



## You Must Be “Born Again”

When God created man in the beginning He gave him life. Just as long as man did not break his union with God his life continued. However, when Adam and Eve sinned they began to die. Man does not have life unto himself. To live eternally he must be born again.

This is why Christ came to the earth. Look what Jesus said in the last part of **John 10:10** “...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” Further He said in **John 14:6** “...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” Therefore it is necessary to understand that mans eternal destiny depends on God who is the source of life.

How important is this new birth? When Jesus was addressing Nicodemus He told him the importance. **John 3:3-6** “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. <sup>4</sup> 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? <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

It is the new birth experience which brings about the change from death to life. **John 5:24** “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” So the penitent sinner must start at the point when Christ gives him eternal life. **Eph 4:24** “And that ye put on the **new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

It is not possible to analyze everything which takes place when a person is born again. The Bible says in **John 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.”

Being born again is a miracle by the power of God’s Holy Spirit. The Ethiopian eunuch listened to Philip give an explanation of Isaiah 53 and her was converted; **Acts 8:26-39** “And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. <sup>27</sup> And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, <sup>28</sup> Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. <sup>30</sup> And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? <sup>31</sup> And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was

led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:  
<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

<sup>34</sup> And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. <sup>36</sup> And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? <sup>37</sup> And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. <sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup> And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”

Paul had a direct encounter with God on the road to Damascus; **Acts 9:3-6** “And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: <sup>4</sup> And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? <sup>5</sup> And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. <sup>6</sup> And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”

When Paul preached the gospel Lydia was converted at Thyatira; **Acts 16:13-15** “And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. <sup>14</sup> And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. <sup>15</sup> And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.”

When the jailer witnessed the miraculous deliverance of Paul and Silas from the jail at Philippi, Paul preached Christ and he and his house were converted; **Acts 16:25-33** “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. <sup>26</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. <sup>27</sup> And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. <sup>28</sup> But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. <sup>29</sup> Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, <sup>30</sup> And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? <sup>31</sup> And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. <sup>32</sup> And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. <sup>33</sup> And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.”

Although you cannot analyze everything that takes place when a person is born again, there are changes that will be seen in the life of a person born again.

- a. A New Heart. **Ezek 11:19** “And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:”
- b. A New Mind. **Rom 12:2** “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

- c. Different Interests. **Rom 8:5** “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”
- d. Law Written in the Heart. **Heb 8:10** “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:”
- e. Love for Fellowmen. **1 John 3:14** “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.”

The person who is born again enters into a personal union with Christ. The power of Christ becomes his and he bears the fruit of love to God’s glory, and it is through this union that the spiritual life of the believer is maintained. **John 15:4-6** “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”

So how is it that a person is born again? There must be a recognition on our part that we can do nothing without Christ’s help. Jesus is our example in this. He said, “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” **John 5:30** And, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.” **John 5:19**

The way in which Christ lived in submission to His Father’s will shows how the believer is to live in submission to Christ. This is brought out in **Phil 2:5-8** “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Living in Christ is the end of self-will and now we live according to His will.