

What transformations come with the “New Birth”?

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In John chapter 3, Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus and spoke these words: “We know that you are a teacher sent from God because you could not do the miracles that you do except God be with you.”

Jesus immediately said, “Except a man is born again, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

If you continue reading this chapter, you will understand that there are two births, a natural birth and a spiritual birth, that a person must experience to be a citizen of heaven. You must have a physical birth. A living person who has a normal mind has some natural ability. You have mental powers to reason, make decisions for what you choose to do, and you have the ability to think. However because of the fall in the Garden of Eden, the mental faculties that we possess are not in line with God, our creator. There is a disconnection and Satan has an advantage over all humanity until the time comes that the person is drawn by the Holy Spirit to God. In John 12:32 Jesus said, “If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me.” In John 6:44, it reads “No one can come to me except the Father draw him.” When you come to the Lord, you won’t approach him because you suddenly decide that you want to accept Christ. You come because the Lord places a desire in your heart and you respond to his calling. (John 15:16) You have not chosen me; I have chosen you.

When the Holy Spirit comes to your heart, the mental powers that are already within you are awakened to a new level. The Holy Spirit doesn’t give you reason, but he sets your ability to reason on the path of truth so you can discern between good and evil and between the holy and the vile. The will that we all possess is corrupt before we allow the Holy Spirit to reside in our hearts. He loosens the will that Satan has bound and sets it free to conform and to give service to the Lord Jesus Christ. When you are converted, your thoughts change for then you are able to think thoughts that are pleasing to God. Instead of being double-minded, we are able to think in the right way as God would have us to think and we desire to meditate on the revealed truth of God’s word. We have an appreciation for the Bible as the Word is opened up to us and the truth of the Word enters our conscience. Fellowship with believers is important for we learn from each other. A person who is not connected to the Holy Spirit walks in darkness. He sees nothing good in the walk of holiness; he doesn’t desire to imitate Christ; He sees no beauty in the life of Jesus; He chooses evil and forsakes the good; He will choose the pleasures of sin for a season because he gets gratification from them. He will not be persuaded to follow Jesus and he will not change his mind to turn to God. It is foolishness to him. Faith comes by hearing and hearing comes by the word of God. When an unregenerate person hears the word of God, it speaks to his heart and convicts him of his sinful ways. 1 Corinthians 1:27

says God uses the foolishness of preaching. He then chooses whether he will heed or turn aside the truth.

The Holy Spirit gives boldness and power that we don't possess within our natural selves. The body was created to be a temple of the Holy Spirit. The mind is the altar. That is where we fight the battles of sinful desires. The Spirit works through the mind so prayer reaches out to God. The Bible says that those who commit fornication sin against their own flesh. 1 Corinthians 6:18. The first Adam was made a living soul; the second Adam was made a quickening spirit. That spirit dwells in every believer as Jesus Christ spoke.

The Bible says that the unregenerate man is dead even while he walks around for he has no understanding of the power of the Holy Ghost. (1 Corinthians 2:14.) (Matthew 22:29) As the Holy Spirit indwells our bodies, our thoughts are elevated to a higher plane. (Ephesians 2:10) (Romans 12:2) We can obey the will of God and follow Jesus Christ. The unregenerate man is an enemy of God. The redeemed man becomes the Son of God. The mind of an unregenerate man is full of darkness and cannot understand spiritual things. The person who has Christ within has light and understands principles of eternal value. (Isaiah 55:8, 9) (John 16:13) (John 14:15-17, 25, 26)

See 2 Corinthians 5:17. He becomes a new creature in Christ. Old things are done away and behold all things become new. Peter, in Acts chapter 2, preached with a new boldness and conviction that he didn't have just days before his conversion until he was filled with the Holy Ghost. When you walk in the Spirit, you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh and others will be drawn to Jesus Christ by your life and your words. No one can change the heart of a person except Jesus Christ. You may be able to change behavior with modification, but the heart is sinful and corrupt until Jesus Christ sets it free.

In Habakkuk 2:14, it reads like this: For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

In John 7:16, it says, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it comes from God, or whether I speak of myself."

In John 8:31 Jesus told those who had believed on him "If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed and you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free".

God doesn't leave us without the equipment and tools to overcome a sinful lifestyle. He enlightens the "heart" of a person who has a genuine desire to be right with God.

If you desire to know the Lord, I guarantee that He will send people to you to help you with your walk with Him. The Bible says that He knows in whose heart it is to serve him.

There are blessings ahead for those who choose the Lord when he tugs at their heart's door. Revelation 3:20 says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hear my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sup with him and he with me" Will you invite Jesus Christ into your heart today? You will never be sorry you heeded God's call.