

Can Regeneration precede Baptism in the Spirit?

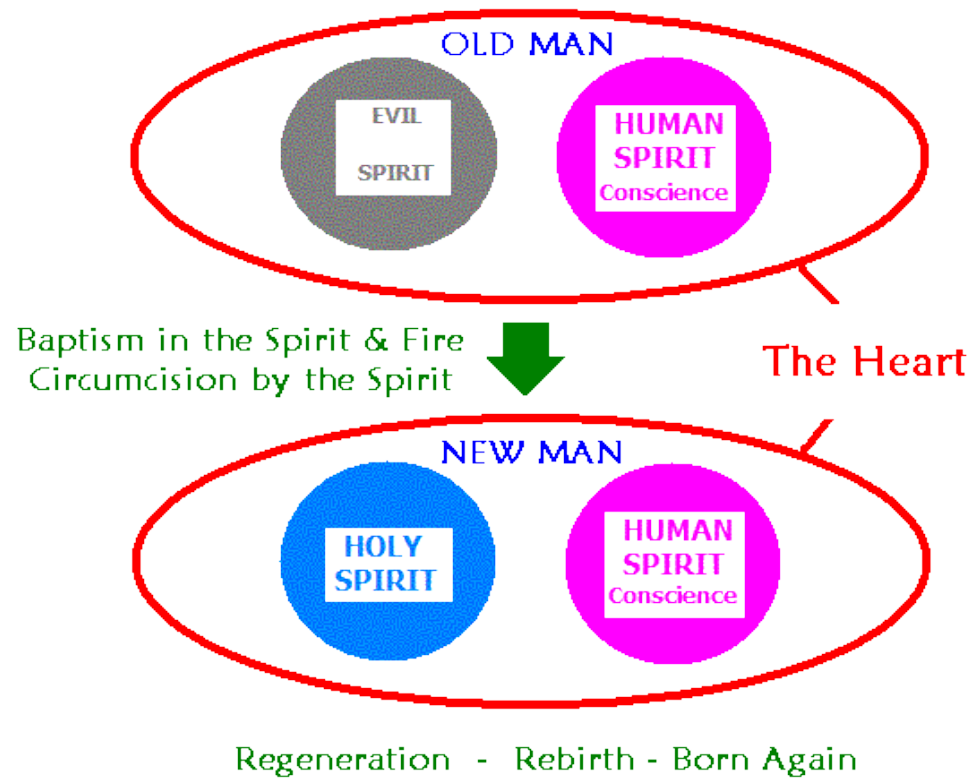
What was the experience of the disciples
in Jesus times?

Is it the same for pagans or gentiles who convert to Christianity today and in the time of Christ?

Does it make any difference if
converting from Judaism?

How do we become Christians?

BECOMING A NEW CREATION



We receive the Spirit by Believing

- Jn.7:37-9 37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.
- Gal.3:2,5 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?
- Gal.3:14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.
- Eph1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

We are saved by Baptism in the Spirit

- **2Th.2:13** But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to **be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit** and through belief in the truth.
- **Tit.3:5** he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. **He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,**
- **1Pe.3:21** **and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you** also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Nobody can be a Christian unless they are Baptized with the Holy Spirit

- **1Cor 12:13**

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

- **Rom 8:9**

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, **if the Spirit of God lives in you.** And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

Baptism with the Spirit is not the same as “Speaking in Tongues”

- **1Cor 12:1-11**
- Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.
- There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.
- Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

One body, many parts different functions but the Same Spirit

- **1Cor 12:12-14**

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.

1Cor 12:27-31

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? **Do all speak in tongues?** Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

Those who receive the Spirit are Children of God

John 1:12

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God

Regeneration involves inward and outward Baptism

- John 3:3-7

In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

“How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’

Regeneration is only mentioned in the Gospel of John and the Epistles of Paul

Is possible to be become a Christian
(be born again) just by reading the
book of Matthew (which does not
even mention regeneration)?

