

## Session 2

# MINISTERING THE NEW BIRTH

## STUDY CENTER

John 3:3, *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

This familiar Scripture is the statement that defines true Christianity. Simply said, one cannot come close to God (or be a Christian) any other way, except the way Jesus said it here. **You have to be born again.** Good deeds cannot earn our way into heaven. Church attendance does not make you a Christian. These things are just evidence of the fact that we are Christians.

Jesus said, there is only one way to ever see the kingdom of God, or to become a Christian. You have to be **born-again**. In the context of the first few verses of John Chapter 3, Jesus explains what it means to be born again, also commonly referred to **as the new birth**.

### The New Birth Is a Miracle

In John 3:1-21, Jesus has a conversation with a Jewish Rabbi named Nicodemus. Nicodemus remarks to Jesus about the miracles Jesus was doing (v.2). The Lord's response to him is most amazing. He mentions the new birth, as if to say, "Let me show the greatest miracle of all time. It is to be born-again!"

Nicodemus was surprised thinking such a thing to be impossible, and asks the Lord about how a person can re-enter their mother to be 'born-again'. He was about to discover that the new birth is, in fact, a miracle of the impossible, but it is not about a physical rebirth, it is a spiritual one.

**John 3:5-6, *Jesus answered, Verily Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.***

Jesus was saying, that we have all been born through our mothers once. That was a fleshly or a **physical birth**. That kind of birth only gave us life on earth. Physical life is limited to all the disappointments found here on earth, which includes sin. Sin separates us from God. By itself, living our natural/physical life only, will always end in unfulfillment. We need a spiritual life, that brings us close to God. However, to come close to God, we need a **spiritual birth**. Why do we need a spiritual birth? Because when we were born here on earth our **spirit** was born dead. It was born sinful. This separated us from God, who is without sin and cannot join Himself to those who are sinful.

Psalms 51:5, (NIV) *Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

### Man's Road Back to God!

So how did this happen? How is it that even before we started our lives on earth, we were doomed from the start? "Not fair" you say? Let's overview the structure of how man became separated from God and how God brought him back from spiritual death! The basics are found in this simple outline, which we will define as we study the new birth.

- I. GOD LIVES
- II. MAN LIVES
- III. MAN DIED
- IV. GOD DIED
- V. GOD LIVES AGAIN!
- VI. MAN LIVES AGAIN!

Let's study this outline in detail and we will see the real miracle behind the New Birth!

### I. GOD LIVES

Ecclesiastes 3:14, *I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.*

God is eternal. He has no beginning and knows no end. He is the supreme power of the universe and nothing exists without Him. He is the definition of **perfection** and you cannot add to Him or take away from Him. God rules everything that has ever existed. He is holy and sinless, and therefore He defines what is holy and sinless. He is perfect, so everything that is created must adjust to who He is as the all supreme authority. **God lives!**

### II. MAN LIVES

Genesis 1:26, *And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion..."*

Man was created as the same picture of perfection, as an exact reflection and picture of God. God declared that man was to be made in "our likeness" as if God was speaking of Himself as more than one being. Actually, God is one being represented in three persons, which we call the Trinity of God. **1 John 5:7 says, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, (The Son-John 1:1) and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."** He is God the Father, God the Son (Word) and God the Holy Spirit.

We are made just like Him as one person with three parts. We are a spirit (compare to the Holy Spirit), we have a mind/soul (compare to the Father) and we live in a body (compare to Jesus). We were made by God to be perfect and **sinless**. God is sinless and all that is close to Him must be sinless too. Also because we are created as spiritual beings, we are also eternal beings, just like God. **Once born, we will never cease to exist!** Our bodies may die, but our spirit will live forever. Created perfectly in God's image, **man lives!**

### III. MAN DIED

Genesis 3:17, *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

Before Adam and Eve were tempted by the devil, and ate

***You Must Be  
Born-Again!  
John 3:3***

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the fruit, God warned them that eating the fruit would cause them to die. However, after they sinned, it appeared outwardly that they lived on and later even had children. So what happened?

