

02-11-2024

## *Born from Above*

The love of a doctor is in the accuracy of the diagnosis; and in the precision of the healing process. We often do not like either the diagnosis or the healing process. Do you really want to hear it?

In Revelation 2 and 3 John delivers a harsh reality. You've lost your first love and are about to lose your whole church. Your congregation is filled with lying false converts. Satan has set up shop in your house; someone is running the Balaam scam: perverting faith through fornication; prideful others are lording it over the weak. Jezebel is running a house of prostitution, she calls a temple, where she teaches the deep things of Satan. You've got a reputation for a jumping church: but, it's really dead. One of you is halfway righteous, even though you are very weak. You're rolling in money; but, your doors are locked; Jesus is banging on the doors: there isn't a believer in the whole place.

Why must you be Born from Above. Everybody is saying I must be Born from Above. So, why, exactly must I/you be Born from Above? Well, I'll get around to it later. What are you, a member of generation X, Y, Z? I get it: you are a member of generation EZ: when I really need it, it will be handed to me on a silver platter, real EZ like.

You go to church every Sunday, and sit on your Duffy's Tavern; the old blue cloth covered hymnals are gathering dust in the pews; some guy up front is screaming so loud he's about to bust; if he turns the pressure up one more notch, he will surely bust: did I hear a snore coming from the pews.

You believe in Sola Scriptura, you claim. Oh, is that so? Do you live it? Can you prove it? Put your money where your mouth is.

Well, I don't need to work: my works won't save me. So, I'm taking life EZ. Good luck with that.

Have you been listening to what comes out of your pulpits? God says:

“Little children, it is the last time: and as you have heard that antichrist will come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.” — 1 John 2:18

“Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denies the Father and the Son.” — 1 John 2:22

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby, you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: Every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof you have heard that it would come; and even now already it is in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.” — 1 John 4:1-4

“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who do not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.” — 2 John 1:7

Your preacher says antichrist is coming, escape him in the rapture. John says, he’s already been here for 2000 years: you can’t escape him. Your preacher says love those antichrists. Well, don’t love them so much that you start to pray and worship together; have joint services; fail to gently warn them of their sin. Don’t hate them either, waging war with them, persecuting them. Rather, pity them: for they don’t have Jesus.

Your preacher says that it’s okay for you to change what God created. I guess your preacher thinks he’s smarter than God. Maybe you think that you are smarter than God. Don’t you know that God loves what He creates? Don’t you suppose that what God creates is His property? Don’t you think it’s wrong to change God’s property without His permission? No, it’s not alright to attempt to change the impossible, your sexuality: for, you cannot change what is stamped on every DNA molecule in every cell in your body. Oh, I almost forgot, you are smarter than God and so is your preacher....

Your preacher says that it’s okay for you to behave differently than what God created, even if you don’t change it: even though the Bible says in several places (Romans 1:17-32 for example) that it’s not okay to live differently than the way God created you. Even though true science tells you that there is no such genetic, it’s false science to claim another genetic. Even though logic tells you that the false genetic of false science cannot possibly work.

Your preacher tells you that there is nothing wrong with world politics; that business as usual will solve our problems: that a good just war is the way to cleanse the world today.

By now, most of you are already so angry at the diagnostic process, you don't want to read another word. If I don't tell you the truth: I don't love you very much. The fact is that you and the whole world are suffering from several very deadly diseases: sooner or later one of these diseases will take you down. Are you ready to die?

These are just a few of the reasons why must you be Born from Above. But EZ still won't work: it won't do to put it off for another microsecond. What is it that we are putting off? "If anyone has an ear, let them hear the Spirit...."

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" — Luke 11:13

Sounds EZ doesn't it? There is a price tag. The Holy Spirit expects to be obeyed. So, yes, please ask. Just ask. Keep on asking the way a child asks. But, be ready to listen; and even more ready to obey.

"Jesus answered and said unto (Nicodemus), Verily, verily, I say to you, 'Except a person is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.' " — John 3:3

So, we've already learned that we are born from above by asking: but, if we ever want to see heaven it is urgent that we do so right now. Don't waste another nanosecond.

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say to you, ‘Except a person is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.’ ” — John 3:5

You’ve already been born of water, when your mother’s water broke, and you came into this world. Being born of the Spirit is a separate but similar process. Luke has already showed us that this process begins by asking. Your exact words don’t matter that much: it’s the sincerity of your request that matters. I just asked for help in 1968: now I’ve got a lifetime of help to prove that God made good on the deal.

