

A "SPIRITUAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE"

By Keith Greer

When I was born into this world, my Mom and Dad were given a "**birth certificate**." On this document, were recorded the time of my birth, date, my parents' names, and my name. By human standards, this is a very vital document and is usually kept in a safe place. This "**birth certificate**" can do many things for a person. Yet, I would like to discuss what it cannot do for a person.

My mother, in giving birth to me, placed me into a **physical family**. I had no choice of who my parents would be, the town where I would live, the date of my birth, or even what my name would be. All those "**details**" were given to others. However, this birth did not put me into the family of God!

"Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." {John 3:3,5} This is often referred to as a "**spiritual birth**." Only in doing these things, is one truly put into the **family of God**.

How does this birth takes place? Well, a seed must be planted first. What shall that seed be? "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God." {Luke 8:11} Looking back at the creation of the world, one can see that each thing which was created "reproduced after its own kind." {Genesis 1:11,12;} If one plants "**the seed, which is the word of God**", what will be produced? A **Christian** of course! Can man plant "another seed" and still get a Christian? I believe not!

In this "spiritual birth." who is my Father? "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for one is your Father, He is in heaven." {Matthew 23:9} Notice, this is in reference to the "spiritual birth" not in reference to a physical relationship. We can have only One Father in the spiritual sense!

What is the time of our "birth?" "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." {Romans 6:4} "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love." {Colossians 1:13} "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." {2 Corinthians 5:17}

When one "puts on Christ" they are "born again." "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." {Galatians 3:26, 27} When we were put under the water, and rose up, this was the time of our birth!

What is our "**name**?" "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. " {Acts 4:12} " And when he had found him,

he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." {Acts 11:26} If our name is not "Christian", we have not entered the family of God!

The "**spiritual birth**" one does have a say, who will be their parent. We also have a say if we want to belong in this special family and be one of His children. Our name is a privilege and honor to wear but comes with much responsibility and duty. One can live in any city, any country and become His child when they think they're ready. We will not be an "only child" but will have many, many brothers and sisters and they can live all around the world. Truth is, this is the greatest family to be a part of, but it can only be accomplished by personal choice.

My friend, what does your "**spiritual birth certificate**" say? Have you been "**born of God**?" Not until the proper "seed" has been planted! ***