

# Beyond Church Ministries

## Who Does What?

### I. Introduction

Our hometown — Covington, LA — is becoming regionally renowned, a destination city for a lot of people in part because of the food that's served here. When I was young, long before fast-food became the staple of som many American diets, there were only three restaurants in Covington: Pedone's, Hurstons and the Riverside Inn. If you were crazy enough to want to start a restaurant in Covington, the first question you might ask yourself was "How many restaurants can this town reasonably support?" And that thought might dissuade you all by itself.

But recently, Covington was featured in USA Today as one of the five best small Southern towns with great cuisine. And the restaurants keep on coming.

So today, I went to a new restaurant which actually occupies the house that Debbie & I lived in when we were first married. Our first home is now Marcello's Restaurant & Wine Bar, and I went to make a reservation because my birthday is tomorrow. The restaurant wasn't open yet, but the chef was unloading boxes from a van, so I asked him this question: "What do I need to do to be able to get into Marcello's tomorrow evening?" We finally nailed down those reservations just about an hour ago.

Here's the truth: all of us one day will probably be approaching the gates of Heaven, and, on that occasion, none of us wants to be asking that question — "Hey! Hey! What do I need to do to get in here?" To be standing outside the pearly gates, screaming that question to passers-by has to be the ultimate nightmare, especially because the alternative is so, so bad.

### II. So What Must We Do? What Is Required of Us to Enter into and Actually Walk in Eternal Life?

**John 3:1-7** — *"There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"*

**A. What does that mean, to be born again?**

In short order, being “born again” involves a transaction, as in two parties making a sacred and inviolable agreement.

Your part is surrender yourself into God’s hands and, from that point forward, to receive. You surrender and receive. You surrender and receive. You surrender and receive. You surrender and receive...

- ...the forgiveness of all of your sin — past, present and future;
- ...the irrevocable gift of God’s own righteousness so that He never sees sin in you again;
- ...adoption into the family of God;
- ...the promise of God’s provision for everything you will ever possibly need;
- ...immediate access to a host of supernatural spiritual gifts; and
- ...the person of the Holy Spirit into your physical body.

God’s part is to receive you into Himself and to impart into your body His Own Divine Spirit. From that point, the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit that indwelt the Lord Jesus Christ, is there to do at least four things:

**1 Cor. 1:27-31** — *“But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the [m]base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, ‘He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.’”*

- A. Wisdom:** *skill in the management of affairs; the knowledge and practice of the requisites for godly and upright living; devout and proper prudence in intercourse with men not disciples of Christ, skill and discretion in imparting Christian truth*
- B. Righteousness:** *state of him who is as he ought to be, his condition acceptable to God, integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking feeling, and acting*
- C. Sanctification:** *holiness; the effect of consecration*
- D. Redemption:** *liberation procured by the payment of a ransom*

**ALL** of these things are the responsibility, first and foremost, of the Holy Spirit within you.

**John 14:6** — *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*

**John 16:13** — *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth.”*

### **III. What Kind of Difference Can the Holy Spirit Make?**

*Matt. 26:69-74 — Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, “You also were with Jesus of Galilee.” 70 But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you are saying.” 71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, “This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth. 72 But again he denied with an oath, “I do not know the Man!” 73 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, “Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you.” 74 Then he began to curse and swear, saying, “I do not know the Man!”*

*Acts 4:7-12 — And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, “By what power or by what name have you done this?” 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: 9 If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, 10 let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. 11 This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

### **IV. Our Responsibility Comes Down to This: Surrender. Receive. Rest.**

### **V. Closing: Back to the Restaurant — Two Different People.**