## Born Again of Imperishable Seed I Pet. 1:23

No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of the water and the Spirit. John 3:5

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:47

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Rom 10:13

Preach the Kingdom of God. Acts 20:25 Turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. 20:21 Tell the people the full message of this new life. 5:20 Acts 20:21 Repentance (2) Acts 26:18 Turn them from darkness -And from the power of Satan. Enemies of Jesus Christ. 2:35 Corrupt generation. 2:40 Wicked ways. 3:26

Be baptized and wash away your sins. Acts 22:16

Then both Philip and the Eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. Acts 8:38

... All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death.

We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Rom. 6:3, 4

See Gal. 3:26-29

Open their eyes and turn them to the light and God. Acts 26:18

When they came up out of the water... the eunuch went on his way rejoicing. Acts 8:39

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Col. 1:13

Through Him everyone who believes is **justified** from everything you could not be justified from by the Law of Moses. Acts 13:39 See I John 1:7

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Lesson Code: ACTEP2L7

## The new birth plus justification by faith doctrines

This chart is to be used by a member of the church for his or her personal evangelism. The intent is to teach justification by faith in conjunction with one's new birth.

Please note the movement is from left to right on the chart - from darkness to light (Acts 26:18). Emphasis is on the concept of the two realms as they are set forth in Eph. 2:2 and 2:6.

The continuous flow of God's grace is received by Christians based upon our faith in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. This continuity of being counted righteous and holy by God is accomplished by adding justification to the new birth. "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." Rom. 4:25.

We have emphasized man's part in the new birth processes. Man's part in the new birth is faith and repentance (see chart). God has supplied all the other parts – the blood of Jesus and even the water for the Biblical practice of baptism.

Please note how man's part in his or her new birth is also a Christian's part in justification by faith. The doctrine of justification by faith is only for Christians. By our faith and its continuous strengthening in Christ we are counted as righteous (I John 1:7). This gives us a peaceful fellowship with Deity (Rom. 5:1). Because of our continuous attitude of repentance we are saints in God's view (Rom. 6:19-23).

The grace of being counted righteous because of our faith demands slavery to God's righteousness. Christians are saints because of our willingness to maintain a repentant attitude. This demands a Bible definition of the quality both faith and repentance.

The quality of faith that works for us in justification can be understood by a study of Abraham's faith in James 2:18-24. Please note how God tested the faith Abraham already possessed. Abraham's faith was classified as "perfected"

faith," only after he passed the test. See verse 22. This is the quality of faith that works for Christians in justification.

John the Baptist's definition of repentance is that one's repentance should be witnessed in his or her changed life in regard to the sin of which they repented. (Luke 3:8). No fruit, no repentance.

We need to understand both the **state and process** of a justified life in Christ (Rom. 5:18, 19). The **state** of the relationship with God of a faithful repentant Christian at any moment is that we are 100% righteous and a saint. See I John 3:7-10: I Cor. 1:2.

Righteousness has to do with what we do and holiness has to do with what we be – who we are.

At the same time we are in the process of practicing righteousness more perfectly, we are in the process of becoming more like Jesus (Gal. 4:19). We understand we come short of God's glory as we move from glory to glory; however, as we are in this process of growth, our state is that we are "holy and blameless." Our **state** relates to God's view of our dedication and faith. Because of our faith in the doctrines, our view of our "self" is the same as God's view. See Eph. 1:4; Rom. 3:23; II Cor. 3:18. This view of our "self" is the goal of our spiritual growth. Christians are continually in the process of recreating ourselves (Gal. 6:15).

## **Questions for Discussion**

- 1. In the first box across the top of the chart we find a great imperative set forth by Jesus in John 3:5. What does the statement in Acts 2:47 and Rom. 10:13 reveal about God's part and mankind's part in relation to being born of the water and the Spirit?
- 2. How does "being saved" relate to the kingdom of God?
- 3. In order for a lost person to call on the name of the Lord something needed to be preached. What must be preached? This question takes us into the chart on to the left side.

- 4. In Acts 20:21 we are told more about man's part in "being saved." What are the two responsibilities of the person in his or her process of the new birth?
- 5. This sequence of questions is intended to help a Christian use this chart as an evangelism tool. From what condition is a lost person saved? See the bottom left box. Please list the characters noted in this "darkness."
- 6. Repentance is a decision made in the mind caused by faith in the message preached. What does a person in Satan's kingdom of darkness need to be saved from other than the enemies of Christ and the corrupt generation with wicked ways? This question is answered in the center chart.
- 7. After faith and repentance have been developed in a person's mind and heart why do they need to be baptized?
- 8. How was baptism accomplished by Philip for the believing eunuch? It appears Jesus meant the kind of water one could go down into in John 3:5 because Philip was directed by the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:5; 21:8).
- 9. What spiritual thing happened underneath the water to free the faithful repentant person from his or her own sins; and thereby, from Satan's power of death? See Heb. 2:14, 15.
- 10. The words "born again" mean to be begotten by God. According to the scriptures in this chart who then will God begat? Please understand a person who has been born again has the identity of a son of God and a child of Abraham (Rom. 8:16; Gal. 3:26-29). We now move to the top right side of the chart.
- 11. Please note Paul's commission to preach to the Gentiles has been quoted again in Acts 26:18. Into what has this "born again" person been transferred?
- 12. This person has been made alive to God in their spirit; however, they are still in the body that relates to Adam; therefore they still have the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:22; I Cor. 15:22, 45-49). For this reason Christians need the priesthood of Jesus. What is the doctrine that works for faithful Christians?

We finish with our use of the chart by viewing the doctrine in the lower right hand corner. Please preview Part IV, Lesson Six, for more information about this beautiful doctrine.

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A study of page two of this lesson will be helpful with the use of this chart.