



THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN SALVATION

Born Again | John 3:5-8

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. 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.' 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Exposes the Need of a Savior | John 16:7-11

7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

New Birth Confirmed | Titus 3:5

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Indwelling at Salvation | Romans 8:9-11

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Indwelling at Salvation Confirmed | Ephesians 1:13-14

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

THE REGENERATING & INDWELLING SPIRIT

LET'S OBSERVE...

Observe John 3:5-8

- ***Study Bible Section from BibleHub.com:**

- **Jesus answered:** This phrase indicates a direct response from Jesus, emphasizing His authority and the importance of His words. In the context of John 3, Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus, a Pharisee and member of the Jewish ruling council, who came to Jesus at night seeking understanding. This setting highlights the contrast between human understanding and divine revelation.
- **Truly, truly, I tell you:** The repetition of "truly" (Greek: "amen, amen") underscores the certainty and importance of what Jesus is about to say. This phrase is used by Jesus to introduce statements of great significance, demanding the listener's attention and acceptance. It reflects the Hebrew tradition of affirming truth and is unique to Jesus' teaching style in the Gospels.
- **no one can enter the kingdom of God:** The "kingdom of God" refers to the reign and rule of God, both in the present spiritual sense and the future eschatological fulfillment. Entrance into this kingdom is a central theme in Jesus' teachings. The phrase implies exclusivity, indicating that there are specific requirements for entry, which challenges the prevailing Jewish belief that lineage or adherence to the law alone was sufficient.
- **unless he is born of water and the Spirit:** This phrase has been interpreted in various ways, but it generally signifies a spiritual rebirth necessary for salvation. "Born of water" is often understood as a reference to baptism, symbolizing purification and repentance, as seen in the ministry of John the Baptist. "The Spirit" refers to the Holy Spirit's role in regeneration and transformation, aligning with Old Testament prophecies like Ezekiel 36:25-27, which speak of a new heart and spirit given by God. This dual aspect of water and Spirit emphasizes the comprehensive nature of the new birth, involving both an outward sign and an inward change.

Observe Ephesians 1:13 - *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.*

- Based off this scripture, when does the Holy Spirit enter a person now that we are in the new era (post-Pentecost)?

Observe Titus 3:5 - *He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...*

- Was our salvation (or the salvation of others) determined by works? Age? Gender? How about ethnicity? Is it determined by how one votes?



CONCORDANCE ACTIVITY

Look up the following words:



Born again: Greek: (gennao anothen)
Strong's G1080 and G509
(Found in John 3:5-8)



Regeneration: Greek: (paliggenesia)
Strong's G3824
(Found in Titus 3:5)



Indwell: Greek: (oikeo)
Strong's G3611
(Found in Romans 8:9)



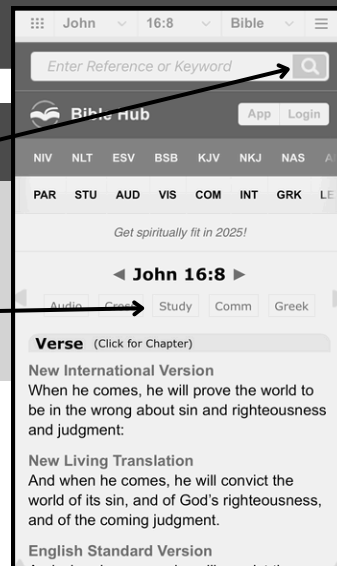
Flesh: Greek: (sarx)
Strong's G4561
(Found in John 3:6)



ONLINE RESOURCE ACTIVITY

Observe John 16:8

- Go to BibleHub.com and do a search for John 16:8 and then click on the magnifying glass.
- Once it loads, click on the button titled "Study"
 - Read the **Study Bible** section.



LET'S INTERPRET...

- What do you believe all of these verses mean?
- What is God speaking to you personally through this study?
- Read a trusted commentary and compare to your interpretation.



