

Module 05 – 36 Responsibility - New vs. Old – Salvation 3

Session 36

Following the pathway of responsibility begins with knowing the truth as revealed in a face to face relationship with God

Engaging in a relationship that renews our minds and restores our identity so that we can rule with righteousness (love) and justice which are the foundations of kingdom government

- **Justice is synonymous with God's love and mercy and is the result of the positive judgment of not guilty on all mankind through the cross**
- All are made alive and included in Christ in blameless innocence but all need to experience the light that reveals that amazing truth
- Justice administers God's desire, will and intent that all would come to the knowledge of the truth.
- We rule in responsibility, the ability to respond in love and mercy just as God responds to us with love and mercy
- **It is vital that we know the true character and nature of God who is love not the religious construct of GOD**

This New Versus Old module is about the transition between the Pathway of Relationship and the Pathway of Responsibility

We need to leave the old and embrace the new which will mean a deconstruction and renewal of our minds so we can reconnect with our destiny to who we really are as sons

We live with God dwelling within us so daily we can open our first love gate and experience face to face relationship and intimacy - Rev 3:20

We live under an open heaven with a daily invitation to access the realms of heaven and be seated in positions of authority as sons - Rev 4:1

Experiencing God in face to face intimacy will expose false doctrines and theologies for the lies, distortions and misrepresentations of truth that they are

We will see our Salvation from a new or renewed perspective

Last time we saw that salvation is not about a personal choice we make, but a choice God made before the foundation of the world to include everyone
Eph. 1:4

Mankind's salvation was revealed when Jesus' resurrection made everyone alive and therefore everyone is already included in Him 1 Cor 15:22

The traditional evangelical view is that everyone is dead to God and separated from Him by their sin

When we pray a sinners prayer our spirit is born again, regenerated made alive then God comes and lives in us

I no longer believe that is true or that the bible supports this view

➔ **Salvation is really about encountering the living God and experiencing the love, joy and peace of a restored face to face, breath to breath relationship, that reveals our true identity and our responsibility as His sons**

There are some other key concepts associated with salvation

- Being born again what is it and when did it happen?
- Sinner's prayer asking Jesus into our heart is that biblically true and does cause us to be born again?

Titus 3:4 But when the kindness of God our Saviour and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Titus 3:6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- God appeared, He saved, He showed mercy, He regenerated, He renewed, He poured it out richly through Jesus by the Holy Spirit

Titus 3:4 But then, oh happy day! It was the generosity of God and his fondness for mankind that dawned on us like a shaft of light. Our days of darkness were over! Light shone everywhere and we became aware: God rescued the human race! Have we seen that light and responded?

Titus 3:5 Salvation is not a reward for good behaviour. It has absolutely nothing to do with anything that we have done. God's mercy saved us. The Holy Spirit endorses in us what happened to us when Jesus Christ died and was raised! When we heard the glad announcement of salvation it was like taking a deep warm bath! Our minds were thoroughly cleansed and re-booted into newness of life!

Titus 3:6 The Holy Spirit is the extravagant Administrator of the salvation of Jesus Christ; he gushes forth in our midst like an artesian well.

- In John 7:37-39, John records how Jesus witnessed the great and final day of the Feast of Tabernacles on the 8th day
- 8th day is a day a new beginnings

The High Priest would draw water from the Pool of Siloam while the people would sing with great joy from Psalm 118:25-26, and also Isaiah 12:3; "Therefore with joy shall we draw water from the wells of salvation!" Jesus, knowing that He is the fulfilment of all OT pictures and promises, cried out with a loud voice:

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! If you believe that I am what the scriptures are all about, you will discover that you are what I am all about, and rivers of living waters will gush from your innermost being!”

Rom 5:5... the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Born again Christian is a term that has been used to differentiate between “real”

- Christians and nominal Christians or mere church attenders
- But is that a valid understanding of the term born again?
- Has evangelical religion misused and devalued the term?

