

How Are You Born Again? How Do You Know You Are Born Again?

Why is it necessary to be born again? Why is it necessary to know you have been born again?

Joh 3:3,7; 1 "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: 2 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. 3 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. 4 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? 5 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. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 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. 9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?"

1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. 17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: 18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. 24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 25 But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

The phrase "**born again**" is only in scripture the three times seen above. Why is it necessary to be born again? Mainly, because Jesus said it was a necessity, and the reason it is a necessary is; because of the inherit fallen sin nature we are born with, which leaves us in a dead and alienated state.

How are you born again? To answer this question, first let's look at some other things we are commanded to do in scripture, such as:

- *Mr 12:30-31; "30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." Mr 12:31 "And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." Love for God, love for Christ, and love for one another, are all gifts from God. The "**Thou shalt**," in these two verses, reminds us; this is something we are commanded to do here in time on earth in a church capacity.*
- *1Ti 6:11-14; 11 "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; 14 That thou keep this*

commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:" As we look at these verses we see; man is charged with the responsibility to do something with the gifts that God has given him, through Jesus Christ. This is pertaining to our earthly salvation.

- **Ac 2:38-41; 38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."** In these verses we are called to repent of our unbelief in Christ, and to be baptized, which is professing Christ and your visible entrance into the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, here in time.

- We are commanded to be salt and light, and all other things that appertain to being Christ like.

We point out; all these things are for here on earth in time. They are things of which we can make choices; exercising our free will to do, or not to do.

I heard in a sermon this statement: "*Show me, in the bible, where God has commanded man to **"born again"** himself.*" I add this statement: Show me, in the bible, where God has given man the ability, or the free will choice, to make himself be "**born again**." Did you somehow exist and then choose to be born? God is the only one who has ever done that, seen in: **Ge 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."** God existed before any creating was done. Did you have anything to do with being born into the world? The answer is; you had absolutely nothing causative to do with your natural birth.

According to Jesus, "**you must be born again;**" so how can this happen? Only by God choosing to cause you to be "**born again**." It is not a gift that you can choose to accept or reject; it is something that happens by the divine purpose and council of God Almighty. Just as "**in the beginning**" God created man; and God breathed into man the breath of life; and man became a living soul; so it is with the new birth. God breathes into man the breath of life; and that which was dead is made alive in Christ. Can you prove this from scripture? Yes, it is recorded in: **Joh 1:13; 11 "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12 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: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."** This connection I gleaned from John Bunyan's book; *Grace Abounding To The Chief Of Sinners*. Thus, we understand "How we are born again."

As we see in **Joh 1:11-12;** there are some things we can choose to do, after we are "**born again**." All the things listed in the references above, which man is commanded to do, are gifts from God to us. We are given a free will to accept or reject them; to be obedient or disobedient to them. However, remember, these are only applicable to our salvation here on earth. Christ Jesus, alone, has already accomplished that which is necessary for our eternal life.

How do you know that you are born again? Being born again; you now have the ability to see, hear, and understand, things pertaining to God with a right understanding. Let's examine our previously given references, and see with understanding: **How you know you are born again:**

- **Mr 12:30-31**; If you see you have in you: love of God, and love of Christ, and love of your neighbor as yourself; you have evidence that God has chosen you to be loved, called, and you are already born again.
- **1Ti 6:11-14**; If you have a desire to: follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness, to fight the good fight of faith in Christ, to lay hold of eternal life, to live a godly life, then you have evidence that you are already born again.
- **Ac 2:38-41**; If you find in yourself: you are distressed over sinfulness in your life, you desire to be forgiven of your sins, you have a desire to save yourself from living an ungodly life, you have a desire to be baptized, you have evidence that you are already born again.
- If you have a desire to be a living example of a Christian, giving forth salt and light to those around you; you have evidence that you have already been born again.

These are only a few of the scriptures that answer both questions: **How Are You Born Again?** and **How Do You Know You Are Born Again?**

Why does it matter that you know if you have been born again? There is the visible church here on earth, which is represented by those who, already being "**born again**," make their profession of faith in God and are baptized, joining themselves to a group of believers in Christ Jesus. This is the church, which we may join by choice. The unsaved, the hypocrites, and the ungodly, may join a local church body claiming to be Christians; however, they are not a part of the invisible church.

The invisible church is populated by every sinner, who has been, is, or will be, "**born again**" by the power of God. This is "**The Church**" that will be in the immortal heaven, and be the bride of Christ at his return. Membership in this church is not optional; it is guaranteed by the "**born again**" work of God, and doubly guaranteed by the finished work of Christ.

We can only judge a person by the fruits they bring forth in life. Persons, who bring forth good fruits, give visible evidence that they are "**born again**." People, who produce bad fruits, give visible evidence that they are not "**born again**." God knows each person that he gave to Jesus to save eternally. We are given to understand; in our churchly association with people here on earth, our fellowship and communion is to be with those who are producing good fruit, as required by God's word of truth. This is why it matters that you know you are born again. Being "**born again**" you need to make the right choices and produce good fruits, some of which are listed in **1Ti 6:11-14** above.

What joys we have, in the assurances of God Word of truth, which make our hearts rejoice, in salvation here in time on earth. What greater joy and assurance we have in knowing, from God's word of truth; our salvation and eternal life are already accomplished by Christ Jesus, our Saviour and King. We have these joys, here, because we are given knowledge of our "**born again**" status, and we believe and claim this salvation as our own. Remember our previous text in: **1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life**," Rejoice, that you have knowledge here, as seen in: **1Jo 3:14 "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren."**

What a joyful blessing to know; how we are born again; and understand what it means to us! Why? Because this is evidence to us, and those around us, that we have been born again, and that we have eternal life in Christ in the immortal world. It is evidence we leave behind when we pass from this life, which will comfort the hearts and minds of the loved ones we leave behind on earth. Praise, and glory, to our Saviour and Lord, Christ Jesus, for "**born again**" eternal life and knowledge. ! Hallelujah! Amen!