

“Born of the Spirit”

I. We must be born not only of the water but also of the Spirit. John 3:5

A. To be born of the Spirit we must allow the Holy Spirit to have complete freedom in entering our life. Illustration of the glove.

II. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:6

A. When we were born of the flesh we were encouraged to be independent. When we are born of the Spirit we are encouraged by the Holy Spirit to be dependent upon God.

III. Our dependence upon God has been compared to the dependence of a sheep with its Shepherd.

A. Complete dependence upon God results in having all of our needs met. Psalm 23:1

B. Complete dependence upon God results in His leading us to that which will satisfy our hunger and thirst. Psalm 23:2

C. Complete dependence upon God results in being led to paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Psalm 23:3

D. Even though we may dwell in dangerous places, we have no fear because God's presence comforts us and gives us peace. Psalm 23:4

E. Sheep follow the Divine Shepherd because the Shepherd has an intimate relationship with them and knows them by name. John 10:3

F. This relationship has resulted in the sheep knowing the voice of the Shepherd over a period of time so that they are able to follow Him because they know His voice. John 10:4

IV. Complete dependence upon God produces peace.

A. Prayer is the way that we unload all that is troubling us. Philippians 4:6

B. “Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on the merits of the Saviour. God would send every angel in heaven to the aid of such a one, rather than allow him/her to be overcome.” *Testimonies, volume 7, page 17*

C. With total dependence upon Jesus comes a peace that passes all understanding and keeps our hearts/emotions and minds/thoughts focused upon Jesus. Philippians 4:7

D. One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is peace. Galatians 5:22

E. Peace is the thermometer that indicates how much we are depending upon God.

