

## WHAT HAPPENS TO A CHRISTIAN AT HIS/HER SPIRITUAL REBIRTH?



IGNITED IN CHRIST

### 1. Intellectual understanding of God *versus* being reborn in Christ

Some people who consider themselves to be Christians merely have an intellectual understanding of God. They know of God and accept that there is a God. This is unfortunately not enough to be saved! Jesus said that even the demons know that He is God but that does not result in them being saved! Jesus also said that not everybody that calls Him “Lord” will enter the Kingdom of Heaven...

Listen to what Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3: 5 to 7: *“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. Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.” E Jennings Dake<sup>1</sup> says that the “water” that is mentioned here by Jesus means the Word of God. He also says: “It is by the Word of God and by the Holy Spirit that men are born again. The new birth is a spiritual one and not physical as Nicodemus thought.”*

We therefore have to be born again by accepting Jesus Christ into our hearts (our spirits) and not merely by an intellectual understanding of Him.

### 2. Circumcision of the spirit

When a person is reborn in the spirit his or her spirit gets circumcised by the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit comes to live in the spirit of the believer (Colossians 2:11: *“In Him, you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ”*).

This spiritual rebirth and circumcision by the Holy Spirit therefore replaces the physical circumcision of the Old Testament. The physical Old Testament sign of the covenant between God and His people has now become a spiritual sign engraved upon our hearts (our spirits).

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<sup>1</sup> “God’s plan for man” (Dake Publishing Inc., 2004) p. 540

### 3. **Soul and body must be cleansed by the blood of Jesus through a process under the guidance of the Holy Spirit**

However, not quite the same happens in the soul and body of a believer when his/her spirit gets reborn. The soul and body of a believer does not become holy and clean immediately upon spiritual rebirth. The soul and body of the believer must, after rebirth, be cleansed and made holy by the blood of Jesus. This is in most cases a process under the guidance and influence of the Holy Spirit and the believer should consciously and wilfully bring every part of his being in obedience to and under the reign of God.

That is exactly why Paul says the following to Christians in Romans 12: 2: *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind (soul dimension), that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”* and in 2 Corinthians 10: 5 that *“we should bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”*. We should therefore take every thought (in the mind, therefore soul) captive and make it subject to God’s will. If it was true that the soul dimension immediately became holy and whole upon spiritual salvation or rebirth, it would not have been necessary for Paul to say this to the Christians of his time.

The body also remains subject to the fall (sin) and a believer may for example not immediately get healing from a disease upon salvation or spiritual rebirth (although such miracles do happen since God is sovereign and may do as He pleases).

Therefore, when we give our “hearts” (spirits) to God at rebirth, our spirit becomes untouchable to the enemy and becomes holy ground. God is holy and therefore only lives/stays where it is holy. The enemy may not invade our human spirits once we have given Jesus Christ permission and authority to enter into and live there.

However, if the enemy has already (before spiritual rebirth) obtained “rights” or “footholds” (Eph. 4: 27) in our soul dimensions and bodies, he would not necessarily lose those rights or footholds merely because of our spiritual salvation in Jesus Christ. It is here that the enemy should then be evicted from our soul dimensions and bodies since we now belong to Jesus Christ and He desires that our whole being (spirit, soul and body) should be submitted to Him and should turn to Him and become clean and holy. Jesus Himself said: *“Be holy because I am holy”* (Leviticus 11: 44 & 45 and 1 Peter 1: 15 and 16).

Hear what Watchman Nee<sup>2</sup> says about what happens at a believer’s spiritual rebirth (which he calls “regeneration”): *“God knows no good resides in man; no flesh can please Him. It is corrupted beyond repair. Since it is so absolutely hopeless, how then can man please God after he has believed in His Son unless He gives him something new? Thank God, He has bestowed a new life, His uncreated life, upon those who believe in the salvation of the Lord Jesus and receive Him as their personal Saviour. This is called “regeneration” or “new*

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<sup>2</sup> *The Spiritual Man*, p. 75 and 76

*birth". Though He cannot alter our flesh God gives us His life. Man's flesh remains as corrupt in those who are born anew as in those who are not. The flesh in a saint is the same as that in a sinner. In regeneration the flesh is not transformed. New birth exerts no good influence on the flesh. It remains as is. God does not impart His life to us to educate and train the flesh. Rather, it is given to overcome the flesh."*

Watchman Nee says further<sup>3</sup>: *"The cross of Christ deals with sin and the Holy Spirit through the cross treats of self. Christ delivers the believer completely from the power of sin through the cross that sin may not reign again; but by the Holy Spirit who dwells in the believer, Christ enables him to overcome self daily and to obey Him perfectly. Liberation from sin is an accomplished fact: denial of self is to be a daily experience."* He also says<sup>4</sup> that: *"Inevitably great conflict will erupt (after spiritual rebirth) between the new life and the flesh."* Paul also explains the inner anguish of this conflict in Romans 7: 15 to 23.

#### **4. Allow Jesus to wash your soul and body in His blood**

All reborn Christians should therefore allow Jesus to wash them in soul and body with His blood so that they will be ready to meet Jesus when He comes and will be spiritually dressed in robes of white.

Upon the question of John to one of the elders who the people before the throne of God was whom were all dressed in white:

Revelation 7: 14: *"These are the ones... who washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*

Allow Jesus, through a process of inner healing and deliverance, to prepare you for His second coming and to meet Him!

ALL PRAISE AND HONOUR TO OUR RISEN SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST  
FOR THIS TEACHING!

(If this teaching has blessed you, please consider to register as a "friend" of the ministry and to bless us with your prayers and a monthly donation.)

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<sup>3</sup> P. 79

<sup>4</sup> P. 80