

TITUS 03:05 REBIRTH, NEW BIRTH

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Titus 03:05

The New Testament teaching on the new birth is rich and full.

1. The new birth is a necessity. A person will never see (Jn. 3:3) nor ever enter (Jn. 3:5) the Kingdom of God unless he is born again (Jn. 3:7).
2. The new birth is a spiritual birth, the birth of a new power and spirit in life. It is not reformation of the old nature (Rom. 6:6). It is the actual creation of a new birth within — spiritually (Jn. 3:5-6; cp. Jn. 1:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10; 4:24). (See Eph. 1:3; 4:17; New Person, Self, Eph. 1:3, 4:24.) A person is spiritually born again:
 - a. By water, even the Spirit (see *Water and Spirit*, Jn. 3:5).
 - b. By the will of God (Jas. 1: 18).
 - c. By incorruptible, imperishable, seed through the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23).
 - d. By God from above (1 Pet. 1:3). The word again (ana) in the phrase “born again” also means above.
 - e. By Christ, who gives both the power and right to be born again (Jn. 1:12-13).
3. The new birth is a definite experience, a real experience. A person experiences the new birth:
 - a. By believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (1 Jn. 5:1; cp. Jn. 3:14-15).
 - b. By the gospel as it is shared by believers (1 Cor. 4:15; Phile. 10).
 - c. By the Word of God (1 Pet. 1:23) or by the Word of Truth (Jas. 1:18).
4. The new birth is a changed life, a totally new life. A person proves that he is born again:
 - a. By doing righteous acts (1 Jn. 2:29; cp. Eph. 2:10; 4:24).
 - b. By not practicing sin (1 Jn 3:9; 5:18).
 - c. By loving other believers (1 Jn. 4:7).
 - d. By overcoming the world (1 Jn. 5:4).
 - e. By keeping himself (1 Jn. 5:18).
 - f. By possessing the divine seed or nature (1 Jn. 3:9; 1 Pet. 1:23; 2 Pet. 1:4; cp. Col. 1:27). □