

A Second Look at Second Birth

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One day while reading my new Dec/Jan 2021 issue of Mysterious Ways – More Than Coincidence, I came across an interesting article titled “The Big Question – Would Life Have Meaning Without Death?”. There was a quote by Benjamin Franklin which made me really think about our pre-born lives and being “born again”. His quote was “Life is rather a state of embryo, a preparation for life; a man is not completely born till he has passed through death.”

You see, just as a fetus, a pre-born child, has a life of preparation before being physically born into this physical world, we also have a life of preparation before we are completely spiritually born into the spiritual world. For the fetus, the point of conception is the beginning of their physical life; for a Christian, the moment of our salvation (when we repented, accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and had God’s Holy Spirit indwell us) is the beginning of our spiritual life with God.

Just as a fetus has to endure struggles in the womb (from the outside environment as occasional hard hits, harmful chemicals and pollutants from foods and smoke, and loud noises), adults have to endure struggles throughout their life on physical earth. How well they endure their struggles, has to do with how strong they are: physically for the baby and spiritual for the adult. After about nine months of preparation in their mother’s womb, they leave the only world they have known by entering a tunnel which leads to a bright light in a whole new physical world (hopefully full of love for them).

Each Christian is given a different amount of preparation time before they leave this physical world. Some accept Christ at an early age and live to an old age while others may die shortly after their salvation. Many people who have had Near-Death Experiences (NDE’s) have reported traveling through a tunnel to an opening to a great bright light with a feeling of overwhelming love. So, when a Christian dies their spirit begins a new life by traveling through a tunnel to emerge into the bright new spiritual kingdom of God.

Where as for about nine months the mother cared for and loved her unborn child, throughout a Christian’s life, God – their Spiritual Father, cares for and loves them. The main difference though is that after physical birth, we have to live an imperfect life in an imperfect physical world until we die, but once our spirit leaves our physical body and joins Jesus, the bright light of overwhelming love, we will finally start to live a life God intended us to live before the fall of mankind in Genesis – a life of perfect relationships with God and other people.

So, if you want to enjoy a second birth and a wonderful new life after your body dies, make sure you have truly accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

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NOTES:

In John 3:3-6, Jesus answered a question about spiritual transformation which Nicodemus apparently pondered in his heart but did not verbally ask. These verses say, "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit'."

In the MacArthur Study Bible, John MacArthur comments on these verses. He says that the phrase "born again" literally means "born from above." New birth is an act of God whereby eternal life is imparted to the believer. "Born again" also carries the idea "to become children of God" through trust in the name of the incarnate Word (Jesus Christ).

MacArthur's comments on being born of water and the Spirit was that "Jesus referred not to literal water here but to the need for spiritual cleansing. Therefore, Jesus was saying that to belong to God's Kingdom we have to have a purification of the soul, or a spiritual washing, by the Holy Spirit at the moment of our salvation.