Man didn't die physically that day. Physical death would eventually be the result, but when Adam sinned by disobeying God and His rules, he died *spiritually*. Spiritual death *does not* mean one ceases to exist after his physical life on earth is over. **Hebrews 9:27** says, ***"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"*** This means one day our body will die, but afterwards we still must face our final judgment. *Spiritual death* meant that once man left the earth through *physical death*, he would have to pay a penalty for his sin, and exist forever without God. This is the judgment the Bible is talking about.

Why do we have to face judgment? First, sin has to be paid for, just like a prison sentence is payment for a crime. The only payment for sin, is death. **Romans 6:23** says, ***"For the wages of sin is death..."*** Someone has to pay that sentence because God is a just judge, whose perfection requires those who commit a crime to pay for their sins. His ultimate life and holiness sets the legal standard meaning the only price possible was the ultimate price of death to eternal judgment.

### The Creation of Hell

The Bible teaches that Hell is the place of eternal judgment for sin. The Bible describes it as a place of unbelievable torment. However, God created Hell for the judgment of the devil and his demons. He didn't create it for people. **Matthew 25:41**, says ***"Then shall he say also unto them, on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"***

The only reason people go to Hell along with the devil after they die, is because they are still sinful and ALL sin one day must be judged and swallowed up in hell's judgment. The only way to avoid hell is for our sins to first be removed or erased before we die.

Secondly, sinful man cannot be joined to a sinless God. Sin and holiness cannot mix. Every man born through sinful Adam and Eve on down through the generations were born sinful and spiritually dead. **Romans 5:12** says ***"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"*** We all received the same sin nature that started with Adam.

Because of this nature of sin working in us, we could never be good enough to meet God's standard of holiness, so man is separated from God. **Romans 3:10**, says ***"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."*** **Romans 3:23**, also says, ***"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."*** We could never do enough good deeds to attain to God's level of glory. Someone had to bring the separation between God and man back together. How was that going to happen? The only way to do it was to bring man spiritually back to life, so he could be near God again. Man needed a spiritual resurrection, a spiritual "re-birth" because when man sinned, ***man died!***

## IV. GOD DIED

**Romans 5:6-8**, *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

So sin required the ultimate price. God's dilemma was that He loved man so much, that His mercy didn't want man to pay the price of death. However, God's just side of truth left Him no choice. For example, a murderer must pay the legal sentence for the crime he commits, unless someone steps in with a valid, legal reason for the judge to issue a merciful pardon. So what is God to do? If he doesn't make man pay the sentence, God becomes an accessory to a crime (sin), breaking His own rules. The devil wanted God to do that, and he thought he had God in a pickle for sure!

God needed someone who could provide a just reason for Him to issue a pardon for us. The problem was that no human being was without guilt and worthy of doing such a thing. Unable to find a sinless man, God decided to send Himself to be that man!

Through a miraculous impartation of His Holy Spirit, God the Father, planted His sinless seed into a virgin woman—a seed that didn't have any sin inside it. Since all of man's seed was sinful, God did not use the seed of a man, He used seed from Himself, the Holy Spirit (**Luke 1:35**). You know the story, Jesus, the Son of God was born through Mary. He was the first sinless man since Adam before his failure. In fact, the Bible calls Jesus the "second" or last Adam (**1 Corinthians 15:45**).

Jesus, the Son of God, came to be an "Adam" all over again, yet, this "Adam" was not going to sin. This gave Jesus the legal ability to pay our death sentence! Legally, only a guiltless individual can pay the sentence for a guilty person because the innocent don't deserve the sentence. For example, if you owed some money that you did not have, only someone who *had* the money could pay the bill on your behalf. Jesus had the very asset we needed to pay for our deficit! He could offer His sinless life, for our sinful one. Jesus decided to come and pay our bill/sentence on our behalf. It was perfectly legal for Him to die in our place, and the Scripture below explains exactly what happened.