Becoming born again is the term most associated with evangelical fundamentalist evangelical protestant Christianity and is often a derogatory term used by critics. We can use lots of different terminology to define what we think happens when people decided to become a Christian:

- Salvation, new creation, redemption, reconciliation, new birth, regeneration,
- In fact all these words mean essentially the same thing.
- **They are all the work of Jesus identifying fully with our humanity, restoring us back to our original design, removing the death penalty by dying our death, and resurrecting mankind back to life.**

What does it mean to be born again or more accurately born from above?

- It means we are freed from the effects of spiritual death (loss of our identity as sons of God) because of what Adam did
- It means that we are now all alive in Christ and can now benefit for all that Jesus has done and live in a re

When did being born from above occur how do we experience the benefits?

- When we realise that our salvation is all accomplished in Christ through the cross, we recognize that the new birth was never about our choice, our personal decision or our response to an altar call experience.
- It was all God’s work that we are born from above by the work of the Spirit
- stored responsible relationship with God as His sons

We do not ever need to live in fear and condemnation or question the validity of our salvation as it was nothing to do with us in the first place so we can’t lose it or have it taken away from us

We never became born again by our own decision or effort in the first place

We can’t self-generate ourselves.

We can’t do a DIY “self-salvation”

John 3:16 talks about believing and not perishing and that has been linked to being born again or born from above

It is not about believing or having faith that something will happen if we do something like pray a prayer but about accepting what has already happened so we can experience that reality

We live from what we think in our hearts

- Belief and confession are not the price ticket for salvation they are just what we do when we realise our salvation
- He already paid the price on the cross.

Act 20:28 ... the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

1 Cor 6:20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

John 3:16 whoever believes in Me is often paired together with Romans 10:9, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

If you take John 3:16 and Rom 10:9 in isolation you have a great formula for how someone can be saved but those statements are not linked in the bible

Just have faith pray this prayer and you will become born again that is all nice neat and tidy **but does not align with the truth**

Faith is the effect not the cause

Sinners prayers and altar calls are a fairly modern invention

Jesus said you must know the truth (by experience) to be set free

C.S. Lewis used the term "a great cataract of nonsense" to describe how people use a modern idea to create a new theology and then assume that it has always been so Example is a conversion method called the sinner's prayer that you pray at an altar call or by corporately following someone else's prayer in a meeting

Accept that you are a sinner and repent for your sin

Believe Jesus died for you and ask Him into your heart

Confess that Jesus is Lord

We have made it is easy as ABC but have lost the real power that comes from knowing the truth by experiential encounter?

Altar calls are a technique popularized in some 19th century revivals and particularly made the norm in Billy Graham crusade meetings in the 20th century

Do we see altar calls in the early church?

Or do we see encounters with God like the day of Pentecost or in Samaria when the power of God was experienced or when the Holy Spirit fell on the gentiles

Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, and John Wesley are widely acknowledged as successful evangelists involved in great awakenings who saw many come to Christ, the first two were Calvinists and the third an Arminian.

- None of them used the altar call or any other form of public invitation
People experienced God's power and presence and were convinced

- Today, hundreds of millions hold to a belief system and salvation practice that no one had ever heard of until relatively recently.
- Is it valid or has it re-enforced a cheapened DIY view of salvation – it's all about our personal choice what we do causes our rebirth
- God wants to reach everyone so He will use even our feeblest efforts but that does not validate them as truth

Consider the following example appeal:

"Just accept Christ into your heart through prayer and he'll receive you. You'll be born again at the moment you receive Christ. He's at the door knocking. Anyone out there can be saved if they ... Accept Christ, now! Let's pray for Christ to come into your heart now. "

Is this true –no! But does God use it? Yes

"God, I know that I have sinned against you and deserve punishment and Jesus Christ took the punishment that I deserve so that through faith in Him I could be forgiven. I place my trust in you for salvation. Thank You for Your wonderful grace and forgiveness - the gift of eternal life! Amen!"