The help always comes in the form of the Holy Spirit: but, Satan and his disciples, antichrists are always there with false spirits and false prophets which must be tested (1 John 4:1-4). If they’re not specifically preaching, “that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh”, they are lying false prophets. Walk away and find the real Holy Spirit.

This is why John writes:

“The Spirit and the Bride are saying, “Come!” The one who is hearing, let them say, “Come!” The one who is thirsting, let them come! The one who is willing (wishing), let them receive (take) water of life freely.” — Revelation 22:17

John’s metaphor is not about living water: living water is a picture of the Holy Spirit. You need a good drink of the Holy Spirit. The whole world needs a good drink of the Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus told the woman of Samaria at the well:

“Jesus answered and said unto her, If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that says to you, ‘Give me to drink; you

would have asked of Him, and He would have given you living water.... Jesus answered and said to her, Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again: but, whoever drinks of the water that I will give them will never thirst; but, the water that I will give him will be in him a well of water springing up into eternal life.... But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.... Jesus said to her, I that speak to you am He.”  
— John 4:10, 13-14, 23-24, 26

Jesus explains Himself in greater detail later:

“On the last, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, ‘If anyone thirst, let them come to me and drink. He that believes on me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water: yet this He spoke about the Spirit, which they that believe on Him would receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified.’ — John 7:37-39

So, if you’re still thinking about water baptism, you haven’t been paying attention. Jesus must baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; 1 Corinthians 12:13). The Holy Spirit indwells you and creates the miracle of faith in your heart. Then that faith must be nourished and grow with each baby step taken following Jesus.

What is amazing is that Nicodemus, a leading member of the Sanhedrin doesn’t understand this: for, the Sanhedrin members received gifts of the Holy Spirit since the days of Moses. Jesus continues:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life: for, God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. They that believe on Him (the Son, Jesus) are not condemned: but they that believe not are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil: for, everyone that does evil hates the light, neither comes to the light, lest their deeds should be reproved. Yet, they that do truth come to the light, that their deeds may be made revealed, that they are done in God.” — John 3:16-21

This requires a somewhat painful life journey:

“He said to them all, If anyone will come after me, let them deny themselves, and take up their cross daily, and follow me.” — Luke 9:23

“For whoever will save their life will lose it: and whoever will lose their life for My sake will find it.” — Matthew 16:25; Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; 17:33

“Yes, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” — 2 Timothy 3:12

No, the rapture is not an escape mechanism from the realities of the Christian life of poverty and suffering. It requires heart surgery:

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” — Hebrews 4:12

The medication also upsets the stomach:

“I came to the messenger telling Him to give me the booklet. He tells me, ‘Take and devour it. It will sour your belly; but, in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.’ I took the booklet from the hand of the messenger. I devoured it. It is now in my mouth as honey sweet. When I ate it, my belly was soured.” — Revelation 10:9-10

So if another spirit tells you to read this or that book; remember that the Book you must devour is the Bible: this is the book the Holy Spirit teaches.

So, why must you be Born from Above? Because, you are invited to a wedding: those who are late and/or improperly dressed will not be allowed into the wedding. Being Born from Above guarantees that you will arrive on time, wearing the right clothes (Matthew 22:2-13; 25:1-13). God even provides the suits and gowns.

A second reason that “you must be Born from Above” is that you are not yet ready to meet Thanatos. Thanatos is far more than an action movie fantasy demon: you don’t really want to meet him without all your armor on and without your sword (Ephesians 6:10-18).

A third reason that “you must be Born from Above” is that it is the only real and lasting solution to world peace... to end war. To have world peace, we must get ourselves under control: only God can do that through being Born from Above. When all of ourselves are under control, war will cease all by itself.

Why doesn't God just do it? Because we don't really want it. That's right, the real reason that we are not “Born from Above” is because we really don't want it. Let that sink in for a moment. The most compelling reason of all for being “Born from Above” is because the human race is so opposed to it. We deliberately chose death, rather than life. That's just irrational.

So, as painful as it is to say and do, “You must be Born from Above”. I cannot love you, if I do not tell you.

Soli Deo Gloria.

1

---

<sup>1</sup> If you have been blessed or helped by any of these meditations, please repost, share, or use any of them as you wish. No rights are reserved. They are designed and intended for your free participation. They were freely received, and are freely given. No other permission is required for their use.