

## SPIRITUAL RENWAL

John 3:1-16 | Ryan Pfeiffer | Jan 5, 2024

Isaiah 43:18 MSG Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.

- Where do you see God doing something new?
- Maybe you're in a desert right now and can't see it...
- Maybe you're happy w/ things as they are & don't want anything to change

God's heart is to renew our lives, relationships and world...

Our Vision... Pursuing Jesus together for renewal in every generation.

To pursue Jesus we need to be a part of what he's doing... "I am making everything new!" Rev 21:5.

Renewal- 3 levels... Spiritual. Social. Cultural.

What does Jesus mean by Born Again? What does it teach us about renewal?

FOCUS: What is it? Why do we need it? How can we experience it?

WHAT IS IT? 3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again...5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

1. Born again is about being saved from eternal separation... self/ God/ life
2. Born again is about being filled with the Holy Spirit.
3. Being born again is about the complete, radical comprehensive transformation of our entire state of being (our identity, purpose, desires) by the Spirit.

1 Cor 3:18 And we all... are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

WHY DO WE NEED IT? 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

Eze 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you...

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Spiritual renewal is about being 1. Cleansed of our idols... Filled with the Holy Spirit... and the birth of a new mind and heart within us.

Only God's Spirit can do that cleansing work...

First 2 steps in the AA process:

- Step 1: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol— that our lives had become unmanageable.
- Step 2: Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

HOW CAN WE GET IT? (How can we lean into this?) 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.

Jesus calls out the key problem... you do not believe; how then will you believe...?

I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands...

Before Jesus began his ministry- Spirit led Jesus where? Desert! Hungered!

- He faced temptations, weakness... he returned in "the power of the Spirit"  
This is where the Spirit grows, deepens, tests our belief/ faith— GROW!!
- THE EDGE of our belief is where we go from glory to glory...

But its tempting to go back to our OLD WAYS... OLD BELIEFS... in desert!

Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?

Often when God's doing something new in our life... it requires new faith... deeper faith.

(R) Where do you need to believe God's making a ROAD/RIVER for you?

(R) Where are you in need of renewal? Where is God teaching you to believe?