

What did John really mean about being born again in John 3:3-5?

There are two predominant translations associated with John 3:3 and John 3:5 (one uses the phrase 'born again' the other uses the phrase 'born from above' - regardless of the actual translation the meaning behind the words need to be understood)

1' What do the underlying Greek words mean?

Genesis 1:1-2 **27:39** 19:22

4 at the **27:51**

6 u.e **1:3**

7 cts **26:5**

James 1:1-2 3:12-13

Exodus **25:21-22**

4 ar. 12:35

John **3:3** 19:11-23

Galatians **4:9**

The word that is translated as 'again' in John 3:3-5 most often carries the idea of 'above' rather than 'again' (other associated translations include 'top', 'beginning' and 'first'. The idea of 'top' & ill parallel 'above' understanding the Greek as saying 'again' as in 'once more' is fairly rare)

2' What can be understood from the context?

John **3:1-8**

The context does carry a dual meaning of the words. Because Nicodemus answered Jesus with respect to entering the second time into his mother's womb this indicates that Nicodemus understood the meaning of the word as 'again'. Jesus' response to Nicodemus that a man must be born of water and of the Spirit and he discusses that which is born of the flesh as well as that which is born of the Spirit indicates the need for a second type of birth. The second 'again' birth that Jesus speaks of though is a spiritual birth (but of necessity this spiritual birth does actually indicate a birth from above)

3' What would be the idea behind a second birth 'again'?

2 Corinthians **5:17**

1 Corinthians **6:9-11**

1 Peter **4:1-4**

Galatians 1:12

Ephesians 2:1-3

The idea behind a second birth or being born again is that the desires and intentions of the heart are completely new and different than the former having a relationship with Jesus Christ. When a birth takes place a new being comes into existence; so it is also with a second birth.

1' What would be the idea behind a spiritual birth 'above'?

John **1:12-13** 3:11

1 Corinthians **2:13-16** 12:13-19

4 at the **16:16-17**

The idea behind a spiritual birth or being born from above is that the ability to understand the word of God and to receive grace is not the word of man in an attempt to understand the word of God. When a birth takes place the one being born has nothing to do with his birth but he is the product of the word of others who brought forth life in him.