**Colossians 2:14**, *Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled the principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

Jesus gave His own blood, so we would not have to give ours! His sinless blood was shed, on the cross of crucifixion. In the days of Jesus Christ, Roman crucifixion was considered the ultimate price for a crime—the worst possible way to die. The devil desperately wanted Jesus to die because he had wrongly assumed Jesus arrived to judge the world. By killing Jesus, he thought he was stopping the process. Satan also hated the righteousness of Jesus. The people of His day who also hated Jesus' guiltless life, wanted Him to die too. Satan thought that by using people to kill Jesus, he would stop God's plans and further man's guilty state. How terribly *wrong* he was!

What the devil did not account for was that Jesus death, was a deliberate act of mercy and it was going to pay our death sentence. Furthermore, the devil didn't realize that he never had the right to kill Jesus because Jesus wasn't guilty of anything. Jesus was sentenced and crucified unjustly! However, Jesus knew what He

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was doing and let the devil kill Him. He died willingly, and this act of mercy by Jesus left the devil with no further right to accuse us of sin or the death penalty. **Jesus had paid our debt with His own life!**

Now the devil sorely wished he hadn't plotted the crucifixion of Jesus! 1 Corinthians 2:8 says, **"Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."**

YES! God, pulled one over on the devil, when the devil thought he had God backed in a corner. He made a public humiliation out of Satan, and now, God, the just judge, had the right to issue a pardon of mercy and the devil couldn't say a word about it. Jesus' blood was the signature written on our document of pardon, which states **PAID IN FULL**. This note is ever before the Father, like a legal contract, declaring that our sins are paid for in full. Wow!

Lastly, we need to know that Jesus' blood didn't just pay the sentence, it erased our sins. Remember, when Jesus paid the sentence, He also took our sins on Himself, as if He was the one who committed them. 2 Corinthians 5:21, says **"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."** Jesus took our sins upon himself, literally becoming the criminal so we could be considered innocent. The tables were being reversed; He took upon Himself the guilt and paid the sentence, while we took upon ourselves His holiness which granted our freedom. **Jesus/God Died!**

### V. GOD LIVES AGAIN!

Romans 4:24-25, *But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.*

The story doesn't end however, with the death of Jesus. God was about to finish the miracle. Remember, when man died spiritually? Man not only needed to be granted a merciful pardon, he needed to be brought back to life, in order to be joined to God again. How was that going to happen?

Again, it all had to be legal. Jesus' death sentence was given to Him by the devil unjustly because Jesus was an innocent man. So God, sitting as the judge had the automatic right to resurrect Jesus or bring Him back from death!

Psalm 16:10, says, **"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."** This verse is a prophecy about Jesus. Jesus was holy, and even though He willingly died in our place, He still didn't deserve death. **God's justice would not leave an innocent man in the grave;** so with all authority, God raised Jesus from the dead. **Jesus/God Lives Again!**

### VI. MAN LIVES AGAIN!

Ephesians 2:4-6, *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us (made us alive) together with Christ (by grace are ye saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

Now here is the real miracle for us. When our sins went into the grave with Jesus, they were erased by His blood. But, when Jesus came up from the grave, our sins didn't resurrect with Him. They stayed in the grave!

With our sins now gone and buried in the grave, God the Father sees us **INNOCENT** also! And remember? God's

justice will NOT LEAVE AN INNOCENT MAN IN THE GRAVE. Therefore, God raised us from the dead too!

There are only two requirements for us to receive this miraculous salvation package, called the *New Birth*. They are **FAITH** and **CONFESSION**. To be born-again you must:

- 1) Believe in what Jesus did with **FAITH**.
- 2) Make Jesus the Lord of your life by **CONFESSION** or declaring it to be so.

