

BORN FROM THE INCORRUPTIBLE SEED

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1. GREETINGS

It is such a blessing for me to bring you the Gospel of God's Grace, the goodness of God and the kindness of God that is directed toward humanity. He has come to share His life with us. It is an honor for me to serve you with the Good News and to bring you the message of God making it possible for us to share in His quality of life free from guilt, free from being condemned to sin and death and being condemned to a life of slavery. We have been freely given access, by His grace, into sharing in His love and peace and joy as a result of His goodness towards us and not a prerequisite in order for Him to love us. Glory to God!

2. PRAYER

Father, I want to thank You so much for Your goodness. I want to thank You for Your kindness. I want to thank You for the person who is hearing this. I hope that we can talk about Your goodness and gather around Your Gospel and talk about the love that You have for humanity... the kindness that You have expressed toward us. It is so good! Spirit of God, thank You. that I can just speak from You and You speak to me and that will just produce life for You are the very life of God. Thank You for just bringing forth the life of God in all of us. Amen

We are talking about the concept of being born again. We are looking at it from the perspective of the resurrection of Jesus Christ as well as from the concept of a physical new birth and not a spiritual new birth in the sense of our spirits are born again but where our bodies are born again but not from our parents but from God, having a body born from God. That is what we are going to talk about today. But before we get into any of that, our custom is we have Communion. We think of that which God has done for us in the death and the resurrection of Jesus.

3. COMMUNION Before we get into this, grab your Bible. We are going to look at some scriptures today and it will be good for you to go to scriptures together. Let us just read this together and let us just get in the concept of we are going to read the Bible. We are going to see what is written there. I understand that under the law we were so "forced" to read the Bible that we don't want to read the Bible anymore. But, as we have new understanding and as we have the truth that has come to us and our minds have been enlightened with this truth, from that life when we read Scripture, it makes so much more sense and becomes really beautiful.

Isaiah 55:

6 Seek you the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon (set free).

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts

He is saying that the unrighteous man must forsake his way and his thoughts because the unrighteous man, the one who stands under the law, who lives by his own works and not by what God has freely given us. His way of living, his way of doing is not in line with that of God but us who have believed upon the Lord. I want to tell you that you have the mind of Christ. God's way is not higher than your way and His way has become your way. His thoughts have become your thoughts.

So many times when we look at this passage we look at it from the perspective of disqualification. "Oh, the way of the Lord is just higher than my ways." Well, there is a lot to say about this passage but for a start I want to say to you, let the unrighteous man forsake his way. Let the wicked forsake his thoughts. And have the thought of God and the way of God. But, we are not the wicked! We are not the unrighteous! In Christ, we are and have righteousness. We are righteous unto justification. In Christ we have believed upon the Way and we are on the Way, and in the Way and the Way is in us.

So when we read this passage, we cannot read this passage from condemnation or guilt. We read it not as this qualification but actually now from the perspective of this passage is not applicable to us anymore in this sense that it is not correcting us saying change your way. It is reminding us that we had a wrong way but we are now in the Way.

Verse 10 is what I want to get to.

10 For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not back, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

11 So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

What is the word of God? The word of God is the message of life. So what was happening is the message of life came and watered the earth. That message of life, which is Jesus, the Word of life, the message that God will conquer our sin and death has come to the earth. That message has watered the earth and that message brings forth fruit in the earth. It causes the earth, it causes our flesh to actually bring forth fruit... fruit unto God. The word that God has sent, which became flesh or came into manifestation, brought forth the fruit that God wanted the earth to bear. That is eternal life and we can see that in Jesus.

So, I want to say to you that God's way is higher than our way. That means that God's way of thinking is higher than the thought patterns of carnality. But, He has come and He has brought His thought into human flesh... and that is Jesus. What He wanted man to have He brought forth in the man, Jesus Christ.

Now since He has brought that forth in the man, Jesus Christ, the earth has already now budded and brought forth fruit and now we have the resurrected Jesus, and what He has done, as a seed, a message, that is spread all over and now that can become food in our lives. That is what this whole thing talks about.

He is actually saying, "Listen, let man forsake his way of him trying to have life by his own works, but let Me be the one that ends the life of slavery and torture and pain and provide for them a food that can bring a seed that becomes a food... and Jesus was the seed that was sown. That seed germinated, brought forth a plant and the fruit of that plant had become the food that we have today. As He provided seed to the sower and bread to the eater, we now have the bread to the one who eats and that is us.

