

HOW CAN A MAN BE BORN WHEN HE IS OLD?

(PART 2)

Flesh cannot inherit the Kingdom of Yahweh
(Acts 16: 30 - 34; I Corinthians 15: 53-54)

Men, what is necessary for me to do that I may be saved? This question came from the jailer, who was guarding the prisoners, Paul and Silas, at the time when a powerful earthquake had shaken the very foundations of the prison and all the doors were opened and everyone's shackles were unfastened. When the jailer saw that the prison doors were opened and everyone's shackles were unfastened, he drew his sword and was on the point of killing himself, because he supposed that the prisoners had escaped (Acts 16:27), when Paul and Silas, being in the right place at the right time in obedience to Yahweh, intervened assuring him that they had not escaped. In his desperation, the jailer asked the most fundamental spiritual question, Men, what is necessary for me to do that I may be saved? For him to ask such question, he must have known something about the message of the Gospel. Paul and Silas replied to him, Believe in the Lord Yahshua Messiah and you will be saved (Acts 16:30-31). What exactly means to believe in Yahshua? It means to be born again, not of the flesh, but of the Spirit; it means to repent of the ways one lived and turn away from it to follow the Truth and the Life; it means to come out of Egypt – the world, into the sea to be purified. When Joshua, brought the Israelites to the Promise Land, he told the people, Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in truth; put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord (Joshua 24:14). Putting these words of Joshua in the perspective of being born again, we see here that once the Israelites entered the Promised Land, as in being born again, they were to give up the gods – their old ways, the desires of the flesh, as in self-denial to surrender their life to follow Yahshua; they were commanded to embrace the True Yahweh and serve Him only, as Yahshua said, in Matthews 6: 24, No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise and be against the other. You cannot serve Yahweh and money.

Out of Egypt into the sea, is a process that reflects the life of a person who has been born again. He has left the world and is now being purified and cleansed through the Word of Yahweh by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Yahshua said to the disciples, You are cleansed and pruned already, because of the Word which I have given (John 15:3). When a person experiences the new birth, he is made new; the old is no more. That means, in his new birth, he has been made in the image of Yahshua, through the process of sanctification; and through his unveiled face he will behold as in a mirror, the glory of Yahweh, and be constantly transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another (II Corinthians 3:18), He is now marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit to be saved from Yahweh's wrath and condemnation. With his mind renewed he lives to please the One Who saved him. These are the marks of a true born again person.

In the parable of the Sower there are a few things we must consider: the seed, the soil, and the fruit. The seed is the Word of Yahweh planted in the heart of man; the soil is every heart of man where the seed has been planted; the fruit is the confirmation that the seed was planted in a good soil where it has germinated life. The decision to accept Yahshua based on the emotion of the moment will be like the experience of the seed which fell on the path way and the birds ate. A true birth happens when the heart of man is contrite and repentant before Yahweh. The contrition softens the heart for repentance. In Psalm 51:1-10 we do have a beautiful example of a heart that is complete broken and repentant, it reads, Have mercy upon me O Yahweh, according to Your steadfast love; according to the multitude of Your tender mercy and loving-kindness blot out my transgressions. **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and guilt and cleanse me and make me wholly pure from my sin! For I am conscious of my transgressions and I acknowledge them; my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only have I sinned**

and done that which is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and faultless in Your judgment. Purify me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow; make me to hear joy and gladness and be satisfied; let the bones which You have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my guilt and iniquities; **create in me a clean heart, O Yahweh, and renew a right persevering and steadfast spirit with me.** A broken and contrite heart Yahweh will not despise (vs. 17). When the heart is contrite and repentant it is ready for the Word of Yahweh to penetrate and germinate in him a new spiritual birth. His actions will then show the fruit of a renewed life.

The Psalmist David said also in this Psalm, Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity; my mother was sinful who conceived me; flesh and blood cannot enter the kingdom of Yahweh. The sins of iniquity we inherit from our forefathers are sins that hold us prisoners, powerless to do what is right. Only through the new birth - of the Spirit and of water can we overcome them. There is nothing good in us, as long as we are in this fleshly tent. Our righteousness comes only from Yahweh, Who has given us His Spirit at the time of our new birth. One might say, I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't cheat my spouse, and therefore I am morally good. Yes, it is true, but not righteous enough to enter the kingdom of Yahweh. One's self-righteousness is never sufficient for salvation, because independent from the righteousness of Yahweh, Who alone is perfect, pure and perfectly righteous. The only righteousness that is accepted by Him is that which has been imparted to us from His Holy Spirit, a righteousness that comes from faith. The Apostle Paul confirmed the words of Psalm fourteen in Romans 3:10-11, As it is written, None is righteous, just and truthful and upright and conscientious, no, not one. All have turned aside, together they have gone wrong and have become unprofitable and worthless; no one does right, not even one! That's the way Yahweh sees our righteousness apart from the righteousness of His Son.

