

Scripture: 1 John 3

Lord's Day 20 #4

Singing: 288 – 275 – 313 – 421:3-4

The Glory of the Holy Spirit (4)

I. In His Person II. In His saving works

II. Glory of the Holy Spirit's saving works

A. Review: Before HS do His work as Comforter He acts as the Quickener

1. We need to pray with importunity for this work of the Spirit (Luke 11:13)

2. Jesus' pointed out this vital work of the Spirit in John 3:1-8

a. this new birth is far more than *being religious*

b. this new birth is outside our ability and yet absolutely necessary

3. Jesus' answer upon Nicodemus' question is His direction: vs. 9-21

a. the Spirit does His work through the Gospel (1 Peter 1:23)

B. The examination of the New Birth: *How can I know I am born again?*

1. It is not always known **when** this great work of Spirit was done (John 3:8)

a. some know an exact time

b. many do not know an exact time

Winslow: How many of the Lord's beloved ones, children of godly parents brought up in the way of God, are at a loss in reviewing the map of their pilgrimage, to remember the starting point of their spiritual life. They well know they left the city of destruction, that by a strong and a mighty arm they were brought out of bondage, but so gently, so imperceptibly, so softly and so gradually were they led, that they cannot discover when the first dawning of Divine life took place It was 'first a thought, then a desire, then a prayer...'

2. Yet is known **where** this great work of the Spirit has taken place

a. Scripture does not teach *dormant regeneration*

b. Spirit's work is compared to *wind*: invisible yet noticeable in its fruit

The manner of this operation cannot be fully comprehended by believers in this life. Notwithstanding which they rest satisfied with knowing and experiencing that by this grace of God they are enabled to believe with the heart and love their Savior.
Canons of Dort, Head III/IV, art 13; Eccl. 11:4

D. The vital signs revealing the heavenly, spiritual new birth (Canons I, 12)

1. Faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (Matt. 5:6; Acts 4:12)

a. Jesus pronounced Peter blessed *when he confessed Christ as the Son of the Living God, having words of eternal life!*

b. such faith can be very elementary though it is saving

2. Faith in Jesus Christ is never found alone

a. Jesus pointed this out in first three *Beatitudes* in Matt. 5:3-5

- *sense of misery about spiritual poverty of the heart*
- *sense of grief as we mourn about the evil of sin*
- *meekness as we sense we are not worthy and lost all rights*

b. Jesus also added the last three *Beatitudes* in Matt. 5:7-9

- 1 John 3:9 *Whosoever is born of God, doth not commit sin*
- 1 John 2:29: *everyone that doeth righteousness is born of Him*
- 1 John 5:4 *Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world*

Living this truth: Check your spiritual vital signs in a Biblical examination!