

## **What does God ask of me?**

### **Expectation #1**

### **"You must be born again."**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, – **II Timothy 3:16**

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. – **Jeremiah 29:11-13**

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. – **Romans 10:17**

#### **Expectation #1**

##### **➤ You must be born again.**

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." <sup>3</sup>In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." <sup>4</sup>"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup>You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>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." – **John 3:1-8**

**God had promised a day when He would cause his people to be born again.**

**God spoke these words through the prophet Ezekiel.**

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. – **Ezekiel 36:25-27**

➤ The water signifies a cleansing from sin.

- The Spirit signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit that God would give to all who believe.
- These two together create a new beginning spiritually.
- We can be religious and spiritually dead at the same time.

**Jesus explains:** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the spirit spirit gives birth to the spirit.

- We are born spiritually dead.
- Flesh is what we are by nature, it's our humanity. It's our natural human condition.

I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— <sup>52</sup>in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup>For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. <sup>55</sup>"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" <sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. – **I Corinthians 15:50-57**

**Jesus sees all of humankind divided into two parts.**

- ❖ Those who are born once, "born of the flesh." In other words "spiritually dead."
- ❖ And those who are "born from above" by the spirit of God.

**It's not what you do for God that makes you spiritually alive, it's what God has already done for you through Christ.**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. – **John 3:16**

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup>and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" – **John 11:25-26**