

WORD OF THE WEEK

The Subject: Born Again

John 3:3 - Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God -- Ye must be born again.

again -- Greek: another - "from above"; The adverb ano telling where the birth is from, hence from the top or from Heaven above; the primary particle of the word origin is: Anti meaning in opposition (against) or instead of the earthly birth.

Luke 13:24 - Strive to enter in at the strait gate

Strive - Greek: agonizomai (our word agonize)--to struggle (compete for the prize); contend with the adversary from: agon -- the public arena where contestants wrestled, raced, and fought for the prize. Jesus says agon-ize. Strive does not mean to try to enter in, but rather to wrestle with the adversary (sin) in the flesh (self) upon entering.

Strait - Greek: stenos-narrow as if squeezing through an opening.

Jesus tells Nicodemus that the believer is required to be born with a birth from heaven that is "against" or in opposition to this fleshly birth. When a man is "born again" he does not merely turn over a new leaf. He takes his cross daily then following Christ, he denies himself, dying to the desires of the flesh. This death of the carnal man results in the resurrection of Christ in us which is the "new birth" that opposes the flesh. As believers, we are required to wrestle with the temptations of the flesh and to agonize in daily repentance and in suffering for righteousness sake. We are not to be "at ease" and comforted with this world. Comfort only comes when the believer is mourning over sin. Jesus said, "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." The entrance to eternal life is a narrow way. Few will find it. The man who does not agonize against sin (self) does not know Christ, and will not possess eternal life. "Ye must be born again."

GRACE AND TRUTH MINISTRIES

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Jim Brown - Bible Teacher • 824-8502

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