So, He says that His word shall provide food for us. The food that He provided is His body. The body that He he given was the body wherein the old was destroyed and the veil was torn. What veiled man, what put a veil over the most holy place, was the flesh of man, the corruptibility, the corruption that was inside human flesh or basically the death in human flesh, the inability to have eternal life. But God has torn that! He has ended that flesh man, that man of death. He entered the grave and then He rose again in a physical body so that we today can celebrate the death and the resurrection of Jesus.

The celebrate His death, we celebrate the new covenant, the fulfillment of the promise, the blood of Jesus Christ. As we do this we are meditating and thinking upon what He has done for us. These physical elements that we use, as we think about this, as physical as this bread is I want to tell you as physical and more physical than this bread and this wine is the physical resurrected body of Jesus that was born from the dead. Glory to God! That is how physical and true salvation is for all of us. Let us pray:

Father, thank You for the body of Jesus. I want to thank You for bringing forth the man, Jesus Christ, the last Adam that has come and conquered our weakness... conquered our death. He has come to give us life and we think upon that. Amen

4. TODAY'S MESSAGE: BORN FROM THE INCORRUPTIBLE SEED

Today we are going to be talking about the New Birth, being born again from the incorruptible seed of God . I am sure that this is going to bless you greatly.

We are going to look at **Colossians** and **1 Peter** and look at what is this incorruptible seed that we are born from. What is this new life that Jesus Christ has come to give us? Traditionally we have believed that the born again experience is that which happens to our spirits. In other words, we've talked about the born again spirit. You will hear that in a lot of charismatic, pentecostal, circles where we talk about the born again spirit of a man that when you believe your spirit gets born again and then from your spirit new life starts to flow.

That is what is taught, and I have taught this myself but I have come to realize that is not the way it is, That is actually not what Jesus said and we touched on that in depth last week. I am going repeat some of that and explain that briefly again and then continue into this new incorruptible word... this incorruptible seed.

What we need to understand is that, we as believers, need to have a physical body that is born from God. That is what the third chapter of John is all about. It is all about a physical body that is born from God. That is what Jesus said to Nicodemus. I want you to just have that in the back of your mind. We need a new body. Traditionally, we in the Church thought that we need to escape our body and we need to get away from our flesh. But, Jesus didn't want us to get away from our flesh. He wanted our flesh to be reborn. He wanted our flesh to be a child of God. He wanted our bodies to be born from God... not born from our mothers and fathers but actually born from God.

What we said last week, and we will look a little again today, is that even Jesus Christ had to be born again. You might say, "Bertie, this is heresy! How can this be!" I want to tell you, and what I am sharing with you today, it is what the scripture teaches. The Scripture teaches us the salvation of a human being. It talks about the salvation of our flesh not to be delivered **from** our flesh but for our flesh to be delivered from corruption. That is what Jesus has come to bring forth for us. That is why He had to have a physical death and that is why He had to have a physical resurrection.

You might say that we don't need all of this. I want to say to you, "You do need it because the scripture says that the flesh of man needs to be satisfied. If our flesh is left unsatisfied, we will continually, by the flesh, seek satisfaction and that would destroy our lives." I want to look at that and we will look at *Colossians 2*:

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

In other words, the shadow is the things to come but the true substance, that which it talks about, is Jesus.

20 Wherefore if you be dead with Christ from the rudiments (the basic laws) of the world, why, as though living in the world, are you subject to ordinances (like),

21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;

22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

That translation where it says, ***Which all are to perish with the using***, I actually want to say it this way: "Why are you in these laws wherein you are perishing as you are using them?" It means that by this law you cannot have life and your flesh cannot be satisfied with life. It is simply ***Which all are to perish with the using...*** So, this is all just going to pass away. It is a shadow. It cannot bring substance to your life. It cannot give you life.

23 Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship, and in humility, and neglect of the body: not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh.

It is saying that the law cannot satisfy your flesh. He was just talking about perishing here. He was saying, "Why are you worldly and you are not holding to the head which is Christ?" We can read that in verse ***19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increase with the increase of God.***

He is talking about having the body satisfied with nourishment. He is now saying that the true substance is not in the law. That which satisfies the body cannot come from the law. It says that by the law we basically perish! By the law we cannot have eternal life. We all know for *the just shall live* (have life) *by faith*. It says that by the law we all perish. The whole law system is perishing. It is all falling away. It's after the commandments and doctrines of man. It is just a man made thing. A dying man cannot produce eternal life. That's what it is talking about. It says here that it has a show of wisdom. It looks wise unto eternal life but it is not. It is all about humility and worship and neglect of the body but not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh. It cannot satisfy your flesh.

