THE NEW BIRTH

(WHAT IT IS & WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD OUR FATHER)

Tit 3:5 "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His MERCY, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, …"

Ezekiel 36:24-27, 31 explains what five transforming works of saving grace Jesus does in, to and for us when He saves us (Titus 3:5-6; John 3:1-8); at that very moment of His birthing us into His Kingdom by the Power and working of the Holy Spirit! This is the powerful transforming work of Christ alone with nothing of or from ourselves actively involved. We are like the dead bones of Ezekiel 37. We are totally and completely dead spiritually without any life existing in us (Ephesians 2:1-6) when Christ transforms us into sons of God. (If we are never born again, we remain spiritually dead in our trespasses and sins and without life – Christ's Abundant Life. The wrath of God remains on us – John 3:18.)

- **➔ All the Elect will be saved before Christ's second coming:**

  John 6:37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out."

Ezekiel 36:24 "For I will take you (God's Israel - all believers in Christ, both Jews and Gentiles: Romans 2:28,29; 4:13-25; 9:6-16; Galatians 3:26-29) from the nations, gather you from

all the lands and bring you into your own land (Kingdom of God)! After being born again, we live in the Kingdom of God by faith until death, and after death by sight. To be IN CHRIST is to be in the Kingdom of God).

➔Five works of Saving Grace at the moment of salvation:

1. 25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean [He forgives all our sins because of the cross of Christ: based on His sinless Virgin birth – becoming a fully ordinary man; sinless life as an ordinary man; death on the cross as an ordinary man; resurrection from the dead and ascension into heaven as an ordinary man. Because of His very Person (Never Ceasing to be - Eternally Fully God), He alone can save! He cleanses us from all sin at the time of the new birth (John 13:3-11, Vs 10 – bathed – clean - washed in His shed blood which flowed from His head, hands and feet along with water from His side). I will (Ongoing) cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols (He begins and continues to sanctify us till death because of the sin nature still in us. Daily washing of feet – sanctification, Vs 8, is an absolute necessity to make heaven. Daily washing of feet – daily confession of sins, I John 1:9; Vs. 7, Disciples would understand after Christ's death and resurrection.]
2. 26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you [He quickens our spirit to life in Christ. We become spiritually alive in Christ (Remember 1 Corinthians 2:14-16); whereby we were spiritually dead in our own

trespasses and sins, having no life (Ephesians 2:1-3)];

3. "… and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh. and give you a heart of flesh …" ("give you a new heart")
Look at the Greek and Hebrew definition of "HEART" including explanation on Stony Heart vs Heart of Flesh:

DEFINITION OF THE WORD "HEART" IN THE GREEK TEXT GIVEN IN EPHESIANS 3:17:

Ephesians 3:16 "… that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."

From Thayer's Greek Concordance with Strongs # G2588:
Καρδία (Greek text spelling).
Kardia (Greek text pronunciation).
Thayer Definition:
1) the heart
  1a) that organ in the animal body which is the centre of the circulation of the blood, and hence was regarded as the seat of physical life
  1b) denotes the centre of all physical and spiritual life
  2a) the vigour and sense of physical life
  2b) the centre and seat of spiritual life
    2b1) the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of

the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites affections, purposes, endeavours

2b2) of the understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence

2b3) of the will and character

2b4) of the soul so far as it is affected and stirred in a bad way or good, or of the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions

1c) of the middle or central or inmost part of anything, even though inanimate

Part of Speech: noun feminine

HEART DESCRIBED BY OLD TESTAMENT HEBREW WORD AS USED IN PROVERBS 23:7

Pro 23:7 "For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he: eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart *is* not with thee." (King James Bible)

Brown-Drivers-Briggs' Definition of Hebrew word "Leb":

H3820 (Strong's Concordance #)

leb (HEART)

1) inner man, mind, will, heart, understanding

1a) inner part, midst

1a1) midst (of things)

1a2) heart (of man)

1a3) soul, heart (of man)

1a4) mind, knowledge, thinking, reflection, memory

1a5) inclination, resolution, determination (of will)

1a6) conscience
1a7) heart (of moral character)
1a8) as seat of appetites
1a9) as seat of emotions and passions
1a10) as seat of courage
Part of Speech: noun masculine

Stony Heart vs Heart of Flesh:
What the mind is set on gives the heart it's direction. It is the driving force of our soul and makes us the person we are and become.