You must be born again, a birth not of the flesh and blood, but of the Spirit and water. Yahshua said to the Samaritan, But whoever takes a drink of the water that I will give him shall never, no never, be thirsty any more. For the water that I will give him shall become a spring of water welling up within him unto eternal life (John 4:14). This water (the Holy Spirit) is truly a source of a continuous cleansing of the soul, with conviction and molding it to the perfect likeness of Yahweh's Son until eternity calls. The new birth is only the beginning. Sanctification must follow in order for a believer to be made into the likeness of Yahweh's Son. This second process is a must for one to enter the kingdom of Yahweh, as the Word says, without it one cannot see the kingdom of Yahweh. In Matthew five, Yahshua gave the picture of a true born again and sanctified person filled with the fruit of His Holy Spirit. He said, Blessed are the **poor in spirit** (the humble) **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!** Blessed are those **who mourn**, for they shall be comforted! Blessed are **the meek** (the patient), for they shall inherit the earth! Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness** for they shall be completely satisfied! Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall obtain mercy! Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they shall see God! Blessed are the **peace makers**, for they shall be called the sons of God! Blessed are **those who are persecuted for righteousness's sake** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven! Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things against you falsely on My account. Be glad and supremely joyful, for your reward in heaven is great, for in the same way people persecuted the prophets who were before you; you are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world; let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father Who is in heaven (Matthews 5:1-14). While in the flesh we groan for the holiness of Yahweh to be complete in us, for we are far from being holy as He is. We do carry a lot of pride in ourselves to receive all the injuries with a humble heart; Yahshua said that we must become like a child – **humble** to enter the kingdom of heaven. Without humility one cannot admit his sins to seek forgiveness and be forgiven. The born again must hunger and thirst to know Yahweh, just like a baby hungers for milk to obtain his growth; for one to be merciful he

must refrain from harming or punishing offenders, enemies; he must show kindness in excess of what may be expected or demanded by fairness; he is to have forbearance and compassion, in the definitions of Webster's dictionary. Mercy is not only having pity on someone in his suffering, but it must be his way of life; a way that comes out in forgiveness and kindness toward the one who hurt him. To be peaceful according to Yahshua is to have salt in ourselves. I am sure salt was mentioned for its positive effectiveness in the body, for example I will mention just a few of them: salt is vital for the clearance of the lungs of mucus plugs and sticky phlegm; it is vital for clearing catarrh particularly of the respiratory tract; it is essential for the prevention of muscle cramps; it is important for water balance regulation and for fluid distribution on either side of the cell walls, etc. To have salt in ourselves is not only good for our physical health, as we know it, but also for the spiritual health related to relationship as in peace and harmony with each other. The writer to the letter to the Hebrews said, Strive to live in peace with everybody and pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will see Yahweh (Hebrews 12:14). To suffer for Yahshua is also a fruit of those who are born again, as Paul wrote, And if we are children, then we are heirs also; heirs of Yahweh and fellow heirs with Messiah; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory (Romans 8:17); and he affirmed Timothy that those who desire to live a godly life will certainly suffer persecution.

Man and women who are born again must aim and pursue righteousness, faith, love steadfastness and gentleness of heart (I Timothy 6:11). These qualities are reflections of the fruit of the Holy Spirit imparted to them. "We must die with Him, to live with Him". The born again person must go through the very narrow gate- dead for self to reach heaven. Only those who are led by the Spirit of Yahweh are sons of Yahweh, for the mind of the flesh is hostile to Yahweh, it does not submit itself to His law (Romans 8:14, 7). Without submission to Him, there is no sanctification; and without sanctification, one cannot see Yahweh. If you have been born again, choose to walk alive to obedience to Yahweh, for that is the only way to His kingdom. **YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!** The gate to heaven is not through churches, it is not through family; the way to heaven is through the new birth and obedience to Yahshua, Who came and gave His life in exchange for our punishment. Only He is the way, the Truth, and the Life; no one can have an access to His Father, apart from Him. Believe in Him and you shall be saved!