Now, what would sacrifice the flesh of Jesus? The only thing that would satisfy the flesh of Jesus, that would bring satisfaction to His flesh, was that should His flesh die, He could have a resurrection of that flesh, into eternal life. If the body is dying, what would satisfy the body and bring the mind of man to rest? The knowledge that that body can have eternal life is what would satisfy. The body of a human cannot be satisfied with eternal life as long as you are trying to live by the law. The only thing that will satisfy our minds, that will satisfy our life, that will satisfy the flesh, is to see human flesh raised from the dead incorruptible and undefiled in the eternal life of God! Hallelujah!

So many times we think our flesh should not be resurrected because it is so defiled. But, I want to tell you that the flesh of Jesus, when He was raised from the dead, is incorruptible and undefiled. That is what our hope is.

The reason why I read this scripture is because each person desires eternal life. That is what we want for our bodies. We want health. One of the biggest things we want is health. We want to live. We don't want to die.

A few weeks ago we were driving back from St. Helena Bay and someone called us and said not to drive on a certain road where there had been an accident. They were friends who were with us and left just before we left and they saw an accident. In this accident, tragically, two school children died. A mother was driving with her kids and they were in a collision and in a fog she drove into the back of a truck. Both children died and apparently the mother is still in the hospital today. When we look at those children who died, we feel in our hearts an injustice. We feel unsatisfied. We don't feel satisfaction when we see that. We want people, even old people, to live. In our minds we know that they are suffering and they are dying but even in that funeral, in the burial of that body, we are still feeling that in some form there is an injustice done to that person and that they need to be justified.

The only thing that can satisfy the flesh of man and bring the flesh of man to calm down and not try to produce life by himself resulting in all forms of the fruit of the flesh and sins and all those kind of things, is to believe and have proof that eternal life is given to that flesh.

I have used this example before: If I come to you and I tell you, "Listen, if you have an airport and they say that the flight is delayed 20 minutes and then you see it is delayed one hour. The moment that second delay comes on you know there is a big chance of a cancellation. Then if they say that the flight is cancelled, then there is chaos because everybody is now unsure. They don't know where to go. Should they find a hotel? What would the next flight be? What's going to happen? They don't know. But if they could have had a screen that comes up that says that the flight was canceled but with names and the next flight you have already been booked on, that would bring immediate peace. Why? Because you know where you are going. In the very same way with our bodies. Our bodies cannot find peace unless our bodies know that it shall be raised.

So, here Paul comes and says that the only thing that can nourish your body is to cling to the head which is Christ, the physical resurrected man, Jesus. The law can never satisfy our flesh. It is not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh.. It cannot. This was the problem with Adam. The moment he knew his nakedness, the moment he knew his mortality, he continued to work by the sweat of his brow which means to worry. He basically worried himself to death trying to work his own flesh, from his flesh, trying to create life for him for he didn't have the promise of life. He had the promise of death. The only thing that could give Adam a new life is the promise of life with the surety that his body would be included in the resurrection. That would give Adam a brand new life. Adam had a life born from the expectation of death. So God had to come and bring a new birth to humanity so that man can now have a life born from the expectation of physical immortality, incorruptibility, without having any flaw in our flesh. That is what we need as humans. Some say this is not needed because we are just spirit. The Bible is clear on that. We are not spirits. We are humans and that is a very important thing to understand in order to understand the Gospel.

As a foundation, what we want is eternal life. That is what man wants. The Bible says that those who seek immortality, God will give them eternal life. The Bible says, "The promise that was from the beginning is eternal life. Now man has to be born again. His body was now born from the earth. His body was born from the parent. Then that body would find its life in its own physicality, in its own ability. But now God had to come and give life to that body. That body had to be born again and not just born from a mother and a father but born from God because whatsoever is born from God cannot sin... it cannot die. So, that is what had to happen to our bodies.

As an introduction, what I am laying down there, is that our flesh needs to be satisfied. Some people think that is evil... how can our flesh need to be satisfied? Let me put it this way: Our flesh needs to be satisfied with eternal life and having no blemish. That's the only thing that will satisfy us.

