

the remotest part of the earth

#12, two fathers, part 2 – I Peter 1:23-25

We had started our last study, “two fathers”, part 1, with Peter’s reason for writing I Peter. The small group of believers in Caesarea had just witnessed all of God’s plan involved in the new creation. They had already seen Jews come to be born again. But here was something different! Gentiles born again! After this event, Peter clearly defined being born again in his first epistle. He was writing to persecuted believers that had been scattered telling them that they were not being persecuted for being Jews. The persecution came to them because they were followers of Christ.

The difficulty for us, as “born again”, is the fact that God in His infinite wisdom, chose to place what we are, as “born again”, in the old container!

author unknown

We have already discussed I Peter 1:23, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. We saw that the perishable seed was of Adam, that dies, and the imperishable seed was of God, which is alive and endures.

Adam’s seed
time sensitive . . . it dies!

I Peter 1:24 For,

“ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS,
AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS.
THE GRASS WITHERS,
AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,
25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER.”

And this is the word which was preached to you.

not time sensitive
alive and continues to exist

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I Peter 1:17-18, If you address as **Father** the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your **forefathers**,

I John 3:9, No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

[1.] I Peter 1:24, ALL FLESH, From the verses we have been studying, who is "all flesh" referring to?

[2.] I Pet 1:24 again, GRASS WITHERS, FLOWER FALLS OFF, What is this a picture of?

[3.] v:25, WORD OF THE LORD, Which seed is this?

[4.] I Peter 1:17-18, Father, forefathers, Two fathers are mentioned in this verse. Match the correct father with his seed.

Father: perishable seed or imperishable seed

forefather: perishable seed or imperishable seed

[5.] I John 3:9, His seed abides in him; Is this seed of flesh (Adam) or Spirit (God)?

[6.] As Christians, here on earth, What two seeds are we born of?

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Heb 2:11, For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from (of or out of) one Father (**God**); for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

[7.] v:11, He who sanctifies, Referring to v:9-10, write down who this is.

[8.] v:11, again, those who are sanctified, Write down who this is.

observation

From I John 3:9, we saw that those born of God have “God’s seed in them. Again, since God is Spirit, His seed is Spirit. Also, Christ’s birth is described in Luke 1:35, The angel answered and said to her, “ The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God .

Notice both Christ and His brethren are born the same way - with God’s seed (the Spirit) Both their genealogies go back to God.

[9.] v:11 again, How is it that Christ can call them “brethren”?

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II Corinthians 4:16-18, Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen;

for the things which are seen are temporal (temporary), but the things which are not seen are eternal.

[10.] II Cor 4:16-18, outer man inner man Select the seed that best fits the description.

a) Our outer man is from the perishable or imperishable seed?

b) Our inner man is from the perishable or imperishable seed?

[11.] v:18, things seen, things not seen, Select the seed that best fits the description.

a) The things which are seen, from the perishable or imperishable seed?

b) The things which are not seen, from the perishable or imperishable seed?

[12.] v:18 again, temporal (temporary) things, eternal things, Select the seed that best fits the description.

a) The temporal things, from the perishable or imperishable seed?

b) The eternal things, from the perishable or imperishable seed?

[13.] In Acts 10:44-45, when Cornelius and friends were born again, they instantly shared the same father with Peter and the circumcised believers. Which father are we talking about?

[14.] To which of their two fathers should the “born again” expend most of their efforts?

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We'll go ahead and close this study with another “outward, inward” verse. Rom 2:28-29, For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

[15.] Then with these verses in mind, who is the true Jew?

[16.] And while we're on the subject, Rev 2:9 describes a group at Smyrna and Rev 3:9 describes a group at Philadelphia. Who are they?

“When true faith enters, chance and mischance go out for good. They have no jurisdiction over them that are born of the Spirit, for such as these are sons of the new creation and special charges of the Most High God.

While sojourning here below, these children of the eternal covenant may pay token tribute to nature, sickness, old age and death may levy upon them, and to the undiscerning eye, they may seem to be as other men. Here, as in all its other judgments upon Christianity, the world is completely fooled by appearances, for it cannot see that these believing ones are “hid with Christ in God”.

Tozer, A.W., We Travel An Appointed Way

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NOTES