

BECOMING A CHILD OF GOD

Hadih, I'm Dick Walker. Welcome to the Carrier Bible Study. 'Awet Yak'usda Ooghuni whuts'odutil'eh.

In our last study in the Gospel of John, we learned that Jesus is the light of the world. Ndi yun k'ut be hoot'en-i 'unt'oh. We also learned that it is Jesus who will give us eternal life, be ts'ukhuna-i 'en za ootsu hainzut. Our eternal life comes only from Jesus. He is the only way to heaven. Doing good things, going to church, praying, those are all good things to do, but they will not give us eternal life. They will not get us into heaven. We also learned that we are either walking in the light, be hoot'en-i, or in the dark, tsaholhgas.

Here in 1:10 we read that Jesus, who is God and the King of heaven chose to reveal Himself to the people who were in the world. It says: “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. Yun k'ut inda'. Ndi yun 'uyínla 'et hoonts'i yinka dune' t'ehinózin.” Jesus, was the creator of this world, 'En la toh ts'e ts'iyaitsuk 'ulya ínle'. And the people didn't know who He was. They were walking in the dark.

Another thing we learn about The Lord Jesus is that, in spite of who we are, or what we have done, He loves us so much that that He made a way possible for us to stop living in the devil's dark ways and start living in God's light which is found in His word. But if you are in the dark, you may not have considered what He has done for us. Lots of people are like that. They are walking in the dark. We read about this in 1:11. It says, “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. Dulh whút'enne 'utahábanlane, butaninya whe 'aw lhuhuyílhchulh”. The Lord Jesus came to His own people, the Jews, ndunne Lizwifne, but they refused to welcome Him. They had their own Jewish religion. They used the bible but added their own interpretations. And it was by their Jewish Religion that they believed that God could not become a man. They were walking in the dark. They could not understand that God, who is a Spirit, could become a human being, 'En nududeh-i 'unt'oh, 'ink'ez Yak'usda 'en dune suli'. Like some of us, they did not understand this miracle that is celebrated at Christmas time. That was the time when God became a man. The Jews would ask themselves ‘How can a man claim to be God?’ This is impossible they would say 'aw 'uhooneh ait'oh. The Jews had a great respect for God and felt so strongly about that, that they made up a rule with their religion, called the Midrash, saying that anyone who made a claim like that should be killed. So, they chose not to believe in Him,

But God in His love, did not give up on the Jewish people. The Jews are His own special people. Jesus, when He came into this world as a Jew. By His life and by His words, He has made known how much He loves them, and us. The good news is that we also are included in His love. We read here in 1:12 “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right (the privilege) to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: “'Et mbene la yílhchootne, Yak'usda buzkeh huzdli' 'et bugha óonin'ai. 'Enne boozi' buba 'álha' yint'oh.” God's word makes it very clear. No matter who you are, no matter what you have done, when you understand that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Savior of all people and choose to invite Him into your heart, you will instantly become a child of God. This is the most important decision that you will ever make. Please think about this. When you were born, you

had eternal life. You are an eternal individual. You are living forever. But it won't be in heaven. This decision that you choose to make about the Lord Jesus Christ, determines where you will live your eternal life. It will either be in heaven or in hell. And it will be eternal. As one person said, "Dick, this word eternity, seems like it means that when it gets going, it will never stop". I thought that was well said. Each one of us must make that choice which will determine our eternity. Let me say it again. It is not by doing good things, by belonging to a religion, or helping people, or just by being a nice person, all of those things are good, but none of those things will give you God's gift of eternal life. That gift comes only from Jesus. You, yourself, must decide. No one can do that for you. You yourself, must choose to invite the Lord Jesus Christ into your life. Jesus is not only a Person in history. He is alive today. It is not just a matter of saying that you know about Jesus. Most people in this world know some things about Jesus. He must be living in your heart. The bible makes it very clear that He is alive. He is God, He is a Spirit, and he knows all about us. We ourselves must decide. Wheni ch'oh duba moodih ts'inli'. We must make a decision about Him. We will choose to either ignore Him, or invite Him into our life. That's the decision that each one of us must make. Let me ask you, what decision are you making about Jesus Christ? I am praying that you will ask Him to be your Saviour. If you make that decision, the bible explains that the real you, which is eternal, that is in your physical body becomes alive. That's what it means to be "born again". This is why Jesus came into this world. He would love to be your Saviour.

We ask the question, 'What must I do to be born again?' The answer is "nothing". There is nothing you yourself can do. But you do have a choice. You can choose to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and invite Him into your life, and God will give you eternal life. That's what God's Word tells us here in Verse 13. God makes it possible for us to be "born again". It gives us three reasons why we are not born again. It says, "who were born, 1) not of blood, 2) nor of the will of the flesh, 3) nor of the will of man, but of God 'Aw ha hände whula toh ts'e iloh Yak'usda buzkeh huzdli', k'us buyust'e hukwa' nínzun huwa iloh, k'us dich'oh dune hukwa' huninzun huwa cha iloh, Yak'usda 'en gha za huwhuzdli.'" This verse helps us to understand that we are not born again because of who we are. It says, "not of blood, 'aw ha hande" And we are not born again because we may decide we are going to be good people. Then it also says here, "It's not of the will of the flesh, 'Aw dich'oh dune hukwa' huninzun huwa cha iloh". It is not that you go to church. 'Aw nelugliz gha, 'i be iloh. People can come up with some good ideas about a church convincing people that if you belong to their church, you will be eligible to be in heaven. But the bible tells us that that's not true. There is only one way that any of us are eligible to be in heaven. It says here in v.13, "but of God, Yak'usda 'en gha za huwhuzdli." It is Jesus who is the only way. It was Jesus who died on the cross taking all of our sinful ways on Himself. We know we should be punished for what we did, but by His incredible love for us, He took our place and allowed God the Father to punish God the Son for our sins so that we could be saved and have eternal life in heaven with Him.

That's our choice. We may not completely understand what all of this means, but if we make the choice to ask Jesus Christ to come into our lives, the Holy Spirit will also come into our lives and help us to understand that this miraculous gift of being born again and becoming a child of God is a choice that we make by faith and faith alone. I am praying that you will make that choice!