Yes – of course it is!!

Regeneration in the New Testament is
equivalent to Baptism in Water and
Baptism in the Spirit put together .
These are mentioned in every Gospel.



Why do we need the terms
“regeneration”
“rebirth”
“Child of God”

Was Nicodemus Regenerate?

- **John 3:1-10**

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.” In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^b gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You^c must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked. “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things?

Whoever Believes in Him shall not perish but have Eternal Life

- John 3:11-21

I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

Were the Jews in the Old Testament times regenerate?

- Deut 10:10-22

Now I had stayed on the mountain forty days and nights, as I did the first time, and the LORD listened to me at this time also. It was not his will to destroy you. "Go," the LORD said to me, "and lead the people on their way, so that they may enter and possess the land that I swore to their fathers to give them." And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Yet the LORD set his affection on your forefathers and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations, as it is today. **Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer.** For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. *And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt.* Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. He is your praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes. Your forefathers who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.

What does it mean to be a Jew?

- **Romans 2:28-29**

A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; **and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit**, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

What is so special about Judaism?

- Jewish believers are also called the Children of God, the Children of Israel and the Children of Abraham.
- They were circumcised both inwardly (by the Spirit) and outwardly (in the flesh)
- It was, however, superseded when Christ brought in the New Covenant

Circumcision was an eternal covenant which is also practiced by Muslims

Circumcision is the sign of God's covenant with Abraham

- **Gen 17:10**

- This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

Gen 17:11

- You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you.

Gen 17:13

- Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. **My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant.**

Gen 17:14

- Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

Nobody could come into God's presence unless they are circumcised both inwardly and outwardly

- **Ezek 44:9**
- This is what the Sovereign LORD says: No foreigner uncircumcised in heart and flesh is to enter my sanctuary, not even the foreigners who live among the Israelites.

By the same token, Israelites had to be circumcised inwardly and outwardly too

Circumcised believers were obedient to the Holy Spirit

- **Acts 7:51**
- "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

Circumcision was a symbol of Righteousness that was by Faith

When people turned away from God, they became uncircumcised in heart

- **Lev 26:41**
- which made me hostile toward them so that I sent them into the land of their enemies--then when their uncircumcised hearts are humbled and they pay for their sin,
- **Jer 9:26**
- Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab and all who live in the desert in distant places. For all these nations are really uncircumcised, and even the whole house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart."

Did the Jews who rejected Christ become uncircumcised in heart?

Nobody can even see the Kingdom of God unless they are Born Again

- John 3:3

In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.