A stony heart is a heart with the mind centered on the flesh and on fulfilling the desires of the flesh. It is a heart (central core and life of the soul) totally controlled by the flesh (Ephesians 2:3). The flesh (our human nature) is basically everything that is human without God (Look at the definition of the Greek word for flesh (sarx) in the Strong's Lexicon and Thayer's Lexicon combined). It is who we are without God – sinners, due to the sinful desires in our flesh (lower human nature) and the corruption of our souls due to Adam's first sin as well as our own sins; although, there is a conscience placed in every heart with a knowledge of right and wrong (works of the law written in their hearts - Romans 2:14-15). All that makes up the heart is controlled by the flesh (lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, Romans 7:14-25). This started in the Garden of Eden when Eve's soul was influenced by her fleshly (human body) desires in Genesis 3:6. Eve, her soul-spirit (person) being holy and

without sinful desires due to being created in the image of God, was in perfect union with her human body (lower human nature) with its sinful desires [body and soul united together making up her complete being she was created to be]. Eve's soul, as well as Adam's, was created without sin and with the ability, before sin, to choose or not to choose obedience to God's command - thereby, remaining sinless if she chose not to listen to Satan and not to fulfill her fleshly desires, but instead obey God; OR, become a sinner if she chose to fulfill the desires of her flesh and listen to and obey Satan. Eve, influenced by her fleshly desires and Satan's lies (Genesis 3:4-6), chose by her own free will (will is seated in the heart, her heart being sinless before this point) to fulfill those desires of her human body while listening to and obeying Satan over against obeying God's command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17). Once Eve made her choice to fulfill the desires of her flesh and listen to Satan's lies, at that moment her soul sinned and became deceived, sinful and corrupt in every part of her soul and body. At that moment of sin, her soul and Adam's, being corrupted in every part became enslaved, empowered and controlled by their fleshly desires with no desire or power to break free from those sinful desires; but instead, their souls and ours desire, purpose and live to fulfill those desires. Their souls and every soul - every person born from Adam's seed, is born without God and with no desire for God due to our sin nature and the controlling power of our human nature with its lusts and pride keeping us under its control. Our soul

REMAINS in that state of sin (being active sinners - Romans 3:10-18,23) unless or until the Holy Spirit begins to work in it. The longer we live on this earth without the regenerating and renewing work of the Holy Spirit, the more corrupt our souls become. If we never understand or believe this about ourselves, we will never see our absolute need for Christ's delivering, saving and sanctifying - mercy, grace and power to work in us - convicting and causing us to flee to Christ for Him to save us!!! No New Birth – No entrance into Heaven and living in God's presence!!!

A heart of flesh is a heart that has been circumcised by the Holy Spirit of God (Romans 2:28-29) – therefore, opened to and desirous of God's saving and sanctifying work and also desiring to love and obey God as well as progressively hating our sins more and more. It is a heart with the mind now centered on Christ and on the Spirit, delighting in the Law of God due to the divine influences of the Holy Spirit upon it and His presence in us (Romans 8:5-14). The flesh, still alive and well with its sinful desires, can and does have a strong influence on the soul – heart (mind, will, emotions, etc.). The soul and body being in perfect union with each other continues to greatly affect each other. Therefore, there is the ongoing battle of the flesh and the Spirit during the sanctification process (Galatians 5:17-21). That is why we need to feed our minds (new hearts) with the Word of God (Romans 12:1-2; John 17:17; I Peter 1:19-2:3) so that the Holy Spirit can put His truth into our minds giving us understanding and write those truths on our hearts making them a controlling force

within us: strengthening our new hearts (New Covenant Promise – Hebrews 8:10-12; Jeremiah 31:33); enabling us to obey our new Master and Lord thereby conforming us more and more to the image of Christ and enabling us to win the victory over the influences of the flesh upon the new heart (giving us power over our fleshly body, over sin). The more Absolute Truths we allow the Holy Spirit to put in our minds and write upon our hearts as well as allow the Holy Spirit's influence and complete control over our hearts, the greater freedom and Holy Spirit power we will experience to control the fleshly, lustful, prideful influences of our human nature upon our new hearts. That is why we must read, study and meditate on the Word of God daily. That is why Jesus said so clearly in Matthew 4:4, "But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" Also, John 6:53, "So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. 54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.'" And, John 8:31, "So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'", (John 5:39)!!! It is VITAL to get God's Holy Word into our minds (Hearts).