NOW, LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

Salvation is not just a decision we make, it's a supernatural work that begins with the Holy Spirit. According to John 16:7-11, when Jesus left the earth, He sent the Holy Spirit to take on a crucial role in salvation. One of His first jobs is to convict the world of sin. That means He makes people aware that something in their heart and life is broken and in need of fixing, He accomplishes this Himself without us pointing our finger in condemnation. The Holy Spirit is already working behind the scenes, quietly pressing on their heart, showing them they need help, they need grace, and ultimately, they need Jesus (John 6:44 confirms this).

That sense of *"I need something more"* is what leads to the next part: being born again. In John 3:5-8, Jesus explained to Nicodemus that no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. To be born again means you're not just making a change in behavior, it's a full heart transformation. It's as if God hits a reset button deep inside of you and gives you a brand-new spirit. You may look the same on the outside, but inside, something is completely different. And this change doesn't come from trying harder or being a better person, it comes when the Holy Spirit enters your life and brings you to life spiritually.

Titus 3:5 reminds us that this doesn't happen because we're good people or because we did something to deserve it. The verse says clearly, "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." In simple terms: you can't earn salvation, and you don't have to. It's a gift. The Holy Spirit is the one who washes our hearts clean and makes us new, not because we cleaned ourselves up first, but because God loved us enough to do it for us.

Once a person believes in Jesus, the Holy Spirit doesn't just visit and leave, *He moves in!* Romans 8:9-11 says if the Spirit of God lives in you, you belong to Him. And if He doesn't, you don't. That's a strong statement. When we put our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit enters us right then and there. He brings life to our spirits, which were dead because of sin, and gives us the power to live differently...not perfectly, but differently. He helps us grow, understand God's heart, and have strength we never had before.

And here's the beautiful part. Ephesians 1:13-14 says the Holy Spirit seals us the moment we believe. That's like God putting a stamp on us saying, "You're Mine, and I'm not letting go." It's a guarantee, a down payment on everything He's promised: eternal life, transformation, and a relationship with Him forever. So when we talk to people about Jesus, we're not doing the work alone. The Holy Spirit is already softening hearts, shining a light on sin, and preparing the way. Our job? It's not to point fingers and express shame, but rather to lovingly point to the cross and say, *"Weighed down by burdens, guilt and shame? Here's your answer. His name is Jesus."*



APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **Applying John 3:5-8:** Have you experienced a spiritual transformation, a moment where you know your heart was changed by God, not just your behavior?
- **Applying John 16:7-11:** Can you recall a time when you felt a deep, personal conviction about your need for God that no one had to point out? How did you respond?
- **Applying Titus 3:5:** Do you find yourself trying to earn God's love or forgiveness? How does knowing it's purely by mercy change your approach to Him?
- **Applying Romans 8:9-11:** Do you sense the Holy Spirit living in you—guiding, correcting, and giving you life? If not, have you fully trusted Jesus and invited Him in?
- **Applying Ephesians 1:13-14:** Are you resting in the security of your salvation, knowing the Holy Spirit has sealed you? Or do you still feel unsure about where you stand with God?

CLOSING PRAYER

Holy Spirit, thank You for being the One who draws us in and opens our eyes to our need for Jesus. We acknowledge that it's not by our own goodness or effort that we are saved, but by Your mercy and the transforming power of Your presence. You see the places in us that are broken, and instead of condemning us, You gently convict and guide us toward the truth. Thank You for giving us new life, for making us born again, not just better people, but brand-new creations in Christ.

Today, we invite You to search our hearts again. Remind us that we are sealed by You and belong to the Father. Help us to rest in the security of our salvation and trust that You are still at work in us. Use us to point others not to their failures, but to the solution...Jesus Christ. Let our lives be a reflection of Your love and grace, and may we always be sensitive to Your leading. In Jesus name we pray, amen.



Homework: Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight and understanding of the Word, then read Romans 8:1-17.

Next Week: We will study the Holy Spirit's involvement in *Sanctification: Growing in Holiness*.