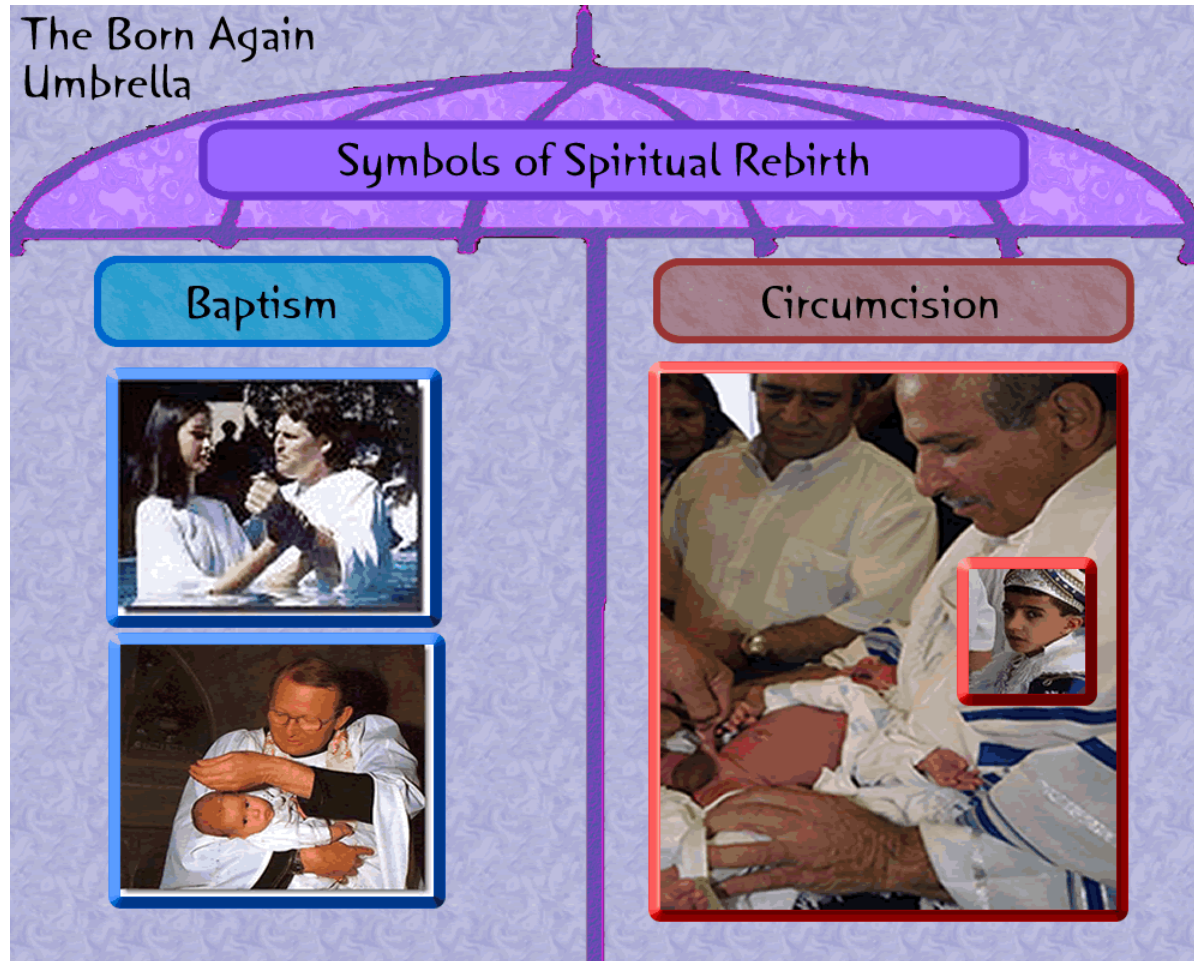
Was Nicodemus Born Again?

Were Faithful Jews Born Again?

What does it mean to be a Christian?

- **John 1: 10-13**
- He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.
- He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.
- Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—
- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Two ways to be Born Again



Only one way to be Born Again Now



The Baptism of Jesus Visual Book Productions

You do not belong to Christ if you have not been Baptized by the Spirit

- **Acts 19:1-4**

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when^a you believed?” they answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”

- **Romans 8:9**

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

The disciples were filled with the Spirit in Acts 2

- **Acts 2:1-5**
- When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

People received the Spirit in Acts 8 after being Baptized in water

- **Acts 8:15-16**
- When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

People received the Spirit immediately as they believed in Acts 10

- **Acts 10:44-46**
- While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

John's disciples had not received the Holy Spirit in Acts 19

- **Acts 19:1-7**
- While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

After the resurrection
Jesus appeared to the disciples and
told them to go into all the world and
preach the Gospel and to take the
Holy Spirit with them and God would
forgive whoever they forgave
(John 20)

When the gospel was first preached to the Samaritans by Phillip in Acts 8 Peter and John had to go down to Samaria to confirm that the Samaritans could be saved before the Samaritans could receive the Holy Spirit

Peter was given the Keys of the Kingdom

- Matt 16:15-19
- “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Peter received the revelation that the Gospel was for all nations

- **Acts 10:27-28**
- Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean.

