

# **BORN AGAIN**

What does it mean?

- John 3:5-7 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”
- A parallel may be drawn between physical birth and the new spiritual birth:
  - coming out of the womb;
  - cutting the cord;
  - washing the baby;
  - breathing (sometimes with the laying on of hands)

- Faith in Jesus in the Gospels
  - Faith in Jesus in the Epistles
    - Faith in Jesus in Acts

# The Pattern in Acts

- Acts 8 - Philip in Samaria
- Acts 19 - Paul in Ephesus

**God  
Regenerates**

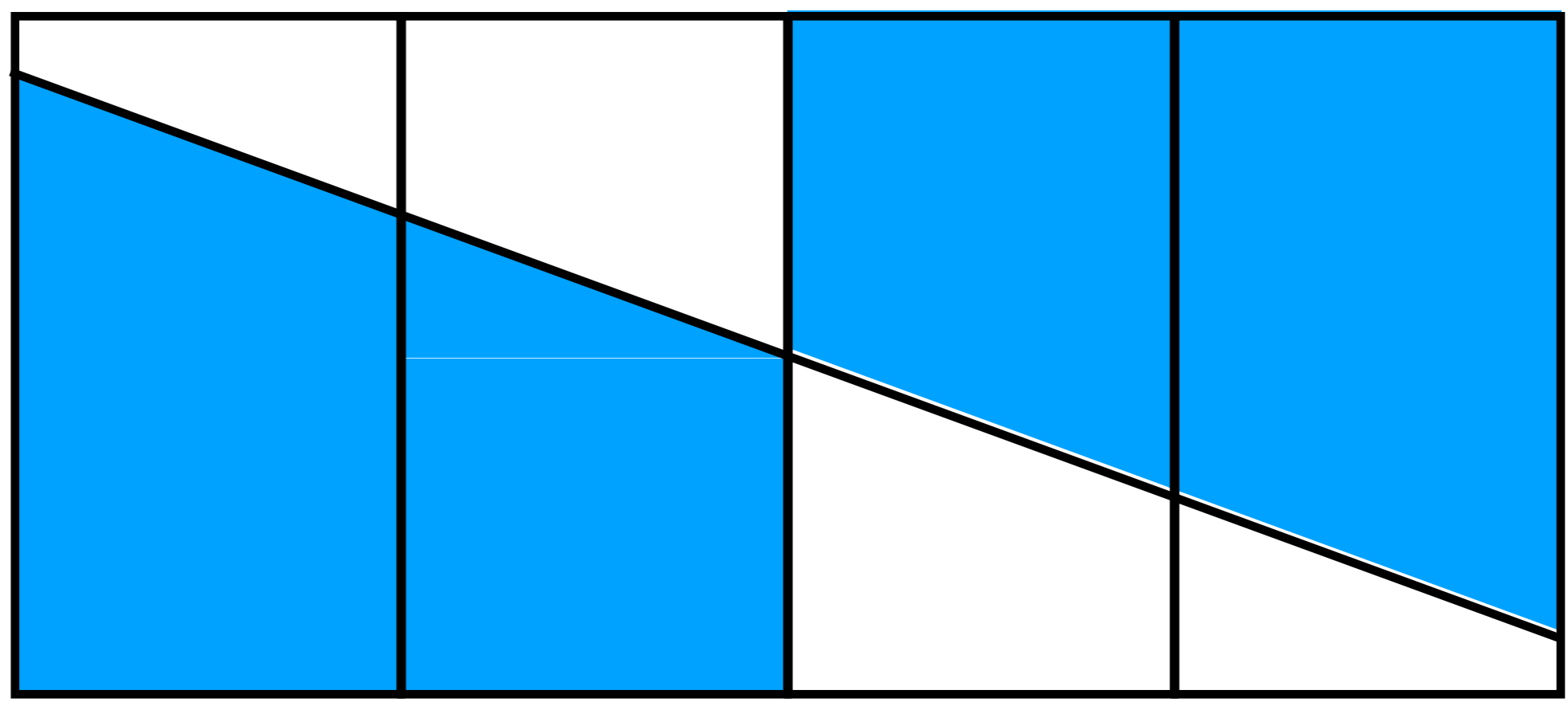
**Repent**

**Believe**

**Baptise**

**Spirit**

**Man  
Converts**



# The Big Issue

- Have you been born again?
- Have you repented of yours sins toward God?
- Have you believed in Jesus?
  - Have you been baptised since you repented and believed?
  - Have you received the Holy Spirit?

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20 May 2018

Text: John 3:3-5; Acts 19:1-6

**Meditation:** Read through these Scriptures and think about what Paul is saying to the 12 men in Ephesus in relation to what Jesus said to Nicodemus.

1. What do you think about the parallel drawn between physical birth and spiritual birth?
2. Why do you think that many presentations of the gospel neglect to include baptism and the Holy Spirit? And sometimes even repentance isn't mentioned!
3. How may the four-fold pattern help you in your witnessing and proclamation of the gospel?
4. Take some time to discuss the diagram: Can you name the four stages? Can you identify God's activity in each stage? And can you identify man's response. Remember: God regenerates whilst man converts