John 3 is a very famous account which we from pentecostal and charismatic churches use all the time. It's the passage about being born again. Some would argue that this born again means to be born from above which is correct Greek understanding. Yet, we find Nicodemus interpret that new birth not as just being born from above but actually as having his own physical body born again. That is also what Jesus had in mind here. Let us look at that.

John 3:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God: but no man can do these miracles that you do, except God be with him.

3 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.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? (So, Nicodemus understood the new birth or, when we look at the Greek words there, to be born from above, as a physical birth of the human body. So he says, "How can man, basically be born from above, in his own body? Must he now, again enter the womb of his mother? How does this work?) can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Nicodemus didn't doubt the fact that he had to be born born again but he didn't know how it would be possible to have a physical birth again. He did not know how that would take place.

I have copied the verses into my notes and I've taken out what I would call the "in between" verses so that we can just follow the same thought all the time and not be distracted with other things Jesus said, which were also important. We just want to have that same flow.... what is Jesus saying here.

4 Nicodemus said unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water (I'm not going to explain all of that but that to me means that unless you repent from the law system) 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 you, You must be born again.

9 Nicodemus answered and said to him, How can these things be?

Do you see what Nicodemus' issue is here? Nicodemus cannot understand how a physical human body can be born again. And Jesus said to him, "Listen, your physical body cannot physically enter into your mother's womb and be born again. This is not a reincarnation thing or something like that. What needs to take place, what you need to understand, is what is born of the physical. The physical person that is born from a physical person, is simply a nature, fleshly and will die. But what we need and the context here is that this physical person must now be born of the Spirit of God. That means that the Spirit of God must now be the Father of his flesh, his body.

I can hear you sitting there saying, "How can these things be?" If that is the question you are asking, then you are hearing what Nicodemus heard. If that is the question, you are following exactly what happened to Nicodemus.

Jesus answered:

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

He is saying, "Listen Nicodemus. What is born of the flesh is flesh. So this physical body that is born from your physical mother is dying. But, if your body can be born from the Son of man that is lifted up, the Lord, which is the Spirit, then you will have eternal life." That is what He is saying. The whole context here is the physical birth. Where the spiritual comes in is the physical body can be born from a parent or that body can be born from God.

We have a very good example of such a case in the Bible. That is found in the first chapter of the book of **Romans**. Listen carefully. What I want you to have in the back of your mind is two things: Your flesh needs to be satisfied with eternal life, incorruptibility and with a condition where it is undefiled. In other words, it's not like a zombie, in the movies, which has incorruptibility but it is defiled. It is like the resurrected Christ who is undefiled and incorruptible. When we define incorruptibility there we are talking about His body. We are talking about the human Jesus. He left no bones in the grave. That's what I want you to have in the back of your mind. My flesh needs to be satisfied with eternal life and secondly, the only way it can be is if this body finds a birth from God. Then the question that must be in your mind is, "How is this possible? How does a man have his body born from God wherein he cries, his body cries, unto God and says, "You are the Father of this body!"

We could easily say, "I know who my father is." My father is Gawie Brits. He lives in Mpumalanga, South Africa. I know my father, the father of this body but you have to come to a place where you can understand that the father of your body is God... not as a concept of God created you but as a concept of the very life in your body doesn't come just from your parents but now comes from God. As a mother gives birth to a child, so God must be the Father of your body. The question one must have is, "How is this possible?"

So, this is it: You need to be satisfied. You need to have your flesh satisfied with eternal life and in a condition of being undefiled or pure. incorruptibility in a human body. That is the only thing that satisfies the flesh, that will keep you out of not having rest. That's what it means to enter into the rest of God. Then what you need to have in the back of your mind there is that it can only take place in a new birth. Then the question that must come to your mind is, "How is this possible?" Now we are looking at that.

Romans 1:

1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel (the Good News) of God,

Let us stop right there. For those of you who have listened to these teachings of mine for awhile now, will know that the Gospel of God is the Good News that God has promised us eternal life and that it has started and manifested in the resurrection of Jesus. That is the Gospel, the Good news that Jesus was raised from the dead. .

2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

So Jesus Christ, our Lord, was made of the seed of David according to the flesh. So Jesus was made, He was born. Was Baby Jesus born? Yes! Baby Jesus was born. He was made according to the flesh of the seed of David. We see that clearly but He was not declared to be the Son of God by His birth from Mary.

