

Old Union Ministers School

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Experimental knowledge of being born from above

By Elder Don Watts

Lesson Text = 1Jn 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

Now I Borrowed this next statement that I am going to use from Brother Rick Jones.

By way of introduction, I have based my entire confidence on what you my elders have taught me and the surety of what I have studied for myself concerning the plan of salvation. Now being human, I looked for a subject that I thought would blow your socks off, but I didn't have a gun big enough to load it in. Concerning the many subjects in the Holy Word of God, the plan of salvation must be right or every -thing else in this book is a lie. Why study, why labor if the bible isn't the truth. I am amazed how intelligent men and women can get carried so far away from the truth with all the bible proof we have. In the last few years, I have deliberately exposed myself to people who call themselves Baptist to see how far they have gone away from bible truth, and it's freighting. It's like a wild fire burning out of control. Then as I bowed my head before the great-I Am, he provided the extinguisher. I thought this subject might be a bit elementary, but I've never educated myself much past anything but elementary, but this much I have learned by personal experience, no human being, no matter how much they think they might know, can look into some one's heart and soul and know if that person got saved, they just can't do it.

This might be wrong of me, you tell me if I am, but I've wished sometimes that the tenth chapter of Romans wasn't there. This is one of worst abused, misused scriptures in the bible. When an individual is born again, **they will have a time and a place where and when the burden of sin rolled away.** They may not be able to pin it down to September the 17th 1969 but they can pin it down to about the time of the year it was and they should be able to pin it down to whether they were at home or at church or some other place. People there is an experimental knowledge that accompanies being born again.

Being born again from above is the greatest possession a human being can lay hold of, and its not something you just accept with the mind, this is a heart work. And there is more to being saved than simply making a mental decision. If a person could accept Christ, they are saying God has offended me and now I am willing to forgive God and accept him. People that is absolutely crazy. God is the one who is offended and he demands a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

Here is another phrase I hear from time to time; they say bible says if I believe I am saved. This statement is true when it is in its proper context, but that alone is not sufficient. Folks I believed that there was a God from the time I was a little boy but I was a lost as a goose until my soul was prepared by the gospel so that I could believe to the saving of my soul.

Folks there's an experience to being lost, dead in trespasses and sin, separated from God. This experience has no pleasure in it. This was one of the most frightening times in my life and I couldn't do anything about it. Rom 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

Joh_6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

When I was a lost sinner, I couldn't understand why and how people that looked just like me could act the way they did. But all the time I was made to realize that there was something real about their life. I guess I was very judgmental toward them because at that time, all I had was a carnal understanding, but I wanted what this was they called being saved.

Because of what I saw in their kind of actions and way of life, I even tried to be better, but I found no satisfaction in what I was doing. I knew it was right to be honest and good to people but there was still a hole in my life that honesty and being what I thought was good didn't satisfy. As a matter of fact the harder I tried the more empty I felt and the fears of that place they called Hell frightened me. I even got to the place to where I couldn't sleep at night, but God was working his will on me so eventually I could know something about the experimental knowledge of salvation.

Rom 7:8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. Sin grabbed the opportunity by the teaching of Gods' word and began working in me all kinds of coveting or evil things, and this is why I felt ashamed and guilty when I was in the presence of Gods' people; I was dirty.

I tell you this thing of getting a dose of head religion is as dangerous as anything on earth, it will send people to hell. Folks, people must have a heartfelt experience with God of being delivered from the bondage of sin, from darkness to light. And I want to put emphasis on being born again from above. I believe any person who gets saved by the grace of God has had an experimental knowledge of old time salvation and I believe they can tell about it.

1Jn 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

We know something that the world don't know because we are no longer of the world, although we are still in the world. Because we have passed or changed our state from darkness to light by the grace of God; we have been translated into the kingdom of Gods' dear Son, and this is the work of God, not of the preacher nor of any human on earth.

We know that we have a love for our brethren that we didn't manufacture ourselves. When I realized in my heart, my own heart that there is a love for the brethren and even the lost world that I didn't have before. I wanted them to have what I have. This gave me the assurance that I had been saved. 1Jn 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. If there is no love of God in ones' heart for others, he is still a sinner.

