



CHRISTIANITY Q&A "What Does 'Born Again' Mean?" John 3:1-21

No. 5071

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Ever since Jimmy Carter announced that he was running for President and that he had been **"born again," the term has been in vogue. It has also been misused, abused, and generally depreciated.** The question we need to ask is, **"Is the new birth an important aspect of spiritual experience?"**

I. The New Birth Is Absolutely Essential.

- A. You must be born again. v. 7
- B. Without it the Kingdom of God is unattainable. v. 5
- C. Without it the Kingdom of God is not understandable. v. 3
- D. Verily, verily!

II. The New Birth Is of God not Man.

- A. Water and the Spirit. v. 5
 - 1. Water = cleansing?
 - 2. Water = procreation?
 - 3. Water = baptism?
- B. Flesh produces flesh; spirit produces spirit. v. 6
 - 1. Nicodemus, the Pharisee.
 - 2. Nicodemus, the wistful. v. 4
- C. Earthly produces earthly; heavenly heavenly. vv. 12, 13
 - 1. Nicodemus the Teacher.
 - 2. Jesus came from heaven.

III. The New Birth Is Mysterious and Wonderful. v. 8

- A. When does it actually take place?
 - 1. Nicodemus the enquirer. vv. 1, 2
 - 2. Nicodemus the tentative. 7:50, 51
 - 3. Nicodemus the disciple. 19:39
- B. How does it work?
 - 1. The inner working of the Spirit.
 - a. Revealing the condition of the heart.
 - b. Revealing the wonder of the cross. v. 14
 - c. Revealing the magnitude of the issues. v. 16
 - 2. The inner response of the heart.
 - a. Believing in Him. v. 16
 - b. Submitting to the Kingdom. vv. 3, 5

IV. The New Birth Is Life-Changing. See Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23