

Psalm 51:1-19 ¹ To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. ⁵ **Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.** ⁶ Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. ⁹ Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. ¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. ¹³ Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. ¹⁶ For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. ¹⁸ Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

John 3:1-10 ¹ There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ² The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. ³ 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. ⁹ Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

- Two men concerned about their spiritual condition:
 - **King David**, an Old Testament sinner who cries out to Jehovah for forgiveness and knows that it will take more than just outward sacrifices to cleanse his sinful heart
 - **Nicodemus**, a New Testament righteous Pharisee who comes to Jesus secretly because he knows there is something real about His teaching, and finds out that the door to salvation is something he never expected! (Nicodemus later becomes a disciple, along with Joseph of Arimathea – John 7:50, 19:39)
- Note that King David knew more about New Testament salvation than Nicodemus did – his prayer identified with repentance (“the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit”), baptism (“wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow”), and the Holy Ghost (“create in me a clean heart, O God”).
- The only way to get into God’s Kingdom is to be born into it – born again!
- Just as physical birth is a process which must be completed, so is the new birth!
- God has always been a God of blood, water and Spirit – it’s all through His Word!

1 John 5:8 *And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.*

- God uses these three elements – blood, water and Spirit – to take us from the human known to the spiritual unknown. Jesus provided all three in His work of redemption. We must take on all three if we ever want to experience salvation. Like Nicodemus, there are many “masters” today who do not understand this salvation experience!

- The Christian emphasis on the **BLOOD** of Jesus is not the reflection of a primitive blood ritual. Rather, God's Word teaches that the shedding of sacrificial blood is foundational to salvation:

Leviticus 17:11 *For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*

Hebrews 9:22 *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

1 Peter 1:18-19 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

- **WATER** is one of the most common elements in our world, and is essential for man's survival. It is used in the Bible to typify many things, but none so important as the plan of salvation:

Isaiah 55:1 *Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*

Romans 6:4 *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Acts 22:16 *And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*

- There are basically three kinds of **SPIRIT** in the world: the Holy Spirit (and angelic spirits), Satan (and demonic spirits), and human spirits. Man is comprised of spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23), with his spirit being the eternal aspect of his existence. With the human spirit, man can respond either to the Holy Spirit or to evil spirits!
- Many people are oblivious to the fact that they have a spiritual nature, because it is suppressed by their flesh. That is why they "feel something different" when they first attend an Apostolic church; this is the first time their human spirit ever had an opportunity to respond to the Spirit of God. When we receive salvation, our spirit is brought into communion with God's Spirit.

John 4:24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

Acts 2:4 *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Galatians 6:8 *For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

- **ALL THREE ELEMENTS ARE CRUCIAL IN EXPERIENCING THE NEW BIRTH! YOU ARE NOT "BORN AGAIN" BY JESUS' DEFINITION UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE PROCESS!**

- Jesus did a work **FOR** us: death, burial, resurrection
- But He also wants to do a work **IN** us: repentance, water baptism, Holy Ghost
- Acts 2:38 is only a "favorite verse" of the Apostolics because it was given on the first day that the plan of salvation was made available, and is the first time it was ever stated this plainly!

Acts 2:38 *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

- In Scripture, the words "believe" and "obey" could be used interchangeably in many instances, for to the early Christians you would NEVER do one without the other. That is why many salvation verses include the word "believeth" which means "a continuing or progressing state of believing."

- Today, many have tried to BELIEVE the gospel without OBEYING the gospel. That is impossible!
- BELIEVE means “to accept as true,” and is merely a mental assent that something is true.
- OBEY means “to carry out orders,” and is a physical process we do as a result of our belief.
- **WE MUST MAKE JESUS’ DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OUR OWN BY OBEYING THE GOSPEL. THE BIBLE IS FULL OF BEAUTIFUL TYPES WHICH ILLUSTRATE THIS:**

| TYPE | REPENTANCE | BAPTISM | HOLY GHOST | QUESTION |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Passover <i>1 Corinthians 10:1-2</i> | Sacrifice of Lamb; Blood on doorpost | Deliverance from Egypt at Red Sea | Pillar of Cloud and Fire in wilderness | When was it safe for Israel to stop? |
| Tabernacle <i>Hebrews 9:8-9,11</i> | Brazen Altar | Brazen Laver | Holy Place | Which part could Israel eliminate? |
| Seed <i>John 12:24</i> | Death of Seed | Burial of Seed | Germination of Seed | Which stage is non-essential? |
| Jesus <i>1 Corinthians 15:3-4</i> | Death | Burial | Resurrection | Which part can we eliminate safely? |
| Natural Birth <i>John 3:3-5</i> | Conception | Growth in Womb | First Breath | Can you be born without each part? |
| Spiritual Birth <i>Acts 2:38</i> | Repentance | Water Baptism | Holy Ghost | Can you be born without each part? |