

THE REASON YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

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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. [St. John 3:5-7]

Is "Born Again" merely a slogan Christians use to identify their particular denominational faith? Is being "Born Again" something you do when you decide to be a Christian and change your lifestyle? In other words, once you have made your decision to follow Christ, you say, "I'm Born Again". I know some believe this. Their born again experience stems from their commitment to Christ to change their lives as best they can. They make themselves new creatures through their own efforts of righteousness. It is something they confess and do, not God.

A more serious question would be, is being "Born Again" an actual supernatural experience that only God can perform for a person? After all, Jesus said, "You Must Be Born Again"!

I am convinced that millions of Christians have struggled with failures in their walk with God because they have not understood what it really meant to be born again.

We will soon see that mankind can and must be "born again" to inherit eternal life and that this born again experience is available to every person that truly believes the scriptures: "*But*

what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" [Romans 10:8-10].

We can in no way comprehend such an exhortation unless we understand the most basic revelation concerning who we are in Christ.

To answer the question "Why You Must Be Born Again" we shall begin at the beginning. *"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" [Genesis 2:7].*

We find three phases in the creation of the first man, Adam. First, God formed man out of the dust of the ground. Secondly, God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Thirdly, the man became a living soul. Thus in the creation of man we find body, spirit and soul.

Adam was a perfect reflection of God. He was created in God's image, after His likeness. He was perfect; body, soul and spirit. And, He was one with God!

I am sure you know the story of the fall of Adam and Eve. God had given them one commandment. *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" [Genesis 2:17].*

We do not know how long Adam and Eve enjoyed the wonderful Garden of Eden which God had created for them. We do know the serpent deceived Eve into partaking of the forbidden fruit. God had said, *"The day you eat of it, thou shalt surely die."* Satan added one word and said, *"Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:4).*

Eve ate of the forbidden fruit and gave it to Adam, and he also ate.

Can you imagine what happened to them? Suddenly, they realized they were naked, and they hid themselves from God!

But, as most of us understand death, THEY WERE NOT DEAD! All their five senses were still in working order: hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting, and touching. It is possible that the reason Adam ate the forbidden fruit was because Eve had eaten it, and he saw that she didn't die. Remember, Paul said the woman was deceived, but the man was not deceived (1Timothy 2:14).

They might have thought, "The serpent told the truth, we're not dead"! Had God lied? Of course not!

What did happen? Believe me, they both died that day if not the very second they ate the forbidden fruit.

Remember, God breathed into the nostrils of Adam the breath of life and he became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). The breath of God is the Holy Spirit! When they sinned, the Holy Spirit left their human spirits and their spirits became corrupted and dormant. They were spiritually dead, disconnected from the life of God! Death is to be separated from God!

It had to be that way! And this is fantastic scriptural evidence of mankind being a triune being: having a spirit, a soul, and a body. The only part of them that could have possibly died is their spirit. Obviously their bodies were alive as their five senses were functioning. Their souls were also alive for they were able to converse and think. Their intellect (souls) was intact! I will define this later.

The New Testament is plain about this. *"For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" [1Corinthians 15:21-22].*

In Adam all died! Because of Adam's transgression death reigned over mankind (Romans 5:14;17;21).

Mankind breathes, thinks, reasons, eats, and sleeps; but they are all walking dead men! One-third of man is dead; and that is their spirit!

This is why Jesus came! To reconcile and redeem us back to God. *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous". [Romans 5:19]* He redeemed what Adam had lost and that was the very life of God! (Also see, Galatians 3:13; 1Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:9).

One of the most intriguing passages of scripture is found in the Gospel of John: *"And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost" [St. John 20:22].*

This was BEFORE the day of Pentecost! Why did Jesus do this? I believe He was restoring the Life of God symbolically! In the beginning He had breathed life into the nostrils of the first man Adam. Now He was breathing the same breath of life on His disciples which is the Holy Spirit. The disciples had already believed on Christ (John 3:16; 2:11; Eph. 1:13). They were born again, and now prepared for the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Jesus is a life giving spirit (1Corinthians 15:45) and the baptizer of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 3:11)! His breath was the breath of God! In Adam all died, but in Christ all are made alive.