The church system continues to focus on dealing with people's behaviour by saying repent, be sorry for sin and come to Jesus so He can help you "quit sinning" problem not solution focused

- The role of the church is not sin management. It is revealing to the world the kind of love that wipes away guilt, shame and condemnation and heals the broken-hearted!

The Gospel is a revelation of a relationship of love that is patient and kind and doesn't keep a record of wrongs.

It is a relationship that God has had toward us from before the foundations of the world, in our mother's wombs and even when we did not believe anything about Him

- Jesus called people to follow Him into relationship and become His disciples
- The cost of discipleship was everything a total radicle change of relationship and direction a restored sonship and mandate for creation not just a quick prayer to make ourselves feel better
- Radical commitment to follow Jesus and your destiny not just praying a prayer

Luke 9:23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. 24 For whoever wishes to save his (old) life will lose it, but whoever loses his (old) life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

Luke 14:33 "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

➔ **Salvation being born from above is not just experienced by saying a sinners prayer but by receiving a whole new restored life that Jesus has already prepared by giving His whole life for us**

- When we surrender or lose the old life (fallen mindset) we enter into the realisation of what Jesus accomplished for us when He birthed us from above through resurrection power
- To fully experience the power of salvation we need to give our lives fully and follow Jesus
- Salvation by the sinners prayer can be a limitation of the real power of the gospel

2 Cor 5:15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

How did the rebirth, which Jesus spoke of in John 3, evolve into praying him into our heart?

- Religious traditions and formulas reduces a supernatural experience and encounter into a simple prayer
- Losing the relational experiential aspect of total surrender to God when realise what He has done for us

Eph 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

Paul describes the state of mankind as being dead but God did not leave us there in that state in Adam

Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

- When did the regeneration of our spirit occur?
- When we prayed a prayer?
- Or when Jesus was raised from the dead?

Faith has no part to play in being born again or born from above it is the Spirit's work and has already happened to all

John 3:3. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again (from above) he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Did we have anything to do with our natural birth? – NO
We can't have anything to do with our spiritual birth either
Our natural birth was all the work of our natural parents and our spiritual birth is all the work of our spiritual parents

We are not born again by believing in Jesus that is just when we benefit from it
➔ **We were all born again 2,000 years ago when Jesus Christ stepped out of the tomb.**

Francois Du Toit says, "The Message does not demand faith, it supplies faith."

Despite the overwhelming scriptural evidence against it, most evangelicals believe that our realisation experience or conversion regenerates us.

That wrongly deduces that we are not therefore a new creation until the Holy Spirit personally recreates us at an altar call or when we prayed the sinners prayer

➔ **Everyone who is now born naturally is already born spiritually and is not dead in sin and separated from God but included in Christ and already spiritually alive**

Religion has done its best to convince the world the bad news that they are spiritually dead, condemned, alienated from a God who can't even look at them because of their sin

1 Cor 2:11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

We could not experience the realisation without our spirit being alive

We could not see the truth without our spirit being alive

The Holy Spirit has already made mankind alive and all mankind are already born from above

➔ **As Adam's one act passed on spiritual death to all mankind so Jesus' death and resurrection passed on spiritual life to all mankind**

Holy Spirit is always pointing us to the light to bring us a conviction of the truth of what Jesus already accomplished, but the Spirit does not need to do an additional regenerative work.

The Spirit is our source, our supply and our breath supplying the energy of resurrection new life relationship leading us into all truth

John 3:18 He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged (condemned) already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- What is this judgment or condemnation it is not eternal damnation and punishment but to continue to live in lie and deception of the fallen mindset of lost identity

John 3:18 Faith and not flesh defines you! In the persuasion of your authentic sonship there is no separation or rejection! For someone to prefer not to embrace this is to remain under their own judgment sustained by their futile efforts to define themselves through personal performance. In their stubborn unbelief they reject what is revealed and redeemed in the Name of the son, begotten only of the Father and not the flesh.

When were we born from above?