Up til then, people thought that the Gospel was just for the Jews

- Matt 12:21-28
- Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession.” Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.” “Yes, Lord,” she said, “but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

The Samaritans could not receive the Spirit until Peter and John confirmed it

- **Acts 8:14-17**
- When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

In Jeremiah's time the whole nation of Israel had become uncircumcised in Spirit

- Jeremiah 9:26
- Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab and all who live in the desert in distant places. For all these nations are really uncircumcised, and even the whole house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart."

Was this the case when Christ came to save His People?

Faithful Obedient Jews who accepted Christ were born again / children of God as they were circumcised by the Spirit

- Luke 11:13
- If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

This verse clearly shows that if God's Children asked for the Holy Spirit, their Heavenly Father would give it to them. The Jews were God's people but they needed to ask to be Baptized with the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus appeared to the disciples on resurrection Sunday, he told them to go into the world and to take the Spirit with them

- **John 20:19-23**
- On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.
- Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed out and said, “Take the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

He told them to stay in the city until they received power from on High

- Luke 24:45-49
- Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

At Pentecost, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to Speak in tongues

- **Acts 2:1-4**
- When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

The disciples were born again under the Old Covenant but then they were Baptised into the New Covenant by the Spirit

The disciples and other Jewish
Converts were therefore Born Again
before they received the Spirit

Were the disciples Born Again under the Old Covenant and then asked to receive the Spirit in John 20 and then receive it again in Acts 2 ?

NO!

The disciples were already born again as a result of Circumcision in the Spirit.

They were commanded to take the Spirit with them in John 20 and then they were filled or Baptized with the Spirit in Acts 2

For people who were Born Again under the Old Covenant in Jesus time, it was possible to be Born Again before being Baptised by the Spirit into the Body of Christ, the Church.

For Gentile believers, it is not possible to separate Baptism in the Spirit from Regeneration as there is only one way to be Born Again

John's Baptism was not Enough to
get the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

They had to understand that Jesus
had died and risen from the dead
and then they had to be Baptized 'in
the Name of Jesus'

Some Christians believe that the
Baptism of the Spirit is an optional
extra for Christians
but it is NOT

Baptism in the Spirit is essential to becoming a Christian and the only way that Pagans and Gentiles can be saved and become part of the Body of Christ

‘Baptism in the Spirit’ is not the same as ‘Speaking in Tongues’ these are not interchangeable terms

When Pentecostals use the term
Baptism in the Spirit, they are often
talking about Speaking in Tongues

When other Christians talk about
Baptism in the Spirit, they are talking
about conversion or Salvation

The fruit of the Spirit come from
Baptism with the Spirit too
Just as with the Gifts of the Spirit and
other Manifestations of the Spirit

Baptism in the Spirit is the only way to become a Christian

Pagans who convert to Christianity today have not been circumcised by the Spirit first and hence they were not Born Again before they were Baptized by the Spirit

Circumcision was an Eternal Covenant

- Genesis 17:3-8
- Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

For people who are converting to Christianity from Judaism or Islam, it may be that they were Children of God before they were Baptized into the Body of Christ. In other words, they may have been regenerate before they became Christians.

Maybe, they became uncircumcised when they rejected Christ.

Generally, for Pagans / Gentiles
converting to Christianity,
they go straight to a New Covenant
relationship with God
Regeneration is the same as Baptism
in the Spirit

People cannot receive the Baptism of the Spirit without accepting Jesus as their Saviour

When we get Baptised in the Spirit, we are also circumcised inwardly by Christ

- **Colossians 2:11**

In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ,

Nobody can see the Kingdom of God unless they are Born Again

- **John 3:5**

Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

There is now only one way for pagans to be Born Again

Acts 2:38

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

People who are circumcised under the Old Covenant are Born Again

If Jews become Christians by accepting Jesus as Lord then in their case, Regeneration has preceded Baptism in the Spirit

For pagan converts to Christianity,
Baptism in the Spirit is the same as
Regeneration

For circumcised converts to
Christianity, regeneration may
precede Baptism in the Spirit