

Session 1: Meeting The Father

When you first discover the possibility of knowing God as Father, the question that likely comes to mind is: “How can I know this supernatural Being who is so powerful? And in a personal way?”

It may sound like a fantasy, but the Bible tells us how. I believe God’s Word contains His revelation of Himself to us and a master plan for an abundant, fulfilling life. No matter how popular the philosophy that there are many paths to heaven, the truth is: the Bible tells us Jesus Christ is the *only way* to the Father (John 14:6).

It also includes clear directions for receiving eternal life. Jesus described this spiritual experience as a new birth. Christ said unless a person is born again--through the power of the Holy Spirit--he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

Without this encounter with God, you cannot know Him as Father. And without that, you cannot have eternal life. What is eternal life? The assurance of a never-ending future, plus the potential for abundant life right now (see John 10:10).

The Savior explained how to be born again when he met a righteous, religious ruler named Nicodemus. Like most Pharisees, he believed their hope of acceptance by God came through perfect obedience to all of their religious rules, regulations, and traditions. But Jesus revealed it is not through religious practices, or by doing good works, that we please God. Instead, He said it is a matter of accepting God’s gift to us (Ephesians 2:8-9).

That gift is eternal life. We receive it by believing in Him and entering into a personal, spiritual relationship with Him. When Nicodemus asked, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?” Jesus explained that we must be born spiritually, just as we are born physically.

In other words, because of our human nature we need a new birth. That nature is sinful. It chooses to please self and disobey God’s instructions for life. Such action separates us from God.

This is why we need a new birth. One that comes from Father God, so we can be changed and stop willfully pursuing sinful behavior.

That doesn't mean we become perfect. As long as we're on earth, all of us will stumble and fall. Yet, because of our personal relationship with Christ, our sins are forgiven. He reconciles us with the Father.

Deeper Study

1. In your own words, explain what "born again" means. Does this seem possible? Why?

2. Describe your life and family relationships. What relational needs do you have today?

3. Read Ezekiel 3:26-27 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-18. What do these verses say about the human condition? What do they say about God's ability to change lives?

4. Describe how you handle ridicule_____

Now, read John 10:10-11. Describe how Christ's promise makes you feel_____

5. Read the following verses and briefly describe what each means to you.

Romans 6:23_____

Romans 3:23_____

Romans 5:8_____

Romans 10:9-10 _____

1 John 1:7 _____

Acts 4:12 _____