

What Does it Mean to be Born of Water?

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Question: In John 3:5 says that we must be born in water to enter the kingdom of God. Does that mean I must be baptized in order to be saved?

Answer: John 3:3-7 (NKJV) says:

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

If you look at the context Jesus is talking about **physical** birth and **spiritual** birth. He isn't talking about baptism but compares natural birth with spiritual birth. Baptism is a symbol of death, not birth (see Romans 6:3).

Verse 3—Jesus says you must be born again (a second time, from above) to see the kingdom of God.

Verse 4—Nicodemus asks about entering into a mother's womb and being born a second time. He is asking about entering again into his mother's womb, which is a womb of water. When **the mother's water breaks** the child will be born.

Verse 5—Jesus says you must be born of water (natural birth) and the Spirit (spiritual birth).

Verse 6—Jesus clarifies what He's saying. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh (physical birth) and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (spiritual birth).

Verse 7—Again Jesus explains you must be born again (a second time). Physical birth isn't enough to get you into heaven. You must **be born spiritually to go to heaven**.

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