It says, ***4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness (the Holy Spirit), by the resurrection from the dead:***

We see here that Jesus was called the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead. So He was made of the seed of David. I would say that He was made in the flesh of Mary but He was declared to be the Son of God by the resurrection.

Let's go to Acts... I know that this is repetitive for some of you, but it's good. It talks about the resurrection of Jesus.

Acts 13:

30 God raised him from the dead:

31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

Jesus was raised from the dead and these people were witnesses of Jesus. Witnesses of His physical resurrection.

32 And we declare unto you glad tidings (Good news... the Gospel) how that the promise which was made unto our fathers,

33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, You are my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

When was Jesus begotten? When was the Son of God born? When was Jesus declared or begotten of God? It says right there that He was begotten of God when He was raised from the dead. So, we find Jesus being made of Mary but in order for His physical body to be born of God He had to be raised from the dead. He had to be raised out of corruption into incorruptible human flesh. That was not done by Mary. That was not done by any physical genealogy or anything. It came forth by the Spirit of God, the very breath of God, or the life of God.

So when the life of God gave life to His body and His body was not made from Mary but His physical body was brought to a place where it was born of God above death and above the sin it took upon it. Then we say, "This physical body is now born from God or begotten of God. We need to understand that. That's very clear.

Now you might say, 'Wasn't God the Father of Jesus because Joseph wasn't the father?' I do believe that God, and the reason why that is, why there was a virgin birth is because Jesus was the last Adam. Adam was taken from the dust of the earth. Who was the physical father of Adam? God made him. God made him from the dust of the earth. But after Adam was made he still had to be born of the tree of life. He still had to eat of the tree of life. So when this Adam fell, God came and created the last Adam. How did He make Him? He made Him out of the dust of the earth and God was the creator which made Him of this physical genealogy... the dust of the earth. That's how I see that. Yet, this last Adam had to eat of the tree of life and had to be born of that tree, born out of the death He was in into this incorruptibility. We find that took place in the resurrection. Amen. We will read the scripture again:

Acts 13:

30 But God raised him from the dead:

31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee

What did Luke, the writer of Acts, try to portray here? Listen, this was a physical resurrection. That is why he says that He was seen many days. We all know a vision. A vision is what you see today and then it is gone and you don't see it again. You don't find repetitive vision here. You don't find the same vision being seen by so many people over and over. You are finding that Luke is trying to say in his writing here and Paul is trying to teach that this resurrection was a physical resurrection where Jesus was born out of, away from, death by the Spirit of God. He goes on and says that many people saw Him. So, there is no doubt that this was a birth. In other words, He was dead and then He came alive.

It is almost like a child. If people decide they are going to have a child, the wife has nothing in her womb. There is basically death in the womb if you want to say it that way. There is no child but then once the sperm and the egg come together then a child is formed and that child comes to life out of that, hear what I am trying to say... into an empty womb. There was no life and now life comes. In the very same way Jesus went into the grave. There was no life and now life came. So He was born again. This time His body was not born of Mary. He got the body from Mary but the life in this body is now born again but this time it is born of the spirit, born of God having no fleshly influence into it and yet it is a physical body but it is above corruption. It doesn't have any sin in it. Amen!

You may say, "Does that mean the physical body of Jesus had sin?" The physical body of Jesus could die. That's why Jesus died. If Jesus came incorruptible, He couldn't die upon the cross. He couldn't give up His life. It would be impossible. He had to become mortal. He had to become man. We need to understand that He had to be created as a man. A man, flesh, had to be prepared.

Let's get back to the point... there is so much. That is why I am going to speak on this for weeks, touching all the points. This is the point I want to make: Jesus was seen by many people of the physical resurrection .

32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, So what was the promise of God made? That which was fulfilled which was in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, You are my Son, this day have I begotten you.

He is saying that the resurrection of Jesus is basically the fulfillment or, as it was said in the second psalm, ***You are my Son, this day have I begotten you.***

If you read in Isaiah 9, it says that a child was born but a Son was given. You see, what God has come to give to us is a glorified physical human being that has no sin, that has no death. That's what He gives to us for that is what we need because we are, in our bodies, unglorified, undignified, In our physical bodies we are dying, full of sin. So what does He have to give us? He has to give us and promise us and bring forth a body that doesn't have any of these things. He did that by the resurrection from the dead.