Romans 10:9-10, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Finally, truly making Jesus our Lord is carried out in our lives by following His commandments found in the Bible. Jesus being our Lord means He is now in charge and we give our entire life back to Him because of the price He paid for us! This is the miracle of the new birth! **Man Lives Again!**

### The Promise of Eternal Life.

When we become born-again Christians, the Bible promises us the hope of eternal life, after we die physically someday. Through Jesus, we are made spiritually alive so we can live forever in heaven with the Lord. 1 John 2:25 says, **"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life."**

#### Leading Others Into the New Birth Miracle.

Leading others into the miracle of salvation is very easy. You can simply show them the **"Romans Road to Salvation"** which are all the Scriptures we have studied. Simply begin by telling them that God loves them and has the perfect plan for their life.

#### The Romans Road

- **Romans 3:10**—There is no one who is righteous enough to go to heaven.
- **Romans 3:23**—Everyone has sinned and comes up short of God's holy standards.
- **Romans 5:8**—God loved us anyway, even while we were sinners, and sent Jesus to die for us.
- **Romans 6:23**—The payment for sin is death, but Jesus died for us and God's gift is eternal life.
- **Romans 10:9-10**—To receive God's eternal life, you must *believe* Jesus died and rose again, and you must *confess* with your mouth that He is Your Lord and that you gladly give Him charge over your life! In other words, you must invite Jesus to wash your sins away and come live in your heart.

#### Sinner's Prayer

*Dear Heavenly Father, I know that I am a sinner and cannot meet your standard of righteousness on my own. I believe that Jesus died for my sins, so that I would NOT have to pay that price. I also believe Jesus was raised from the dead, so I could live in Heaven. Jesus come into my heart and forgive me of my sins. Wash me in Your precious blood. I thank You for that and I choose today to make You the Lord of my life. I will do my best to serve You and keep your commandments found in the Bible everyday. I am now a Christian. I am born-again! Thank You Lord, in Jesus' Name, AMEN!*

# MINISTERING THE NEW BIRTH

## WORK CENTER

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Write down your testimony of salvation. When were you saved? Who led you to the Lord?

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2. In what verse of Scripture does the Bible say that Hell was created or prepared for the devil and his demons? \_\_\_\_\_

3. If God created Hell for the devil and not people, explain why people go there after they die? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Name one verse of Scripture that describes the Trinity of God. \_\_\_\_\_  
Can you write it out from memory? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Why was God obligated to raise Jesus from the dead? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Explain why we were also raised from the dead when Jesus was resurrected? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. In what verse of Scripture, does the Bible say we are raised up (resurrected) with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Question: The Bible teaches that even though Jesus has blotted out or erased our sins (Col. 2:14), Satan still tries to accuse us of sin before God. Can you locate one or more Scripture examples or verses that show this truth?

## Section 2

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# MINISTERING THE NEW BIRTH

## ACTIVATION CENTER

### EXERCISE 1

As a group, take turns reading each Scripture verse of *The Romans Road* aloud.

Ask for one or two volunteers to stand up and quote *The Romans Road* to the group. They must quote the Scripture reference and the entire Scripture. Have others in the group check them for accuracy.

### EXERCISE 2

Pair off in groups of two (or three) and share your personal 3 minute testimony about how you became born-again. However, your goal is to follow three requirements when telling your story.

1. You must tell your story in 3 minutes or less.
2. Share your testimony as if you were telling your story to a non-Christian hearing you for the first time (eliminate Bible terms an unsaved person may not have heard).
3. You must quote one verse of Scripture that applies or goes along with your testimony.

### EXERCISE 3

***Role Playing Time!*** Group Practice Leading Someone to the Lord

Have two volunteers role play for the entire group. One person plays a Christian who is leading the other person, a non-Christian, to the Lord by telling them about the New Birth. This should take approximately 5-10 minutes.

Then have two others in the group rate their performance (i.e. "it was good because..." or "needed improvement in this area because...")

As time permits, have other volunteers try it!

This exercise is designed to open up discussion about how we can be the best example for the kingdom and learn how to present the Gospel tactfully and lovingly.

## Resource/Study Suggestion



- The New Birth - Mini-book by Kenneth E. Hagin
- Do a Bible Study on several verses that describe what Hell is like.
- Do a Bible Study on several verses that describe what Heaven is like.