**Cornerstone Prayer Session – April 21, 2018**

**Anthony Papili**

**Leader**: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

(Observe a period of silence, allowing our minds to become clear and our hearts to become open)

# Opening Prayer

**Leader:** As we have made it through yet another rough winter, Lord, please send the Holy Spirit down upon us to invigorate us with energy, hope, and a revitalization in our bodies, minds, and hearts. Help us to channel that newfound spirit into another chance to do good in our lives and in the lives of those around us. We ask this through Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. --- **AMEN**!!

# This Mornings Theme: Born Again, Rebirth

This topic was basically picked by me closing my eyes, and randomly clicking on a list of the books in the bible. Prior to doing this, my mind kept coming up with spring time and rebirth. I felt that topic had been overused. When the random passage came up, and it was about being born again, I took that as a sign from the Holy Spirit that this was supposed to be today’s topic.

### **Religous Quotes on Rebirth**

### [John 3:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3%3A3&version=ESV) Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

### [2 Corinthians 5:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+5%3A17&version=ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

### [Titus 3:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus+3%3A5&version=ESV) He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

### [Matthew 18:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+18%3A3&version=ESV) And said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and **become like children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

### [Mark 16:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+16%3A16&version=ESV) Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

### [1 John 4:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+4%3A1&version=ESV) Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

### [Romans 6:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+6%3A4&version=ESV) We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

**Reading:** John 3:1-15

##### **You Must Be Born Again**

Joh 3:1There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

Joh 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, *Except a man be born again*, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Joh 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, *How can a man be born when he is old?* can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

\*Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Joh 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Joh 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.**

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: **so is every one that is born of the Spirit.**

Joh 3:9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

Joh 3:10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

Joh 3:11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

Joh 3:12 **If** **I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you *of* heavenly things?**

Joh 3:13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven.

Joh 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

Joh 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

**The Word of the Lord:** Thanks be to God!!

**Rocky Mountain High** by [John Denver](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS760US760&q=John+Denver&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAONgVuLQz9U3SIuvtAQAOn7yUQwAAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjRgoyUlrfaAhUKk1kKHaAiAnAQMQgsMAA)

He was born in the summer of his 27th year  
Coming home to a place he'd never been before  
He left yesterday behind him, you might say he was born again  
You might say he found a key for every door

When he first came to the mountains his life was far away  
On the road and hanging by a song  
But the string's already broken and he doesn't really care  
It keeps changing fast and it don't last for long

But the Colorado rocky mountain high  
I've seen it rainin' fire in the sky  
The shadow from the starlight is softer than a lullabye  
Rocky mountain high (Colorado)

He climbed cathedral mountains, he saw silver clouds below  
He saw everything as far as you can see  
And they say that he got crazy once and he tried to touch the sun  
And he lost a friend but kept his memory

Now he walks in quiet solitude the forest and the streams  
Seeking grace in every step he takes  
His sight has turned inside himself to try and understand  
The serenity of a clear blue mountain lake

And the Colorado rocky mountain high  
I've seen it raining fire in the sky  
You can talk to God and listen to the casual reply  
Rocky mountain high

Now his life is full of wonder but his heart still knows some fear  
Of a simple thing he cannot comprehend  
Why they try to tear the mountains down to bring in a couple more  
More people, more scars upon the land

And the Colorado rocky mountain high  
I've seen it rainin' fire in the sky  
I know he'd be a poorer man if he never saw an eagle fly  
Rocky mountain high

It's Colorado rocky mountain high  
I've seen it rainin' fire in the sky  
Friends around the campfire and everybody's high  
Rocky mountain high  
Rocky mountain high  
Rocky mountain high  
Rocky mountain high  
Rocky mountain high  
Rocky mountain high

**Thoughts for Discussion**

Turning over a new leaf, being reborn again, second chances

1. Comment on any of the quotes or reading
2. Did you ever have a major revelation when looking at something that you saw every day but all of a sudden, you see it in a new light? It could be a person.
3. Have you ever been influenced by someone else’s rebirth?
4. What can you do in your spiritual life to help be “reborn” as is mentioned in the reading? I think we were all “reborn” in our spiritual lives when we went through Cornerstone. Are we keeping it going?
5. Talk about a time in your life where you felt reborn? (ex. born in the summer of his 27th year)
6. Was Jesus reborn?

**Prayers of petition and thanks/Special Requests**

**Closing Prayer**

Lord, Jesus, we thank you for giving us this opportunity to once again get together as a group and pray. We are so fortunate to be able to do so and we know that when we gather like this, you are present. Please help each of us to be reborn again during this Spring season. Guide us via the Holy Spirit to take advantage of second chances in our lives. As the flowers bloom in our gardens, help our Faith in you to blossom as well. We ask this in your name, Jesus. Amen

In the spirit of rebirth and second chances, during this upcoming week, make an effort to fix a broken relationship in your life. It’s never too late.

**Our Father Prayer Circle**