, one cannot be born of God apart from believing in Jesus. If one does not believe in Jesus, one is neither born of God nor a child of God. One may believe in the spiritual realm and practice rituals that make one feel "spiritual." But until one believes in Jesus, one is not spiritual at all in any positive sense. Until we are born again, we have no spiritual capacity to relate to God (1 Co 2:14).
5. Spiritual birth is different from natural birth (Jn 1:13; 3:4, 6). Natural birth is visible, but spiritual birth is invisible, like the wind (Jn 3:8). We have no say in our natural birth, but we do have a say in our spiritual birth. We get to decide whether to believe or not believe in God's only Son (Jn 3:18, 36).
6. Spiritual birth happens at the moment of faith in Jesus through two invisible baptisms (Jn 3:5, 8).
  - a. Invisible water baptism (Jn 3:5; Ac 19:4; 1 Co 6:11; Eph 5:26; Ti 3:5; 1 Pe 3:21).
    - (1) Visible water baptism publicly signifies invisible water baptism has already occurred. See *Water Baptism*.
  - b. Spirit baptism (Jn 1:33). See *Spirit Baptism*.
7. We cannot see (Jn 3:3) nor enter (Jn 3:5) the Messianic kingdom and beyond without spiritual birth. We may participate in the New covenant only if we, like Isaac, are born of the free woman through promise (Ga 4:24-28). The Jerusalem above must be our mother (Ga 4:26). See *New Covenant*.
8. As believers, we cannot be spiritually unborn. We are born of imperishable seed (1 Pe 1:23), and God's seed abides in us (1 Jn 3:9). Everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world (1 Jn 5:4). Jesus protects him, and Satan does not touch him (1 Jn 5:18). See *Eternal Security*.

9. Practicing righteousness that God approves of is one indication we have been born of God (1 Jn 2:29). See *Assurance of Salvation*.
  
10. To fulfil Jesus' command to love one another (Jn 13:34; 15:12; 1 Jn 3:11), we must be born of God in phase one and come to know God in phase two (1 Jn 4:7).