

DAILY ARISE

JOURNEY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

DAY 1 — IT BEGINS WITH NEW BIRTH

Theme: The Holy Spirit and the Beginning of the Christian Life

Primary Text: Titus 3:5

Supporting Texts: John 3:3-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 2:8-9; Ezekiel 36:25-27

Memory Verse: John 3:5

TODAY'S WORD

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." — Titus 3:5

Jesus said: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." — John 3:3

MEDITATION

Every genuine journey with the Holy Spirit begins at the place of new birth.

Before we speak about spiritual gifts, divine power, ministry, miracles, leadership or Christian service, we must first understand the foundation: salvation through Jesus Christ and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

Christianity is not simply becoming a better person. It is not merely changing your habits, joining a church, becoming religious, or trying harder to live morally.

The gospel announces something far deeper: God gives new life to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ.

1. NEW BIRTH IS THE BEGINNING, NOT THE END

When Jesus spoke with Nicodemus in John 3, He introduced one of the most important truths in the Christian faith: "Ye must be born again." — John 3:7

Nicodemus was religious. He was educated. He was respected. He knew the Scriptures. Yet Jesus told him that religious knowledge alone was not enough.

This teaches us something profound: You can know about God without knowing God

personally.

You can attend church and still need the new birth. You can come from a Christian family and still need the new birth. You can serve in ministry and still need the new birth.

You can know Christian language, sing worship songs, read the Bible and participate in religious activities—and yet the deepest question remains: Have you been made alive by the Spirit of God?

Jesus did not tell Nicodemus to become more religious. He told him that he needed to be born from above.

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE AGENT OF NEW LIFE

Titus 3:5 connects salvation with “the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

The Holy Spirit is not merely an influence or a religious symbol. He is the Holy Spirit, the divine Spirit who gives life and transforms those who belong to Christ.

Jesus explained: “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” — John 3:6

Human effort can modify behavior. Only God can give spiritual life.

The Spirit brings conviction of sin (John 16:8), brings us to Christ, gives new life, and continues His transforming work throughout our Christian journey.

This is why the Christian life is not simply, “Try harder.” It is, “Yield more deeply to God.”

3. SALVATION IS BY GRACE, NOT HUMAN PERFORMANCE

One of the greatest dangers in Christian life is believing that God's love must be earned. But the gospel begins somewhere completely different: Mercy.

Titus 3:5 says, “According to his mercy he saved us.”

Mercy means God does not give us the judgment our sins deserve. Grace means God gives us what we could never earn.

Our good works have value as the fruit of a transformed life, but they are not the foundation upon which we purchase salvation.

Ephesians 2:10 gives us the proper order: “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.”

We are saved by grace. Then we are created in Christ. Then our lives produce good works. We do not do good works in order to become God's children; we do good works because we

have become His children.

4. NEW BIRTH PRODUCES A NEW CREATION

Paul writes: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” — 2 Corinthians 5:17

The new birth changes our spiritual identity. It does not mean every struggle disappears overnight, that temptation will never come again, or that Christians will never make mistakes. It means that God has begun a new work within us.

The person who was once spiritually separated from God is now brought into relationship with Him through Christ. The desires, priorities and direction of life begin to change.

There is now a new hunger for God, a new love for His Word, a new sensitivity to sin, a new desire for holiness, and a new desire to please Christ.

And when we fall, we do not run away from God—we run back to Him. 1 John 1:9 reminds us that confession brings forgiveness and cleansing.

5. THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES NOT ONLY VISIT THE BELIEVER—HE DWELLS IN THE BELIEVER

One of the beautiful realities of the Christian gospel is that God does not save us and then abandon us to figure out the Christian life alone.

The Holy Spirit comes to dwell in those who belong to Christ. Paul writes: “If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” — Romans 8:9

And again: “Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you?” — 1 Corinthians 6:19

Think about the wonder of this. The God who called creation into existence chooses to dwell within His people.

Therefore, the Christian life is not merely a journey toward God. Through the Holy Spirit, it becomes a life lived with God.

6. NEW BIRTH CHANGES THE DIRECTION OF YOUR LIFE

A new birth produces a new direction. Paul tells believers: “Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” — Galatians 5:16

The Holy Spirit begins teaching us how to live differently. Instead of hatred, He produces love. Instead of bitterness, forgiveness. Instead of uncontrolled anger, self-control. Instead of pride, humility. Instead of despair, hope.

