

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On February 23, 2012, we received the following inquiry:

“Can you explain how one is born of the spirit?

How do you explain 2 Corinthians 1:22?” The scripture states:

“He has also put his seal upon us and has given us the token of what is to come, that is, the spirit, in our hearts.” – *2 Corinthians 1:22*

To the author, we want to thank you for your inquiry and for the opportunity to expound on this most important subject.

A similar question was posed to Jesus by the Pharisee, Nicodemus.

“Nicodemus said to him: ‘How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter into the womb of his mother a second time and be born, can he?’ Jesus answered: ‘Most truly I say to you, Unless anyone is born from water and spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. What has been born from the flesh is flesh, and what has been born from the spirit is spirit. Do not marvel because I told you, You people must be born again. The wind blows where it wants to, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So is everyone that has been born from the spirit.’” – *John 3:4-9*

By saying “What has been born from flesh is flesh,’ Jesus was telling Nicodemus that he is not talking about fleshly birth, or returning to a woman’s womb. And when he says that you may hear the sound of wind but not know from where it is coming, he means that being born from the spirit is not discernible by the eye. In other words, when a person is born again, there are no outward manifestations.

We want you to know that the Father’s work is simple and straight forward. There is no hocus pocus, no pomp and circumstance, no mysticism, and no rituals. The bestowal of the spirit of truth is independent of all forms, ceremonies, sacred places, and special behavior by those who received the fullness of its manifestation.

When the spirit came upon those assembled in the upper chamber, they were simply sitting there, having just been engaged in silent prayer. (*Acts 1:12-14; 2:1-4*) The spirit was bestowed in the country as well as in the city. It was not necessary for the apostles to go apart to a lonely place for years of solitary meditation in order to receive the spirit. For all time,

Pentecost disassociates the idea of spiritual experience from the notion of rituals and sacred environments.

Being born of the spirit is simply a **realization** that you are not a slave, but a son. It merely signifies the conscious reception of the gift of the spirit of truth and the personal acknowledgment of a new spiritual power, and dignity. When a king summons his slaves, the slaves arrives and prostrates himself, saying “Yes, my Lord.” When a king summons his son, the son arrives, stands face to face and says “Yes, Father” even as we say “*Abba*. Father.”
(Galatians 4:6)

We recognize this world as our divine inheritance, not as a scary and evil place. We recognize difficulties we encounter in day to day living as opportunities for growth, not as punishment from an unforgiving potentate. We are free – free sons of the living God, free brothers of the living Christ. **(1 Peter 2:16)** While we still fall short, we have done away with the “consciousness of sin.” **(Hebrews 10:2; Acts 24:16)** And with that new found self respect, we can courageously face all obstacles.

Having said that, we do acknowledge that the realization that one is a son of God may bring with it a profound emotional reaction or experience. Being the child of the ineffable Father of the universe can be an overwhelming joy. But that experience is a human reaction, not a manifestation of spirit.

Neither make the mistake of expecting to become strongly intellectually conscious of the outpoured spirit of truth. The spirit never creates a consciousness of himself, only a consciousness of the Christ. From the beginning Jesus taught that the spirit would not speak of itself.

“I have many things yet to say to you, but you are not able to bear them at present. However, when that one arrives, the spirit of the truth, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak of his own impulse, but what things he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things coming. That one will glorify me, because he will receive from what is mine and will declare it to you.” –
John 16:12-14

The proof, therefore, of your being born of the spirit is not to be found in your consciousness of this spirit but rather in your experience of enhanced fellowship with the Christ.

Do not overlook the fact that the spirit of truth was bestowed upon all sincere believers; this gift of the spirit did not come only to the apostles. The one hundred and twenty men and women assembled in the upper chamber all received the new teacher, as did all the honest of heart throughout the whole world. This new teacher was bestowed upon mankind, and every soul received him in accordance with the love for truth and the capacity to grasp and comprehend spiritual realities. After that bestowal (or baptism), a person would experience accelerated

spiritual growth – often, but not necessary, intellectually, but certainly in revealing the Father’s love and the son’s mercy; the Father’s nature and the son’s moral character.

The bestowal of the spirit of the Father is the token:

“He has also put his seal upon us and has given us the token of what is to come, that is, the spirit, in our hearts.” – *2 Corinthians 1:22*

At last, true religion is delivered from the custody of ritual priests and all sacred classes, and finds its real manifestation in the individual hearts of men. And it fosters the highest type of human civilization in that it creates the highest type of spiritual personality and proclaims the sacredness of that person.

Yes, being born again of the spirit is a fresh start where we can leave the superfluous things behind and press forward to the goal of the kingdom of the heavens.

“From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of the heavens is the goal toward which men press, and those pressing forward are seizing it. – *Matthew 11:12*

We perhaps have gone a bit beyond your inquiry, but we felt these thoughts would be encouraging so that you would know the tremendous love your Father has shown and continues to show to all those accepting this wonderful gift. Press forward!

If you have any additional comments or questions, please email us. We respond to ALL inquiries.

“Elaia Luchnia”
