

Spiritual BABIES

From Spiritual Infancy to Maturity in Christ



“Desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”

1 PETER 2:2

UDEH TOCHUKWU LIVINUS

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the sweet Holy Spirit, my ultimate Teacher. I could not have done it without Him. His inspiration was the source of my motivation. To God be all the glory!

FOREWORD

Children are born every day, in both the secular and the spiritual realms. What each birth produces shows to whom the child rightly belongs. In this book, the servant of God explains the concept of spiritual babies in detail. Spiritual babies are concerned with self rather than service. What is so impressive about this book is that it lets you know where you stand as a believer. It addresses the spiritual life of both young and mature Christians in this present dispensation.

For a mentor, the identification of spiritual babies is another aspect of leadership that cannot be ignored. The lifestyles of God's children fall into different categories, and it is left to you to guide and mentor them, remembering that spiritual babies are time bombs and receivers, arrogant and always quarreling. Growing spiritually and living the life of a fast-growing Christian is not a matter of luck or accident; it is a life everyone can live, whatever the world's view of growth may be.

Pastor Udeh Tochukwu Livinus is experienced in dealing with many children in Christ. From the beginning of this book to the end, he sets out the steps to spiritual growth and its challenges. As a writer and pastor, he does not underestimate the seriousness of a life that pleases God. Spiritual infants are still weak in discernment and know the truth only on the surface. I believe that this book will expose your spiritual level and help you improve your spiritual health. I recommend that you pray passionately as you go through this life-changing book. May the Lord bless you and give you understanding, in Jesus' name. Amen!

EVANG. ELEGBEDE RACHAEL O. (MD)
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CHAPTER ONE

Spiritual Birth

*“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ”
(1 Corinthians 3:1).*

The New Testament apostles compared spiritual growth to human physical growth. Every human being goes through a process of physical growth that includes these stages:

- i. Infant
- ii. Child
- iii. Youth
- iv. Adult

In the same way, the apostles compared Christians to people at these stages. Believers pass through spiritual “stages” that match the natural ones in important ways. In this physical growth process, each stage has its own characteristics. Paul called the Corinthians “babes in Christ” because they had stopped growing, and the same danger faces believers today. Every stage of life has its own needs and its own weaknesses, and what the Bible teaches about natural children helps us understand spiritual ones. A baby must live on milk, while a grown man can take solid food (Hebrews 5:13–14). God expects each of His children to move on from one stage to the next.

However, we cannot explain the concept of spiritual infancy without considering the process that comes before it, which is spiritual birth.

Jesus Christ taught plainly about the new birth experience. In John 3:1–6 the Bible records one of Jesus’ encounters. Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus by night, and Jesus told him how a man enters the kingdom of God. Jesus’ reply was this: “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). Being born again, the new birth experience, is the beginning of the Christian journey with the Lord. We cannot understand the concepts, doctrines and principles of God unless we are born into His kingdom. Only those who are born into God’s family enjoy the full privileges of the kingdom heritage. God’s kingdom is open to everyone. The new birth is not reserved for a special few. Once we conquer our doubt, fear and ego and embrace the sacrificial work of Christ on the cross, we are positioned for God’s provision of the riches of His kingdom. The apostle Paul wrote, “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32).

Once we believe in the only begotten Son of God, we become eligible for God’s promises.

How Can One Be Born Again?

The question that many people (agnostics, pagans, nominal Christians, atheists and people of other religions) keep asking is this: “How can I be born again?” This is the same question that Nicodemus put to Jesus. How is it possible for me to be born again? I am a grown man or woman, and you talk about being born again? The subject of being born again is a matter of debate even among many believers. Some also want to know, “What is this born-again thing?” Every question of life has an answer in the Scriptures, and Jesus gave the answer in the same passage (John 3:5–6): being born again means being born of the Spirit of God. In the natural process, a husband comes together with his wife, and the wife conceives and gives birth to a child after nine months. In the case of the Spirit, the process is not a natural

one; it is the work of the Spirit of God. We come into contact with the word of God and take in the word, like the seed a woman takes in. The word of God then resides in our hearts. When we receive it by faith, the Spirit of God makes the final change, giving birth to a new person who no longer lives according to his human senses but according to the instruction and direction of the Spirit of God: “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:12).

The following steps are very important if you want to be born again:

1. You must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the first step to being born again. You cannot worship or follow one in whom you do not believe. The Bible says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). This is very important if you want to be born again. After an earthquake opened the prison doors and loosed every prisoner’s chains, Paul and Silas told the keeper of the prison, who wanted to kill himself, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:31). Jesus Christ is the only name that saves, heals, delivers and protects.
2. You must repent and confess your sins to God. Repentance from sin is a non-negotiable condition for having peace with God. It is turning away from sin, and a change of heart toward the revealed truth of the word of God. We must recognize that we are sinners. As the Bible rightly says, “there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Romans 3:12), and “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Our religious works and self-righteousness cannot earn us peace with God. It was only the blood of Jesus Christ that saved us from our sins. We must confess our weaknesses, sins and wickedness to God, for He alone has the power to change us and make us more like Him.