

To walk with God

We must be

Born again

Contents compiled by

Robert C May

Copyright © 2015

cometotheriver@optusnet.com.au

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”

John 3:5-7

We must be born again

The problem started soon after God created all things. Adam was made with a divine nature as a son of the mighty God who is light, because when God breathed His Spirit into Adam, He breathed His life into Adam. But then Adam disobeyed God and sinned against God and died in his spirit according to his divine nature. He was left spiritually poor, as a man made just of flesh, (Gen 6:3) with a sinful human nature walking in darkness without light. Furthermore, when Adam sinned he handed over his birthright and dominion over creation to Satan who is now the prince of darkness who rules the world. 1 John 5:19

As a result of his sin Adam could not remain in close fellowship with God because there can be no fellowship of light with darkness. Thus it is written, *‘Therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.’* Gen 3:23-24

Since that time, everyone born on earth is born with Adams sinful fleshly nature and carries his spiritual DNA with a propensity or inclination towards sin. *“Men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.”* (John 3:19) Therefore just as God is light, man is born into darkness and does not have the light of life. *‘For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.’*

Rom 3:23

‘Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.’ (Romans 5:12) *‘So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men.’*

Rom 5:18

Because of the sinful nature we inherit from Adam, we are not capable of saving ourselves from sin; we are not able to change darkness into light or to produce light from our darkness. Consequently we are helplessly lost in the darkness of a sinful world, unless God intervenes on our behalf.

God provides the sacrificial lamb

However, because of the mercy of God, God promised a Saviour who would bless the whole world. (Genesis 12:3) This Saviour was to come as a newborn baby. (Genesis 3:15) He would come from the seed of a woman, because he would be born of God by the Spirit of God and not from the seed of Adam. The baby was to be a boy. (Isa 7:14) This baby's name was going to be *Immanuel* which means God with us, for He was to be the promised Saviour who would come from God, (Isa 7:14 Matt 1:23) and be God's Son in the world.

Psalm 2:7

God loved the world so much that He wanted to give us every assurance that whoever repents and believes in His Son could know for certain that they have eternal life. Our Father did not want us to be without hope of salvation, never knowing if we were saved until we came to the last judgement.

So when the time was just right, Jesus came from God into the world of darkness as the light and the life of men. (John 1:1-4) *‘For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the*

ungodly, In that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.’ (Rom 5:6, 8) He came so that all who believe in Him might walk in the light as children of God. (John 1:12-13) “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.” (John 3:17) Jesus came to die for our sins so that we could live. ‘For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.’
Rom 6:23

In order for a sacrifice for sin to be effective, it must be perfect and without sin in order to justify the guilty. So God sent His Son to be born as a man in the flesh from the seed of God, and not from Adams seed. He did not sin and remained the perfect offering for sin. *‘For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.’ (Heb 4:15) ‘For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.’*
Heb 10:14

Christ was the first born of many who believe

Those who obediently follow Jesus Christ are to be cleansed of their sin by His death on the cross.

This prepares them so they can be born again with the divine life of God by the Spirit with God's DNA; and at the same time they are baptised by the Spirit who will indwell them as the power of God so they can be holy as He is holy. As a consequence of the Spirit's presence dwelling in them, they can live as the children of God in His Kingdom, for they will be the brethren of Christ. They will be known as those who are in Christ.

All that God is according to His divine nature has been birthed into us who believe so we may be just like Christ. We have the divine life of God in us, in a similar way that Jesus had the life of God in Him. If we want to know what we should look like so we can grow, we need to look no further than to Jesus Christ Himself. As He is we will be.

Those who are in Christ are brothers and sisters with Him through their spiritual birth. The word Paul uses for brothers is a verb which has the basic meaning 'from the same womb.' Therefore Christians are those who are destined to be exalted to heavenly glory with Christ because they are like Him, from the same seed as offspring of God.

Rom 8:29

Believers live by God's Spirit

Therefore we who are in Christ are not just flesh, left to remain as we were before we knew Him. We have undergone a supernatural transformation; we are now literally spirit children of light born of God, with the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us. As the Spirit of God raised Christ from the dead, He also raises us from the dead (that is the dead flesh) giving life to our mortal bodies through His Spirit who now dwells in us.

Consequently we are to live no longer according to the flesh of our former life; we are to live according to the Spirit of Christ who dwells in us, who is now our life. *'You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.'* Rom 8:9

The Scripture says *'Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.'* The old life we had is no longer our reason for living.

To those who are born again of His Spirit, He gives His personal power so we can live our new

life without sin controlling us. Therefore, because we have received His divine nature and His divine power, our spiritual life must have priority over our fleshly human nature by the powerful working of God in us.

The Spirit's quality of life is the natural result of those who live in Christ; they will be able to produce His life naturally. The fruit on the tree follows the nature of the root. If our root is still in Adam, who was the father of disobedience and sin, our fruit will reflect his nature. Since our root is now in Christ as the true vine, our fruit will reflect His nature. Indeed we should know by the way we live who we believe we really are, whether we are truly born again with a divine nature or we just have a religious cover up.

The truth of Jesus will set us free

Therefore, what we understand and accept to be true has a big impact on our spiritual identity. We must know the truth of Jesus, for His truth will set us free. This is why we should read the Bible often and '*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom*' so it soaks into our minds and hearts. This is why we are told we need to *be renewed in*

the spirit of our minds. But we can only be transformed by the renewing of our mind as much as we are willing to believe the truth of what God has done in us.

It is impossible to follow Jesus' example and walk as He walked if we still think of ourselves in human terms and therefore as fleshly. (Rom 8:7-8) If the only reason for coming to Jesus was to be forgiven our sins so we can go to heaven when we die, then we have not understood that He came to give us the divine nature of God so we can have fellowship with Him and share in His life; for this is the meaning of eternal life. If we don't really believe we have died with Christ since we have been crucified with Him, (Rom 6:6) we will not be able to believe we no longer live according to the flesh, so that it is no longer us who live but Christ who lives in us. Gal 2:20

Jesus wants us to grow up to be like Him

Our Lord Jesus was Spirit man, born of God in the flesh. If we follow Him we will be born of God in the Spirit. Jesus Christ was the firstborn of His divine nature, and we can follow as those who have also received the divine nature

and predestined to become like Him in every way if we only believe and obey.

Because we are born of God's Spirit, our eternal spirit is more important than our physical life in the world. For those in the world, physical life is more important than a spiritual life which they cannot see because they are blind to the things of God.

But we know our eternal security is with God, and the only thing we have of any value while we live on earth.

When we value what He has done for us, we will obey Him because we love Him. For those who follow Him and obey Him, He will forgive their sins and save them from the power of the devil.

So we need to ask ourselves, are we born again through the sacrifice of Jesus for our life? Or are we going another way?

Jesus says to all who will listen, "Follow Me." He calls us to follow Him because is the way to God, the truth of God and the life of God.

Have you followed Him so you can be born again to walk with God?

