



Born from above

In *Acts 7:51*, Steven told the religious Jews that they always resist the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus. No one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. When Nicodemus came to Jesus by night to find out who He was, Jesus tells Nicodemus that we must be 'born from above' by the Spirit to see the Kingdom of God. Most Christians use the term 'born again' but that's a rare translation of the Greek word, 'ἀνωθεν/another'. The primary meaning of the word is from above, from higher up, from the Spirit, from heaven or from the Supreme Being. This same Greek word, is used frequently in the Septuagint (*Gk translation of the OT Hebrew*) to translate the Hebrew words heaven above/ ουρανός ἀνωθεν / אֲנֹכְחֵי לַעֲלֵי

Nicodemus however comprehends ἀνωθεν/another as a return to our mother's physical womb to be born a second time. This is exactly how most believers think today. They treat their "born-again experience" as a second chance at life on planet earth, but this is not what Jesus meant. Jesus was talking about a birth from above, from heaven, from the Holy Spirit. That's why He says that which is born of the flesh is flesh, but that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.

But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. Galatians 4:26

The heavenly city above, the New Jerusalem, is called our mother, because it's from her "womb" that we were birthed from above. We were born from that mother, from that city.

In *Acts 7:49*, Steven quotes from *Isaiah 66:1* saying, Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool. What house will you build for me? Saints, we are building earthly congregations and ministries, but God says His house is much bigger than that. Heaven is His throne and the earth is His footstool. There are two floors in God's great house. Jacob saw the ladder/staircase connecting the two floors. We have been dwelling only on the first floor, but God already has raised us up to dwell in heavenly places with Him on the second floor of His house. We are born from above in order to learn to live there now, not only when we die.

And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful this place is! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. Genesis 28:17

Jacob was talking about the place where heaven and earth intersect. Two floors of one giant house of God. Jacob saw that God's house was 2 floors, heaven and earth, with a staircase in between. When we neglect the 2nd floor of God's house and make our second birth merely earthly again, we lose the awe and fear of God which comes down from above. So he called the place, Bethel (*House of God*).

There are two births. The first is physical and the second is spiritual from above, of the Holy Spirit. That's why Jesus says we don't know where the Spirit comes from or where it's going. Many people think of the Spirit like wind that blows from the east or west. But the Spirit comes down to the earth from above, from heaven. That's the direction of the Holy Spirit. That's also the direction of those who are born of the Holy Spirit. It's vertical not horizontal.

We can see throughout scripture that most of the time when someone had an encounter with God, it was from above. God told Moses to make everything in the tabernacle according to the pattern which God showed him from above. The Apostle Paul saw a light and heard the voice of Jesus from above. That's how he knew that the voice of Jesus was the voice of God. The Apostle Peter saw a canopy come down from heaven and go back up to heaven 3 times. In *Acts chapter 2*, a sound came from heaven like a strong wind that filled the whole house. The Holy Spirit came from above, from heaven, not like a wind from the east or west.

James 1:16, says that every good and perfect gift comes from above, not again. It's the same word that Jesus used to tell Nicodemus that he needed to be born from above. In *John 3:31*, Jesus clearly explains to us what He means when He uses the phrase 'born from above'. He says that the one who comes from above is above all. Then He says that the one who comes from heaven is above all. He is saying that the one who comes from above is the one who comes from heaven. He is saying that being born from above means to be born from heaven, from the dwelling place of God.

In *Colossians 3:1-2*, Paul says to set our heart on the things above (ἄνω/ano), not on the things of the earth. It's the same prefix in Greek with the same meaning: above meaning heaven. It couldn't be clearer. Paul says to set our mind on the things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Yeshua is in heaven, so that's what Paul is talking about. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Our hearts have been set on the earth because that's where our treasure has been, on earthly and temporal treasures and pleasures, but it ought not to be so. Our true treasure is Christ who is in heaven seated at the right hand of the Father and that's where our heart ought to dwell. In His presence is fulness of joy. In *Philippians 3:14*, Paul also says that he stretches forward for the prize of the upward calling of God in Christ Jesus. This upward calling is the same prefix used for above. Upward means Heavenward.

Beloved, we have had a Nicodemus mentality for too long. We have many Nicodemus churches, ministries and ministers who have instructed us in being born a second time on earth, rather than in being born from above, from heaven by the Spirit. Their earthly instruction has not taught us how to live from our home above where we were born and how to set our hearts there.

But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. Galatians 4:26

The heavenly Jerusalem is called our mother, because it's from her "womb" that we were birthed from above. A woman is not called a mother until she gives birth to children. We were born from our mother, from the Jerusalem which is above and we are free citizens of that eternal city now with all its privileges.

Beloved, the power and the pattern is 'from above', from the Holy Spirit who came from heaven to earth. The direction of the Holy Spirit is still upward-downward. So are those who are born of the Spirit from above.

Greta Mavro