Paul calls these qualities “the fruit of the Spirit.” — Galatians 5:22-23

The evidence of spiritual life is not merely what happens around us; it is also what the Spirit produces within us.

7. DO NOT CONFUSE SPIRITUAL GIFTS WITH SPIRITUAL MATURITY

A person may desire spiritual gifts, but the foundation must always be Christ. Jesus did not call us merely to demonstrate spiritual power. He called us to abide in Him.

Before asking, “Lord, what can You do through me?” we should first ask, “Lord, what are You doing in me?”

God is concerned not only with our ministry but also with our character; not only our public service but our private life; not only our spiritual gifts but our spiritual fruit; not only what people see on the platform but who we are when nobody is watching.

8. IF YOU HAVE NEVER RECEIVED CHRIST, TODAY CAN BE YOUR BEGINNING

Perhaps you have been around Christianity for years but have never personally surrendered your life to Jesus. Today is an invitation.

The gospel is not, “Make yourself worthy and then come to Christ.” The gospel is, Come to Christ, receive His mercy, and allow Him to begin His transforming work in you.

Romans 10:9 says: “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

Salvation is not something to postpone indefinitely. Today is the day to respond to God's invitation.

9. IF YOU ALREADY BELONG TO CHRIST, BEGIN AGAIN AT THE FOUNDATION

Perhaps you are already a believer. Perhaps you have walked with Christ for many years. Perhaps you are a pastor, evangelist, worshipper, teacher, missionary or church worker.

Today's message still applies. Never become so familiar with ministry that you forget the miracle of salvation.

Never become so focused on what God can do through you that you forget what He has already done in you.

Return to the foundation. Return to the cross. Return to gratitude. Return to dependence on the Holy Spirit.

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.” — Colossians 2:6

DEEP REFLECTION

1. Have I genuinely surrendered my life to Jesus Christ?
2. Am I trusting God's grace, or am I trying to earn His acceptance?
3. Is there evidence that the Holy Spirit is transforming my character?
4. Am I more concerned about spiritual gifts than spiritual fruit?
5. Have I allowed the Holy Spirit to lead my daily decisions?
6. What area of my life do I need to surrender completely to God?
7. Have I become so busy serving God that I have neglected fellowship with Him?

TODAY'S PRACTICAL RESPONSE

Before you begin your activities today, spend at least 10–15 minutes alone with God. Read John 3:1–8 slowly.

Then pray: “Holy Spirit, search my heart. Reveal anything in me that is not pleasing to Christ. Teach me to depend on God's grace rather than my own strength. Help me understand the reality of the new birth and live every day as someone who belongs to Jesus. Amen.”

Then write one sentence in your journal: “Because I belong to Christ, today I will...”
Complete the sentence honestly.

PRAYER

Father, in the name of Jesus,

Thank You for Your mercy and grace.

Thank You that salvation is not something I could purchase through my righteousness, but a gift You have made available through Jesus Christ.

Thank You for the cross. Thank You for the resurrection. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who gives life, convicts, renews, teaches and transforms.

Lord, let the reality of the new birth become deeper in me.

Where my heart has become cold, revive me.

Where I have become religious without intimacy, draw me closer.

Where I have trusted my own strength, teach me dependence.

Where sin has gained influence, give me grace to walk in holiness.

Where fear has controlled me, establish my heart in Your truth.

Where pride has entered, give me humility.

Where discouragement has settled, renew my hope.

Holy Spirit, make my life Your dwelling place.

Teach me to recognize Your leading. Teach me to love what Christ loves. Teach me to reject what dishonors Him. Produce Your fruit in my character.

Let my private life agree with my public confession. Let my words, thoughts, relationships, decisions and actions reflect the life of Christ within me.

And as this journey begins, keep me from pursuing spiritual experiences while neglecting spiritual transformation.

Make me more like Jesus.

Let my life become a testimony of Your mercy.

In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

DECLARATION

I am born again by the Spirit of God.

I am saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

I am a new creation in Christ.

The Holy Spirit dwells within me.

I will not depend on my own strength.

I will walk in the Spirit.

**I will grow in grace.
I will pursue holiness.
I will bear the fruit of the Spirit.
My past does not define my future.
Christ is my life.
The Holy Spirit is my Helper.**

My journey has begun—and I will walk with God.

JOURNEY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Day 1 — It Begins with New Birth

Daily Arise — Raising Believers. Restoring Hope. Advancing the Gospel.