


LIFE 2.0

UPGRADING TO ETERNITY

#TMHLife2point0 

Images of physical birth and the spiritual rebirth go hand in hand, because flesh and spirit belong together in the new birth Jesus envisions. One is reborn to a new life within the physical body. Jesus' offer of new life is not for an afterlife, but for this life.
~ Gail R. O'Day & Susan E. Hylen, *John*

Part 2: *Wind and Water*

(Part 18 in the continuing series "Jesus by John")

APPETIZER – Belonging to Something Bigger Than Me

We are born into a *family* and a *nation*...

MAIN COURSE – Born of Water and Spirit

John 3:4-8

"BORN OF WATER" – FOUR POSSIBLE MEANINGS...

1. *Water as Christian Baptism (Historical Majority)*
Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19-20; Acts 2:38
2. *Water as John's Baptism (Lesslie Newbigin)*
Mark 11:30; Luke 7:30
3. *Water as Washing of the Spirit (Origin, Calvin)*
Isaiah 32:15; 44:3; Zechariah 14:8; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Titus 3:4-6
4. *Water as Physical Birth (Ben Witherington III, Gail R. O'Day)*
Context is question about physical birth – literally a birth out of water. Jesus is playing on Nicodemus' question. New life is not a transition from physical to spiritual, but includes both! Jesus is offering new life, not after we die, but starting now!

New creation is...

- Cosmic (a new world; **Romans 8**)
- Corporate (a new community; **Ephesians 2:14-22**)
- Personal (a new self; **2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:22-24**)

Ruach / Pneuma (feminine / neuter) = spirit, wind, breath

TAKE OUT – Stop Trying and Say "Thank You"

IMPLICATIONS...

- God loves you better than your own mom.
- All races are included in the Kingdom.
- Our Jewish friends need Jesus as much as anyone else.
- Religious structures and institutions are not the gate-keepers.
- We can't manufacture this – we can only receive it.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



facebook.com/themeetinghousechurch



@theMeetingHouse
@Bruxy



The Bible App by Lifechurch.tv
Get teaching notes at
"Live" and search "Oakville"



Get our App!
road.ie/meetinghouse

Home Church Questions...

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. The phrase “Kingdom of God” is very common on the lips of Jesus when talking about the Gospel. But we don’t use the word “kingdom” as much today in our culture. If you had to choose a synonym for contemporary use, what would it be and why? Family? Community? Society? Reign? Realm? Other?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

2. Read **John 3:4-8**.
 - a. What verse or idea from the text (or Sunday’s message) stands out to you? Why?
 - b. Nicodemus is old, and doesn’t see the possibility of change for himself. Have you ever felt too ingrained in your way of thinking and behaving to adjust to new discoveries or new ways, especially in matters of faith? Talk about it.
 - c. Refer to the teaching notes. What explanation of “water” do you think is most likely? How much does it matter to know the right answer? Why?
 - d. Jesus makes it clear that we can’t control the wind/breath/Spirit of God. But do we have any role in our own salvation (*synergism*)? Or does God decide and complete our salvation alone (*monergism*)? (Also see 1:12-13; 3:16.)
3. Read Paul’s description of our new corporate reality in **Ephesians 2:14-22**.
 - a. What verse or idea from the text stands out to you? Why?
 - b. Together we are citizens, God’s people, a godly household, and a temple of God (**verses 19-22**). Paul uses political, ethnic, familial, and (ir)religious imagery for the Church. What are some practical implications of each image of who we are together?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

4. What was your baptism experience like?
5. What do you think is the value of baptism as an active symbol of new birth?
6. Paul says that together we are a new kingdom, ethnicity, family, and temple. These four images should have practical implications for how we live. How have you lived out any of these realities this past week?
7. Do you sense God speaking to you in any of these areas? What next step could you take this week to live out any of these realities in a more practical way?

Feb 23/Mar 2, 2014 || Bruxy Cavey

Quotes...

Christ’s words are as if to say: You must give up your old life and become a new person. Jesus’ message is not concerning what you must do or not do, but concerning what you must become.

~ Martin Luther

By the term “born again” Jesus means not the amendment of a part but the renewal of the whole nature.

~ John Calvin

The point of this teaching of Jesus is that the Old Testament religion is inadequate; it cannot move forward continuously into the kingdom of God. A moment of discontinuity, comparable with physical birth, is essential.

~ Frederick Dale Bruner, *The Gospel of John*

By natural birth people become members of an earthly family; to become members of the family of God, to receive the spiritual nature which alone can gain admittance to his kingdom, a birth “from above” is necessary.

~ F.F. Bruce, *The Gospel of John*

Salvation is not a private individual experience without social consequences; we are born into a family.

~ Brenda B. Colijn, *Images of Salvation in the New Testament*

The wind is invisible. But it is powerful and when it blows we cannot question its reality even though we cannot locate its source or control its movement. So it is with the Spirit of God.

~ Lesslie Newbigin, *The Light Has Come*

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

~ Jesus