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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

The Birth of the Spirit.

**Except
a man
be born again,
he cannot see
the
kingdom of God.**
(John 3:5)

- From John 3:6

we learn that

it is the human spirit

that is

"born of the (Holy) Spirit."

- Man has a soul, or spirit,
as well as a body.

Jesus said,

"Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

(Matt. 10:28; Luke 12:4-5.)

- **Paul said,**
"Glorify God
in your body,
and
in your spirit,
which are God's."
(1 Corinthians 6:20.)

- The prophet Daniel said,
"I Daniel was grieved
in my spirit
in the midst of my body."
(Daniel 7:15.)
- The inward man,
the knowing part
of man.

- **For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?**

- **Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.**

(1 Cor. 2:11.)

- The “Spirit of God” here is a reference to the “Holy Spirit”
 - in that Paul in the next verse
 - Speaks of Paul knowing the mind of God
 - which had to be revealed to him by the Holy Spirit.
- (1 Corinthians 2:11-14)

- It is the spirit of man which needs to be saved.
(**1 Corinthians 5:5.**)
- To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

- The Bible says God is the **"Father of spirits."**
(**Hebrews 12:9.**)
- The spirit of man came from God, and at death it **returns to God.**
(**Ecclesiastes 12:7**)

- By sin, man has become in spirit
a child of the devil,

- Paul called

Elymas the sorcerer

"child of the devil"

(**Acts 13:10**),

- "children of the devil"

(**1 John 3:10**),

- Jesus said of some,

"You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do."

(**John 8:44.**)

- Nicodemus thought Jesus meant the outward man must be born again when he said,
"Except a man be born again,
he cannot see the kingdom of God."
(John 3:3-4.)
- Then Jesus tried to show him that the new birth is not the old natural birth, but is a birth
"of water and of the Spirit."
(John 3:5.)

- Jesus said,
"That which is born of the flesh
is flesh:
- and that which is born of the
Spirit is SPIRIT"
 - Like begets like.
 - The kingdom of God
is spiritual and holy;
- And that which is born of the Spirit
resembles the Spirit.

- **Psalm 51:10**

Create in me

a clean heart,

O God;

and renew

a right spirit within me.

- With a right spirit
at the steering-wheel of
one's life

he will follow the

Holy Spirit

as he leads by his word
and not follow the flesh.

- **"For if ye live after the flesh,
you shall die;**
 - **but if you through the Spirit do
mortify the deeds
of the body,**
 - **you shall live.**
 - **For as many as are
led by the Spirit of God,
they are the sons of God."**
- (Romans 8:13-14.)**

- What does it mean to **“Be led by the Spirit”**?
- Some **mistakenly think** that if “one is led by the Spirit” they were a child of God **before baptism.**
(**Romans 8:14**)
 - Is that correct?

- We ask this question:
Does one need to believe
in order to be saved?
- If so, what led them to believe?
 - Was it the Spirit?
 - If so, were they saved
before they believed?
- I think all would answer “No”.

- Some argue that
no bodily act
{ **Baptism** }
can bring
a blessing
to the Spirit of man.

- We answer that thought with the taking of the **Lord's Supper.**
- Does one eat the Lord's supper to benefit the **outward man,**
or
the inward man?
 - Is it for the **body,**
or
for the spirit?

- Likewise,
Baptism

is for

the inward man.

- Unless I am mistaken
the soul

dwells within

the mortal body.

- The whole man not just the body is involved in scriptural baptism, just as is true of the Lord's supper.

- Speaking of baptism,
"You have obeyed
from the heart
(Rom. 6:17-18;6:3-4.)

- The heart
{mind}
work in conjunction
with the physical body.

- To say a physical act could not affect the soul, is to say the blood of Christ **was shed in vain.**
- The blood of Jesus was **physical,** literal blood.
- And yet it was shed **"for the remission of sins."**
(**Matthew 26:28.**)

- It cannot be overemphasize that the new birth is for the inward man, and not just the outward
 - As the outward cannot be reborn.

- It is the inward and invisible man which is born again, as Jesus taught.
- When Nicodemus talked only about a natural, physical birth,
- Jesus used the "wind" illustration.

- The **wind** blows wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going.
- It is like that with everyone **who is born of the Spirit."**
(**John 3:8** GNB)

- One can not see the wind.
- Neither can one see the spirit of man being born of the Holy Spirit.

- As the soul comes out of Satan's kingdom,
 - it is invisible;
 - And no one sees it as it is translated into the kingdom of Christ.
(**Colossians 1:13**)

- Becoming a Christian is similar to a birth,
- So how is one begotten or born again?
 - Paul says,
"I have begotten you through the gospel."
(1 Corinthians 4:15.)

- But some one may be ready to ask,

"Is the gospel the Spirit?"

- **No!**

- But, the gospel **is the medium** through which the spirit works.

- **Let me illustrate:**

- If I want to go outside.
 - How do I do that?
- Do I merely think about it?
 - Or do I get up and physically go outside?
 - My body is the medium of my mind.
 - My body does what my mind tells it to do!

James says,
" He gave-birth to us by the
word of truth,"
(**James 1:18.**)

- This is why the gospel
must be preached
"to every creature"
(**Mark 16:15-16.**)

- To be **"born of the Spirit"** is to be born by **the word** of the Spirit.

- Peter says,
"You have
purified your souls
in obeying the truth. . . .
by the word of God, . . ."
(1 Peter 1:22-23)

- This is the way the **Spirit** operates upon the heart (spirit) of man in the new birth.
- He does **not** miraculously make men children of God.

- If he operated in that way, he would make all men children of God, and salvation would be unconditional on man's part.
- Thus, Calvinism!

- **"So is every one that is born of the Spirit"**

(John 3:8)

- **The Holy Spirit makes us children of God.**

- But the question is:
HOW does the Holy Spirit
make us children of God?

- Does he do it
directly,

- Or does he do it
indirectly?

- Does he do it without medium,
- Or does he operate through the medium of divine truth?

- Will all those be converted whom he wants converted,
- And nobody be converted whom the Spirit doesn't want converted?

- **How** is it brought about?
- Let us note the **Scriptures**:
 - "Of his own will
begat he us
with
the word of truth"
(James 1:18)

- "Well," says one,
"the word of God
is not the Spirit."
- We all know that.
- But the word of God
is the
medium of the Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit converts the sinner.

- But he does it through his word.

- So, Peter says
"the gospel was preached . . .
with the Holy Ghost sent down
from heaven."
(1 Peter 1:12.)

- Paul says,
"The gospel . . .
is the power of God unto salvation."
(Romans 1:16.)

- "Receive with meekness the
engrafted word, which is able to
save your souls."
(James 1:21.)

- Paul said,
"By which also you are saved."
(1 Cor. 15:2.)

- So, the new birth is brought about by the Holy Spirit.
- Through the word that he revealed and confirmed through the apostles.

- Jesus says,
"You are clean
through the word
which I have spoken
unto you"
(**John 15:3.**)

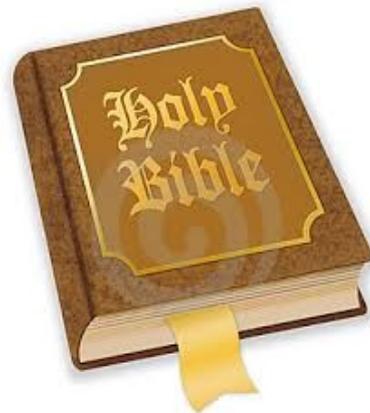
- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say**

“Come”.

Revelation 22:17



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