

#1037 The Latter Rain of the Cross, with the Holy Spirit – Except a Man be Born of Water and of the Spirit

Question: Where else is the ‘Latter Rain of the Cross, with the Holy Spirit’ found in scripture?

Key Understanding #1 and Answer: John 3:5.

*John 3:3-8 (KJV) 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.***

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?

*5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be BORN OF WATER and OF THE SPIRIT, he cannot ENTER into the kingdom of God.***

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

*7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.***

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.



Jesus explaining to Nicodemus that except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God

Seeing the kingdom of God. John 3:3 makes it clear that one cannot *see* the kingdom of God until he is born again.

Entering into the kingdom of God. John 3:5 seems to add an additional qualification of sorts, declaring that a man must be born *of water* and *of the spirit* to *enter into* the kingdom of God.

Of water and of the spirit. If becoming “born again” is being birthed *of the Spirit* by the Holy Spirit, what exactly is being *born of water*? The meaning of this verse has been widely debated. Suggestions about the meaning of being “*born of water*” include:

- (a) *born of water* means exactly the same as being born ***of the spirit***;
- (b) *born of water* is referring to the water at **one’s physical birth**, that is, the water of the amniotic sac;
- (c) *born of water* is **water baptism**;
- (d) *born of water* symbolizes a **purification** of the believer in some manner;
- (e) *born of water* represents a **further watering by the Holy Spirit**.

Key Understanding #2: Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit. Choice (e) is the best answer, though choices (c) and (d) are reflected in the understanding. Being born of water is a condition to entering the kingdom of God (John 3:5), and it is beyond the initial condition of being “born again” of the spirit to see the kingdom of God (John 3:3). Simply, to see the kingdom of God, one must accept what Jesus Christ did on the cross – and his death, burial, and resurrection – and become *born again of the spirit*. When one is *born again*, his spiritual eyes are opened and he *sees* the kingdom of God. However, to *enter* the kingdom of God, a person must not only make a *first* decision of accepting what Jesus Christ did on the cross, but make a *second* decision to implement the picking up of his *own* cross – led by the watering of the Holy Spirit – and follow Jesus. To claim that a man is “once saved, always saved,” once he is “born again,” and is not required to do any *cross-carrying* or true genuine Holy Spirit following of the Lord to enter the kingdom of God, was not God’s intention. Those reasonings constitute man’s denial of what he needs to do to please God.

Matthew 16:24-25 (KJV) Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and TAKE UP HIS CROSS, and follow me [through the watering of the Holy Spirit].

25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

As concerns choice (c), which referred to water baptism, being born of water is the reality of what water baptism is supposed to be symbolizing, that the believer is joined together with Jesus Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection. However, the believer must truly be planted with Jesus Christ in his death so that we walk in the resurrection of the newness of life (Romans 6:3-8), and so that we can solidly expect to be resurrected like Jesus Christ to live with him.



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