

BORN AGAIN

-Ryan Parsons-

What's the big deal about birth? It is the presence of life when there was none before. In the case of a physical birth, it is a new life where life didn't exist. When we speak of *being born again*, it is the same. Sin creates a situation in which death reigns (Romans 5). The movement from death to life is called being born again (Romans 6).

Today, we can experience the joy of birth without having to return to the womb (John 3). Moreover, it is completely necessary in the Kingdom.

John 3

3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Thankfully, we are not born into a hopeless situation. Our transition from death to life brings us into what Peter calls a "living hope."

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Bundled into that hope is the blessing of sonship. This is something that no one can bestow upon himself/herself, but rather a great mercy endowed because of the goodness and loving kindness of God!

Titus 3

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Unlike our emergence from the womb, we should be able to recall the events leading up to and the moments immediately following our rebirth. I challenge you to vividly savor the moment you were reborn into that living hope. If you haven't yet entered into that "newness of life" (Romans 6:1-4), I would urge you to do it today!