Jesus was raised from the dead and basically born from the dead as we can see what the scripture says.

With that in mind I want to go to

1Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

We have been begotten again to a living hope. He is saying that before Jesus came, we had the expectation that we have to live by the law. That's what man thought. Man had the expectation that by the sweat of his brow and human ability, he had to try to attain eternal life... to live and not die. That is what man was trying. If you go and look at all the nations of the world, the greatest thing is the fight for survival. That's what it is--- to live and not die. That's how technology is formed because of man's desire to live and not die. That is what it is all about. When Adam sinned man was born to the expectation of death by his own ability. Adam was made by God but when Adam believed the lie, man was now begotten to the expectation of death by his own works. But now, in the resurrection of Jesus, God has now come and given a new hope to humanity for He has conquered our sin and death. Now this message of the resurrection as we believe upon this message, we find that we are now born from this truth and we have a life today that is born from holding to the head... the resurrected Jesus.

It says that He has ***begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...***

For those of you who want to think of universalism, I want to just say to study 1Peter in its context. You will see that he is talking about the believer and not talking about all people. Yet we find that Christ is unto all but upon those who believe. I know that I am going to get angry emails saying that the whole world is born again. No, the whole world is not born again! Jesus was the only begotten. Only begotten is written in the third chapter of John. It is written 50 years after Jesus. Now it says, "He has given us the only begotten." There is one begotten and that is Jesus and those who believe upon Him will not perish but have everlasting life. They are now born from this life when they believe upon Him. That is very simple.

:3 says that we have been *"begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"*

:4 *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

Now it talks about us...

:5 *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Church, now I get to the crux of it and we will stay in this for the next ten minutes...

The reason why I preach this to you is not because I try to have a new revelation on what it means to be born again or anything like that or try to be controversial. The reason why I preach this to you is because it is the power of God! It is the power of God which will nourish you with peace today, which will nourish you with love in your heart for your neighbor. It will bring forth contentment in your heart.

Why do I want you to have contentment? Why does God want me to have contentment? God wants us to have contentment. If you are not content, let's use finances for example, you will destroy your own life with the lust for more. You will bring terror to those around you because of that thing that drives you all the time. You and I need to be set free from fear. God wants us to be free from fear, fear from the torture of this world. How is God going to get that right? He's going to take one man, raise Him from the dead. That man's death and sin that He had had to include us so that we can now have the promise of the resurrection and now be born from that promise to have a new life because of that new hope.. Glory to God! That is how it works!

Let me read verse 4 again: *To an inheritance incorruptible....*

:3 *...has begotten us again unto a lively hope..* We are begotten. We have new lives because we are now expecting to have a new birth of our bodies where we will be raised from the dead. As we accepted this and believed upon this, this Spirit of God that raised Christ from the dead has already now entered our hearts and now we are increasing with the very increase of God. That is now what is happening. That is why you live a holy life. It's not, "Well, I must live a holy life otherwise God cannot forgive me and God cannot bless me." No, you live a holy life because He has blessed us. We don't decide to live the Holy life. We believe upon the resurrection and from there God lives the holy life in us. It is not we who live but Christ, the rulership of God over sin and death, living in us. That's what it's about.

It goes on and says that we have been begotten to a new and lively hope by the resurrection. So I am now as Adam sinned and man was now born unto that expectation to have his life organized according to that, I now, and you who believe in the Lord, as we believe in this hope of the resurrection as we have faith, a persuasion, that we shall also be raised, our lives are now revolving around that truth. The Spirit of that truth is now inside us and brings forth this brand new life forth in us. I hope you understand.

This lively hope is an inheritance. **:4 *To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you*** (us),

:5 (We) *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

“Who are kept” means to guard, to protect by military guard, honor to prevent hostile invasion or to keep inhabitants of a beseeched city from flight, metaphorically under the control of the Mosaic law, that he might not escape from its power.

What he is saying here is that we are kept under the control of God by having hope of the bodily new birth... the resurrection. As we hope this God keeps us. That is what that passage is saying.

In this resurrection, **verse 6 *we greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, you are in heaviness through manifold temptations:***

He says that we are kept by God yet, we can be in heaviness.