Origin spiritually and our temporal birth

We are a spirit that has a soul and we live in a body

Our spirit did not originate from our parents

John 1:13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- Our spirit was born or created by God before time and pre-existed before our conception
- The spirit in a flash of light comes into the cells at conception and we become a living soul
- All mankind was spiritually dead in Adam which means mankind's spirit had lost its relationship with God and with the soul
- This was the case for all mankind until Jesus died our death and broke the power of death
- At the resurrection all mankind was made alive in Jesus 1 Cor 15:22
- All mankind was spiritually made alive in resurrection power and born from above
- Our natural birth is not our beginning, we come from above

Jer 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you;

God knew us before He formed us and His original thought remains uncontaminated and Jesus came as the logos word of God to reveal and unveil the truth of our origin

James was Jesus brother in the flesh but that did not reveal the truth about who Jesus was to him

John 7:5 For not even His brothers were believing in Him

1 Cor 15:7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

James became an apostle because he encountered the resurrected Jesus after he was born from above

Only after the resurrection was James able to see the truth of who Jesus was Jesus because his spirit was alive and could now see

→ Mankind began in God as the desire of God's heart we are all from above originally as spirit beings and born from above as restored living beings

John 3:3 Jesus answered him emphatically; no one would even be able to recognize anything as coming from God's domain unless they are born from above to begin with! The very fact that it is possible to perceive that I am in union with God, as a human being, reveals humanity's genesis from above!

Spirit is our origin! Not our mother's womb!

Every trace of the Spirit's influence on the heart is what gives permanence to this truth.

This truth is embroidered in your inner consciousness. (It is the life of your design that grace echoes within you!)

John 3:5 Jesus answered, you have to get this, unless someone is born out of water (the womb) and Spirit, there would be no possible connection with the realm of God! Jesus uses the word *anōthen* meaning from above - James 1:17, every good and perfect gift comes *anōthen* from above

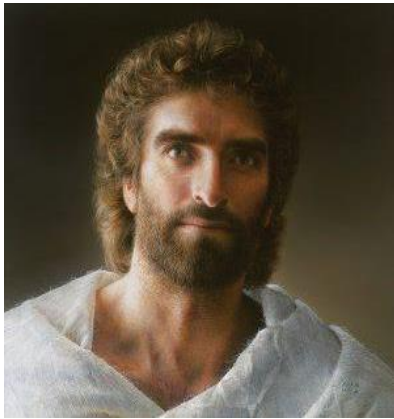
James 1:17-18 Without exception God's gifts are only good, its perfection cannot be improved upon. They come from above, (where we originate from,) proceeding like light rays from its source, the Father of lights, with whom there is no distortion or even a shadow of shifting to obstruct or intercept the light; nor a hint of a hidden agenda.

James 1:17-18 It was his delightful resolve to give birth to us; we were conceived by the unveiled logic of God. We lead the exhibition of his handiwork, like first fruits introducing the rest of the harvest he anticipates.

- We have this message and ministry of reconciliation
- We are called to be witnesses of this truth of reconciliation
- We have and are the testimony of such amazing good news the power of the gospel of God's love to save everyone – let's share it
- We can be confident of God's love
- We can be confident of the power of the cross to save us all
- We can be confident that God will never change, He is always love
- We can be confident that God's love and faithfulness is sufficient for all of us without exception

2 Cor 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are lost, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- **Ask Jesus to remove the veil so you can see the light of the way, truth and life**



Close your eyes and begin to think of Jesus
Ask Jesus to remove the veil of darkness over your mind
Let the light penetrate the darkness
let Jesus reveal Himself in you
Let Jesus reveal in you real salvation restoring the truth of your identity and destiny

Let Jesus the Truth reveal the truth about who you really are
Let the light the presence of Jesus begin to refresh you, empower you strengthen you, heal you
Let Jesus fully embrace you receive your restored identity as a son

Let Jesus introduce you to the Father
Let Jesus and the Father unveil your sonship
Let Father Son and Spirit open the realms of heaven to you reveal your thrones and positions of authority as sons



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