

And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:20-21).

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3)

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit (John 3:5-8).

The Kingdom of God is spiritual and, therefore, invisible.

In order to discern the Kingdom of God one must be born anew of the Spirit.

And that new birth is invisible, whose cause is God.

Unless that spiritual birth takes place, no man can or will enter the Kingdom of God.

And that spiritual birth is a gift of the King, who controls both the wind and the Spirit (Mark 4:35-41; John 16:7).

He has the right, as Sovereign, to determine the conditions for admittance into His Kingdom.

Admission into His Kingdom is founded on God's grace in Jesus Christ, received by faith (Eph. 2:8-9).

The King also has the right to determine who is to be admitted.

Due to Christ's perfect life and sacrifice which satisfied divine justice, Christ merited the gift of the Holy Spirit, but only for those given Him by the Father (John 6:39).

King Jesus has the right, power and authority to give eternal life to those given Him by the Father (John 17:2).

Although King Jesus has power over all mankind, He sends His life-giving Spirit specifically to those chosen by the Father (John 17:2).

When blessed by the new spiritual birth, that person enters the Kingdom of God.

God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit now live in that person (John 14:23).

The Spirit Must Come First

There is much confusion among Christians regarding the timing of the Spirit's life-giving birth.

Many are taught the Spirit is given *after* man believes on Christ.

The Spirit is then a reward for obeying the command to 'believe.'

Yet in John 3 Jesus explains such is not the case.

Man is naturally spiritually blind and cannot see or comprehend the spiritual Kingdom of God.

In fact, he is spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1).

Thus, he must *first* receive the life-giving Spirit.

From this immutable truth we can then easily perceive the error which predicates God's election upon foreknowing who will receive Jesus by faith, according to their free will choice.

God only foresees man as incontrovertibly spiritually blind and dead to the things of God.

Thus, His foreknowledge is that which *He* determined, by the counsel of His own will, to whom He would graciously give the life-giving Spirit.

Until regenerated by the Spirit, man can only regard and understand

that which is carnal, of the flesh.

But the Kingdom of God is not carnal.

It does not consist of fleshly ordinances, traditions and superstitions.

Rather it consists of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost
(Romans 14:17)

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Below is a modern-day example of unrighteous, carnal Christianity blind to the truth of God, though claiming Christ as Lord and Savior.



NEXT: The Kingdom of God continued.