

## FEW CAN HEAR AND UNDERSTAND

When a newborn baby cries, does it cry in order to have life? Or does it cry because it already has life? Everyone seems to know the answer without any problem. The answer is easy.

But now consider this. When one of God's elect is born of the Holy Spirit, does he cry out in anguish over his sins in order to have divine life, or does he cry out because he already has divine life? Very few seem to have the right answer!

The truth is that in both the natural and the spiritual realms, life comes first, then activity. Every act of a natural man comes after he has natural life, and every act of a spiritual man comes after he has spiritual life. These things seem very plain and simple to us, but to the religious world they appear very mysterious and incomprehensible. They think a sinner, though dead in trespasses and sins, must do something in order to have divine life. They think he must believe, repent, accept Christ, confess his sins, etc., etc., in order to be quickened from death into life. Most of them never seem to realize that God must first perform that quickening before any of these actions can or will be performed by the creature (See Ephesians 2,1-5). We often try to tell them, but seldom do we find anyone with a hearing ear. Just like the giving of life, only God can give ears to hear and a heart to understand His truth.

---Elder Ralph Harris