

Life

In the Upside-Down World

EPISODE #9

By Warren Litzman

As the problems of the upside-down world continue, politicians appear to turn to religious thoughts. That is, while many do not believe in Father God—whose Son died to save them from sin and hell—they seem to at least be leaning on Him because of the critical days facing America. This is not Christianity. Christianity is not someone becoming more religious, deciding to go to church or even praying more than usual. Christianity is being born again. A major error that keeps our world upside-down is politicians being religious but not born again. Christ said you MUST be born again (John 3:3, 7).

When I taught in colleges, I would ask students if they were born again. Of course, I knew most of them were because the colleges I taught in were Christian colleges. My next question to them was to explain to me how they were born again. Their answers ranged from, “I just knelt at an altar and Jesus saved me,” to “Jesus made me a new creature when I believed.” Or they would say, “When I was baptized in water,” or “When I joined the church, I was born again.” Some said it happened when they spoke in other tongues or when they had some strange experience. Of course, all the answers I got seemed good to them but not definitive of the birthing or what really happened to them when they were saved.

I suppose 90 percent of believers in Christianity do not have a biblical answer for their new birth, being born again. Furthermore, I would guess that every religious denomination has a different definition of the birthing or what it means to be a Christian. Strangely, most believers do not really care how they were born again and will die never knowing about their new life in Christ, especially if they have certain soulish feelings that say they are alright with God. They will attend church buildings and follow ministries that teach doing something is more important than knowing the Christ who is already birthed in Christians as a result of their spiritual regeneration.

When the Holy Spirit led me to the understanding of what happens when a believer is born again, I began calling it *the birthing* and teaching a believer who has been saved has been *rebirthed*. I am sure I'm not the first to use these terms. I think some of the most important statements concerning the new birth, where the proper language is used, are in John's epistles.

John is very strategic with his writings. Strategic in that he wrote most all of his writings almost 30 years after Paul died, so he had the benefit of all of Paul's writings, as well as the fact that these writings had been tested and proven as God's true plan all those years. So when he

wrote, he wrote with a knowledge of God's plan that no one else in the New Testament had. Jesus never explained what being born again meant.

Paul never used the term *born again*. Instead, he used a more comprehensive term, *the mystery*. Paul's word *mystery* means "Christ in you," but also it shows how Christ got into you (Col. 1:26–27). Christ gets into a believer by God placing His Son there. It is not a fantasy; it is a literal spiritual act of God placing His seed, Christ, in the believing sinner by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:18–23).

The old life, the old nature, is put out of the believing sinner the instant he believes on the Lord Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. As a finished work of the Cross, God's incorruptible seed (Christ) is placed and the old man is dead (Rom. 6:6). Rebirthing takes place, and a new creation is here. The birthing is an act of God. In no sense does man have anything to do with it other than accepting God's gift; the churches, the preachers, the doctrines, nor any works the sinner can do has anything to do with the birthing. Nothing can improve or make it better. Water baptism, joining the church, or doing good works cannot improve it. It is solely a God-thing.

This is the way God operates; and without God's plan in action, our world will continue to be upside-down.

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