He says that we have great joy in the midst of heaviness because even when the heaviness comes God keeps us, guards us, and keeps us under the control of His resurrection life as we have a confident expectation of the new birth of our bodies in the resurrection. As you believe upon this, the Spirit of God inside us brings forth a life that is robust and strong in this world where we have holiness and kindness and love and all those things.

Can you see how holiness and love and kindness is not a command but a fruit and a result of an expectation that we have in God?

I want to end off with this and I am not even halfway through in what I planned to say:

Romans 1:

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ (the good news that Jesus was raised from the dead): ***for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.***

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live (and not perish, or have eternal life in their bodies) ***by faith.***

This passage and what I put in the Facebook description is a passage I was thinking about for many, many years. I believe that I have come to understand this about two weeks ago for the first time. This is what it says and this is going to bless you: In the Good News that Jesus was raised from the dead. I am going to explain to you what it means when the Bible says, ***“From faith to faith.”***

From faith to faith means for in the message that Christ was raised from the dead, the Good News of Christ, the salvation power of God, is revealed in the Believer from faith to faith. It is written, "The just shall live (and not die) by faith (by having faith, by believing in Jesus) .

What is 'from faith to faith'? It's very simple! The Gospel is preached and when Jesus was raised from the dead the people had faith that He was raised. But this faith that they had that He was raised produced a faith in them, a persuasion in them, that they shall also be raised. In other words, it's from faith (He was raised) unto the faith that I will be raised! So, the just shall have life by having faith in the resurrected Jesus and what we can be persuaded of will take place in the future... which is our resurrection, which is our bodily new birth. Glory to God!

And the beautiful thing is as we believe upon this we have received the seal of the Holy Spirit or the Bible says, the down payment, or the fruit of the Holy Spirit, that we shall be made immortal. In other words, when we have the Holy Spirit, it is the seal of our salvation. In other words, it is the down payment, or the proof of payment, that we shall, in the future, be saved from our physical death and have a body born from the dead wherein Jesus is the firstborn among many brethren who should be born in their physical bodies into immortality. As we believe upon this truth, we are now born again from this truth in having a brand new life unto the hope of the resurrection. Glory to God! If you listen carefully you will see there are three stages there. We will get into that next week. I trust that this is food for thought. This is the power of God unto salvation.

The Bible says in John 1:12, that those who have accepted Him, He has given to them the right to be called the sons of God for they now are not owing their birth anymore to their earthly father and mother, ethnicity or the law, but their birth is now of God because they believed upon Jesus. What would the end of that be? The end of that would be the manifestation of the eternal life.

Let me use one more example. This will bless you. In South Africa they have this thing called expropriation of land without compensation. It did strike and is still striking fear in a lot of people's hearts. What is happening is they propose a change of law where certain acts in our constitution will be changed so that, basically, any property can be taken from you by the government if they should see need for it without paying you for it. The main focus is farmland. When that law is not changed, even if it is a threat, it is actually nothing. But once that law is changed, you find that the whole of South Africa, has now become new. Yet, it is going to need people to believe in that law so that law can be implemented. Say you are a property owner, a farmer, you will find that once that law is changed and you have the expectation that your farm is going to be taken, you will now have a life born from that expectation. You will have been begotten again to a condemning hope. You will have a life now born from the truth of the change of that law. But yet you will have a farm. You might still farm on that farm for 25 or 30 years. Then once that farm is taken from you, then you will now have the seed, the fullness, the full glory, of that law. But, in the meantime, you will be begotten of that hope as you believed upon that. I hope you see what I am saying here.

As Jesus was raised from the dead, there was a change of law. Those who believe upon this law are begotten again unto a hope. What is this hope? This hope is the belief of being physically being born from the dead. This belief already gives to us a new life now but in the last day we will see the fullness, of what we are born of today, manifest. That's how it works. Glory to God!

Just say, "Lord, I want to understand this and I want to have a life born from this." I want to tell you that the Lord will open up your mind to understand this as He is busy opening up my mind to see this and as I am experiencing the power that is born from this truth. Glory to God!

I want to thank you so much for allowing me to serve you with the Good News of the new birth. There is still a lot to say about this.

I want to declare to you that you are the blessed of God! Jesus, by His resurrection, has begotten us to a new hope. We can now believe in a new hope. All of us have been begotten to a new hope. We who have this hope have a life born from this hope. We are the blessed of God! We are the righteous! We are those who are being justified by the resurrection power of God. Amen