

# The Birth of Christ and our Birth

The incarnation of the Son of God and his birth among the human race is indeed the beginning of a new life for mankind. Christ has become the head of the new creation for He has taken our nature and blessed it. Through his birth, He granted us to be born anew on a spiritual level..." **But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**" (John 1:12-13) For the phrase "Children of God" means the ones who are born of God!



This birth is a spiritual birth and Christ called it birth from above, and birth from the water and the spirit (John 3:3-5) where He implies baptism (Matt 28:19) and He made it a fundamental requirement to enter and see the Kingdom of God.

Thus, "**That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**" (John 3:6). It is important for us to know some facts about this spiritual birth which God has granted us through His incarnation and we have attained it through faith and baptism:

1. A human being is not fully grown at birth, he needs long years of nourishment, edification, love, and care to become mature physically, mentally, and psychologically, but rather continues all his life to grow in wisdom, experience and knowledge. The same is true with the spiritual human being born in us through baptism. He needs long years to mature and for the character of Christ, His love, gentleness, wisdom, humility, simplicity, and His faithfulness to clearly show in him!
2. If we have attained the seed of the new life through baptism, it would need a good environment and continuous nourishment to grow. As the bible says: "**As new born babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby**" (1 Peter 2:2). This rational milk is the words of the Holy Bible, the teaching of the Church, praise, and the holy sacraments. It is also noted that the appetite of those who have attained the new birth and live the new life, becomes a spiritual appetite. This appetite, only desires the holy pure milk by which we grow, change, and be renewed!
3. The growth of the seed and the reflection of the image of Christ on us is not an easy matter. It needs long time, great effort on our behalf, living in the church atmosphere, and integrating ourselves in the spiritual strife plan that church sets for us. Our teacher Saint Paul reassembles this to continuous labor, "**My little children, for home I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you**" (Gal 4:19).

As the woman suffers the pains of pregnancy for many long months, then goes into painful labor in order to give birth to a child that looks like his father or mother, it is the same with the church. After she gives birth to us through baptism, she continues, in hard labor, to care for us with prayer, edification, follow-up on repentance, confession, and liturgies until the image of Christ clearly appears in her children who interact with her!

4. Only those who are born of God, are capable of overcoming evil in the world, as our teacher Saint John the apostle said in his first epistle: "**For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?**" (1 John 5:4-5)... "**You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**" (1 John 4:4).

So, after this clarification, I think we need to examine ourselves. Are we continuously nourished with the rational milk, to grow with it? ... Do we use our resources in overcoming sin? Or, does it continue to have its influence over us? ... Is the character of Christ growing within us? Or the seed which we have taken in baptism is buried inside and has neither grown nor shown its characteristics yet?!

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The Son of God became a son of man so that the becomes a child of God. Are we moving in the path of fulfilling the desire of Christ and His purpose for us?!!

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!**

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