

Born Again: Live Anew

Nicodemus went to visit Jesus in admiration. Jesus gave him two words: born again. Jesus was trying to say, “Live anew with the Spirit.” It was not a new concept. Ezekiel (36:26) says, “A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put into you.” Nonetheless, as a Pharisee, Nicodemus interpret everything literally. He asked, “How can it be done?” He was being scientific vice spiritual.

We will miss the point too if we think born again refers only to a dramatic conversion experience. It is a mistake to use these two words to divide the Christian community as if some are more spiritual. Paul had a quick conversion while the disciples took Jesus three years to train. Peter still had doubts from time to time not to mention Thomas. Eventually they were all born again.

What did Jesus mean by born again? (John 3:1-17)

1. Accept the grace of God -- We can't save ourselves. Only by the Grace of God through faith we can be saved. This new life is a gift from above and cannot be obtained by our education or achievements.
2. Believe and Be Baptized -- (16) “...Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Believing in Jesus leads to baptism. (5) “No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.”
3. Commit our life to Jesus -- Born again means a change in life style and values. Dead is the old self that prevented us to see the truth and grace. Born is the new self that enable us to commit our life to Jesus.

Let us profess Jesus as our Lord and Savior and pledge to trust and obey. Born again is to live anew. A born again life is a life with a purpose. A born again life is a meaningful life. A born again life is a life living for Jesus.

Let us pray: Lord, we are grateful for your grace and love. Help us to be born again and to live anew. Amen.

重生與新生

尼哥底母慕名來見耶穌，耶穌給他兩個字：重生，意思是說藉聖靈活出新生命來。舊約以西結書先知曾說：「我也要賜給你們一個新心，將新靈放在你們裏面。」可惜尼哥底母受法利賽教育的影響，凡事按字面解釋，竟然以科學的角度來思考重生的問題，覺得此乃不可思議，就說：「怎能有這事呢？」

重生不是單指有戲劇性改變的悔改經驗，更不應以個別重生的經歷來判斷某人是否屬靈。保羅的得救過程是在一剎那之間，而其他門徒，耶穌卻得花三年的時間去栽培。彼得尚且常常信心不足，更不用說多馬了，但他們不都是終於重生了嗎？

耶穌說的重生究竟是什麼意思呢？(約: 3:1-17)

1. 接受神的大恩：世人都犯了罪，不能自拔於泥濘，惟靠基督的寶血才能得到永生。我們在學業或事業上的成就，無濟於靈魂的得救，必需全靠神恩。
2. 信耶穌而後受洗：「叫一切信祂的，不至滅亡，反得永生。」信耶穌理當受洗，耶穌說：「人若不是從水和聖靈生的，就不能進上帝的國。」
3. 委身於耶穌：重生是重新建立我們的生活方式或價值觀，舊的人生使我們看不到神的真理和恩典，新的人生讓我們完全地委身於基督。

讓我們宣稱耶穌是我們的救主，讓我們信靠順服主耶穌。重生是新生命的開始。新生是有標竿的，新生是有意義的，新生是為主而活的。

請禱告：主啊，感謝祢救贖的宏恩和慈愛，求祢幫助我們得到重生和有新生的樣式。阿們。