

REBORN FROM ABOVE

Men's Life Week 1: October 19, 2021

Intro: Take a test of your spiritual lifestyle: patience and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23: *But the fruit of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

What does it mean to be 'born again'? John 3:3-7

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again (from above), you cannot see the Kingdom of God." 4 "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be reborn?" 5 Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. 6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. 7 So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again (from above).'"

1. Not a matter of being religious.
2. Required to even see the Kingdom of God.
3. Born of both water and the Holy Spirit.

Reiterated in John 1:10-13

10 He came into the very world He created, but the world didn't recognize Him. 11 He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. 12 But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

Incarnational life! Spirit giving birth to life in us.

1. Jesus came in the flesh to show us true life from God.
2. The Holy Spirit comes into our lives to give us that true life.
3. Back to the life God intended for humanity to experience in creation:
 - a. Justified:
 - b. Sanctified:
 - c. Glorified:

When does this spiritual rebirth happen? Acts 2:36-38

36 "So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!" 37 Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" 38 Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

1. 2 things we do to be born from above:
2. 2 things we receive when we do this:

Questions:

- List ways you often have been tempted to try to get into heaven or become better spiritually by your own means without Jesus (and maybe still try to do so).
- What are signs that a church is more a 'religious' institution and not a place of following the Holy Spirit and what are signs that a church is following the Holy Spirit?
- How do we truly have an experience when we repent of our sins and turn to God? (Describe what that experience was like for you if you can.)
- What more does the gift of the Holy Spirit do for us beside forgiveness of our sins?
(A preview of what is to come the next Tuesday mornings – share what you have experienced of life in the Holy Spirit.)