

Most everyone wants to go to Heaven. But did you know that Jesus plainly said that everyone is not going?

John 3:1-8 *There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 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. 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. 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? 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. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 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.*

Have YOU been **born again**? If not, you have no hope of escaping the terrors of hell or enjoying the glories of heaven. The Lord Jesus said, “**Ye must be born again**”.

I. WHAT THE NEW BIRTH IS NOT

A. It is not a religion. - Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a very strict religious man. He celebrated the Passover, paid tithes, said prayers, brought sacrifices, and tried to keep the Law. To HIM Jesus said, “**Ye must be born again.**” Law keeping, joining the church, being baptized, or living up to a religious creed will not save you. There will be many in hell who did all of these things.

B. It is not morality. - You may try to keep the golden rule, pay your bills, be a good neighbor, stay out of jail,

and live a clean moral life, but that won't save you.

It is not recorded that Jesus said, “**Ye must be born again,**” to Pilate, or to Judas. You might say, “I know miserable hypocrites like Judas and men like Pilate need to be **born again**, but I'm not like them. I wouldn't betray Christ after professing to be His friend. I wouldn't order Jesus to be beaten and then turn Him over to be crucified. Gangsters, thugs, adulterers, whore-mongers, liars, drunkards, and gamblers need to be **born again**, but not me. I'm all right.”

Do you realize Jesus said “**Ye must be born again**” to a man who was doing his best to gain heaven? He was not a crook, drunkard, or gambler. He was likely a good husband, a good neighbor, a man of clean morals, and religious. If he needed to be **born again**, so do you. How do you expect to make it to heaven without being **born again** if Nicodemus couldn't?

C. It is not reformation. - Even if you stop sinning, that would not be a new birth. Your trouble is not on the outside, but on the inside. You don't need exterior decoration but interior regeneration. Satan wants you to rest in a false peace. Don't be satisfied unless you have been **born again**.

II. WHAT THE NEW BIRTH IS

A. It is a mystery that cannot be explained, but a **reality** no man can explain away. - “*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*” (John 3:8). Just as Nicodemus could not understand or explain the wind, no man can understand or explain the new birth, but the wind is a reality no man can explain away. See the wind move the limbs of a tree or watch the wind tear a house

to splinters, you cannot deny the reality of wind! You cannot see the Holy Spirit, but you can see His mighty power make the harlot pure, the liar honest and the drunkard sober. You cannot deny the reality of the Holy Spirit.

B. It is the work of God by which a lost, guilty, hell-deserving sinner who receives Jesus gets a new nature and begins a new life. It is a second birth, a spiritual birth. Physical life begins by birth so does spiritual life, not by joining a church or becoming religious. You cannot JOIN the family of God, you must be BORN into it. True, Christians are not made, they are born.

No matter what kind of a religious profession you have made, no matter how good a person you may be, unless you have been made a partaker of the divine nature, you are not saved. God gives you this new nature the moment you receive His Son. It is instantaneous.

Are you SURE you have been **born again**? If you are not certain, read John 3:36--“*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.*”.

III. WHY YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

A. Because the Lord Jesus Christ said so. - That alone ought to settle it.

B. Because you have a sinful nature. - The nature we all received from Adam is corrupt. God says the heart of man *...is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked...* (Jeremiah 17:9). With this old nature, you could not even enjoy yourself in heaven, let alone rejoice in God's presence and worship Him. Instead, the lost are destined for a Christ-less

eternity, an eternal hell-fire beyond the most horrible description. Heaven is a holy place. When you are **born again**, God gives you a new nature that you might desire holy things, now and in heaven.

C. Because you cannot save yourself. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”* (Ephesians 2:8,9). *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us ...”* (Titus 3:5a). You cannot save yourself - **ye MUST be born again!**

IV. HOW TO BE BORN AGAIN

“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).

A. It is not of blood. - You are not a Christian just because your parents may be. You cannot inherit salvation from your parents. Even though they may be saved, if you have not been born again, you are lost.

B. Nor of the will of the flesh. - It is not by your own efforts or power. So why not stop trying to work your way to heaven? Instead of trying, trust, receive, and depend upon the One who died and rose again.

C. Nor of the will of man. - It is not brought about by any of man's religious creeds, systems, or ceremonies. No man or organization can make you a child of God. Join what you will, go through ceremony after ceremony, memorize creeds, and try to keep the rules and regulations of man-made

systems, but it will not save you.

D. But of God. - The Lord Jesus said you must be born *“of the SPIRIT.”* It is 100% God's work, not yours. It is a miracle. Only God can perform it. If God has not done a work in your life, you are not **born again**. Your part is to believe God's record about you: You must believe that you are a lost, worthless sinner, and in desperate need of a Saviour. You must repent of your sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. He died on Calvary's cross, that He might take your sins and punishment upon Himself. He arose and is seated today at God's right hand (Hebrews 1:3), and He is offered to you as God's only way of salvation (John 14:6). When you receive HIM, you will be saved, for Paul says we are *“... children of God by faith in Christ Jesus”* (Galatians 3:26).

You do not receive Christ by taking communion, or by being baptized, or by joining a church, or by any other human effort. You receive Christ by repentance and faith in Him alone.

Ye MUST be born again!



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John 3:7