Now I said that there was an experimental knowledge of being born again and the process of this birth is impossible for the human mind to comprehend by itself. This is a divine process in the heart and mind of

God. But this modern evangelistic world seemly thinks they know more than God, so they speak to a vulnerable person and tell them all they need to do is believe; brothers if this is the truth, God must have another plan or maybe many plans of salvation and if this is true, God was very unfair to me. My experience of making that journey from nature to grace was difficult. I know that it was easy for the Lord to save me, but I had a hard time getting self out of the way. **Psa 116:3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.**

Psa 116:4 Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

When I realized my lost condition before God, I had no idea what to do. I didn't know how to pray, I didn't know how to trust, I didn't know how nor what to do and I have a feeling the you didn't know either. I was in a terrible shape, I was afraid and I felt so alone and ashamed. I felt dirty, too dirty to even be in the presence of God and his people. Little on ask for help but the only thing I could do was beg God for help.

I have always been the type of person who had to figure things out, but the more I tried to figure this thing out, the more confused I became. I soon learned that this was something of the heart and not of the mind and this really made me know that I needed someone who had knowledge in the salvation of the human soul. I couldn't find this person oh there was a few who stepped up to the plate in the human family but God was surely speaking to the heart of someone because I kept hearing in the background coming from somewhere in the church (trust the Lord). Well that sounded like good advice, but how do you do that with a carnal mind? I heard that phrase over and over and I wanted to but I couldn't until a feeling got worse and worse to the point, I became so sin sick that I felt like I could hardly live a minute more.

Brothers this is very elementary and I know it, but there is a feeling or an experience to being born again from above. With everything that I have experienced in my life, this was a journey that I couldn't make by myself. At this point I didn't need the preacher, deacon nor anyone else, then Heavens best stepped up to the plate and he hit a grand slam home run, and when I crossed the home plate from nature to grace, peace full and free filled my soul.

I learned later what all these people was saying to me, but I had no idea what a Godly sorrow was, but I heard about driving nails in the hands of the Son of God and I was told that I had a part in doing that. This drove my lost feelings deeper and deeper and my need of help went further than the preacher. Then I heard those voices again (Trust the Lord); this time I heard something I didn't hear before. This time I heard (Trust the Lord) that word Lord rang a bell somewhere in my heart. I still didn't know what to nor how.

When I thought it was as bad as it could get, I was wrong, I finally had got to the place where the pains of Hell got hold of me. My fears of dying in my sin intensified and I couldn't do anything about it. At this point my will to even want to live was gone, but I was afraid to die. It seemed as though Hell had turned every valiant spirit it had loose on my soul and no matter how fast or hard that I could run, I couldn't escape. What an experience it is when a poor lost sinner is reaching for Jesus, and all of sudden those nail scared hands wipes fears, and filth away. So sad to see as poor sinners are deceived by telling them to simply believe with a carnal mind and receive Christ. Where is the broken heart and contrite spirit?

I've noticed though, these modern - day evangelist have moved to something easy rather than breaking the heart and causing a contrite spirit. This kind of teaching is eating this world up and many people are going to stand before God some day without any hope of eternal glory because of this kind of teaching. I am afraid that we might have to shoulder some of the blame if we don't blow the trumpet loud and clear against such teachings.

We might say this kind of thing happens to them people out yonder, not to my children. People don't fool yourself, I have a younger brother who lives in the Carolina's with his wife and daughters and grandchildren. He said he believed all you need is a belief in Christ and you are saved. Sad, this is my family, not someone else's family.

Why do men seem to reach for something easy and never thinking about the consequences for themselves and the human family? I think the most of the problem comes from unredeemed people trying to explain the teachings of the Holy Scriptures. This is where Satan has once again raised his ugly head to make man fill like he is something when he is nothing but a lost sinner and a tool in the hands of the devil. This is what I was talking about earlier in this lesson, the plan of salvation is not wrong, it's right and everyone who has believed it, they are saints of God.

When the human family started explaining the plan of salvation away that God made yonder in the council halls of Heaven, the human family is and going to suffer a great loss.

Jesus said that He was the way, the truth and the life, folks JESUS didn't just become this when he was born of the virgin Mary, He has always been the way, and He still is the only way. The plan of salvation was fixed in Heaven among the triune Godhead before man was ever created and this plan has never needed any changes of any kind from humanity.

My friend every step of Gods' plan in the working of salvation of the human soul must be carried out to the satisfaction of God. I don't know how exactly to tell you everything that took place when God was dealing with me, but I know He looked beyond my faults and had mercy.

When Jesus came to earth, He didn't come down here to just make me and everyone else miserable and then send us to hell. No emphatically no, but God was going to get himself glory when he saves our souls.