"… and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh ("give you a new heart") He gives us a heart sensitive, willing and open to Christ's saving and sanctifying work in us enabling us to understand all of God's Absolute Truths in His Word - Christ being the embodiment of all truth and the Word of God made flesh. We know Christ intimately when we rightly understand with our minds and have the Absolute Truths of His Word written in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. A heart of flesh is a heart that desires to receive God's Salvation and Sanctification – Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Grace; and, a heart to love God for the first time since our physical birth into this life. I John 4:19, "We love him, because he first loved us.".

4. 27 "I will put My Spirit within you (John 3:5-8; 4:11-14; 7:37-39) and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances (Remember I Corinthians 2:11-12, 16)." [This started at the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21) being a New Covenant promise.] Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit – putting the third person of the God Head in us (Christ in us), to live in our bodies with our souls forever, enabling us to die to sin (die to self) and live to, for and by Him (Romans 6, 7, & 8). 1 John 3:9, "No one who is born of God practices sin (continues willfully practicing sin), because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." [The Holy Spirit is the Life and Power in us (Christ in us) motivating, enabling, empowering, and causing us (Philippians

2:12-13) to follow Christ and bear fruit – "cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."

The true born again person must have Holy Spirit fruit (James 2:14-17, 26; I Thessalonians 1:2-8; Philippians 2:12-13) at some point after salvation to evidence the Holy Spirit's presence in the life (Matthew 13:23 UNDERSTANDS; Mark 4:20 – ACCEPTS; Luke 8:15 – HOLD IT FAST = BEAR FRUIT; I John 3:9)]

5. 31 "Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations." [He gives us repentance unto life; a growing genuine sorrow, grief and hatred for our own particular-sins, growing to the degree that we don't want to willfully live in sin any longer We start loving righteousness and truth more and more. We now sincerely love Christ. We (our souls, our persons living inside our human nature – fleshly bodies) are a NEW CREATION!!! We are now sons of God and therefore have a new identity in Christ. We are no longer in the kingdom of darkness, held captive by our human nature (fleshly body our souls live in) and under Satan's dominion or under the curse of the law due to our own sins, Romans 7:4-6]

[It is important that we ask our Heavenly Father, BELIEVING

HE WILL, to write the truths of His Holy Word in our new hearts and apply them to our lives because He promised to do so, Heb 8:10 "FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL (God's Elect - Jew & Gentile) AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS (Holy Spirit gives us right understanding as we diligently study the Holy Word of God), AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS, AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.". These truths are written in our new hearts by the Holy Spirit as we diligently study the Scriptures seeking to KNOW CHRIST while depending on the Holy Spirit alone to guide us into all the truth as we prayerfully feed on the Word of God. Then we WILL taste and experience these "Gospel" and "Absolute Truths" in our hearts, minds and souls and literally be changed by these truth's - by the living Christ!!! And, as we progressively grow in our Faith, we live the Abundant Life more and more Jesus came to give us! This all takes time – possibly years, even many years to grow to maturity.]

[Read, Study and take in the Word of God for Spiritual food – Christ being the Word of God made flesh. The living Christ is our bread of life - the flesh and blood we eat and drink.

2Peter 1:16, "For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory,

'This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased' - 18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, UNTIL the day dawns and the MORNING STAR {Jesus Christ - Revelation 22:16} ARISES IN YOUR HEARTS. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

John 6:29, "Jesus answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe (totally trust, completely obey and continually follow HIM) in Him whom He has sent.'"]

THE NEW BIRTH IS THE BEGINNING OF OUR NEW CREATION AND THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH WE BUILD SO THAT OUR SOULS (PERSONS) LIVING IN OUR BODIES BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST OUR LORD AND SAVIOR. IT IS THE START OF OUR NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST!!! WE ARE ABSOLUTELY CHANGED! CHRIST HAS LITERALLY MADE US NEW CREATURES IN HIM!!!