Conversion of the whole man (spirit, soul, and body) is not instantaneous; however the spirit is changed instantly. Your spirit is raised from the dead and undergoes a re-creation as well!

This is why every person must be born again. They are walking dead men! They are disconnected from God and have no life. It is impossible for them to enter the kingdom of God unless they are "Born Again".

The fall of Adam and Eve brought spiritual death to every person that would be born into the world. Thank God Jesus came and reconciled us to God. Jesus made it possible for every person to be "Born Again"!

Jesus said, *"You must be born again"* (St. John 3:3). A new creation was taking place and it would soon come to all of mankind on the day of Pentecost. *"For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence"* [Acts 1:5].

My friend, you can know you are "Born Again"! I believe many of you reading this are truly born again, but may not be familiar with the term. You may be communicating your experience another way such as, "I got saved"; but if you really were born again, you do have a "testimony". Something supernatural happened to you!

You had an experience. Something began to change you. Your thought patterns began to change. The things you loved, you now hated. The things you hated, you now loved. You didn't consciously decide to change your mind about your lifestyle, it just happened. Your spirit man was resurrected and your spirit began to impact your soul. You were "Born Again"!

You will have a supernatural life changing experience with God when you are born again. Although you may still have many things to overcome in your life, you will know something has happened to you. A definite change has taken place in you.

Now, let's be honest. Everyone's experience with God may vary somewhat. However, we all have a common problem. It is simple: the lives of most Christians do not fully reflect what the Word of God says they should.

We should not sin, but we confess we do. Further, the Word says we do not and cannot sin, but we can and do. The scriptures are clear that old things have passed away, but in

reality, they have not; also that all things have become new, but in reality they have not.

Is the Word of God wrong, and if it is not, what is the answer? I am convinced without a shadow of doubt that the Word of God is absolutely true and without error or contradiction throughout all its pages!

There is a division that I want you to see and the Word of God is the divider. In this division is our answer: *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"* [Hebrews 4:12].

The Word of God is the divider! It divides the soul, spirit and body (joints and marrow). How does the Word do this?

Thus far our message has concluded that although people do have "born again" experiences with the Lord and although many are baptized in the Holy Ghost, they still encounter many of the same problems with sin as they did before ever having these experiences. All of which seemingly contradict the Word of God.

You must understand there is a division within you! Your spirit is separate from your soul. Remember, we detailed how Adam and Eve died. It was obvious; their bodies, nor their souls died. They still had their five senses, and they were still able to reason. Their spirits did experience death because the Spirit of God left them. Their spirits became dormant.

Therefore, their spirits would need to be brought back to life if they were to truly have life. They would need to be "born again". This is what Jesus was explaining to Nicodemus!

When we repent of our sins, believe the Gospel and fully surrender our lives to Christ our spirits become born again.

Our spirit becomes brand new. Old things truly pass away. We are a new creation! *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a*

new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" [2Corinthians 5:17].

This new birth of our spirit has and will impact our souls and our bodies. But our soul has not been born again. And of course our bodies haven't experienced this change either.

Let's look at the three parts of you . . .

YOUR SPIRIT: Your spirit is the real you. This is what is known as the "inner man".

YOUR SOUL: Your soul is your mental, emotional part. It is your mind, your conscience, or basically your personality.

YOUR BODY: Your body is the physical part of you. Your five senses: see, hear, taste, touch and smell. When you talk to me, you see my body, but you are talking to my soul; my mind.

The word of God divides or makes a distinction between soul and spirit. Before being born again your spirit was corrupted and without the life of God; capable of stubbornness, bitterness, deceit, pride, and so forth. When you are born again, you now have a new spirit from the Lord.

Your born again spirit desires what is right and is in harmony with God's will. However the thoughts, will, and emotions of your soul tend to struggle against God's will which is His Word. Your spirit can be trusted while the soul should always be questioned.

In addition to our scripture in Hebrews chapter four, the Apostle Paul also refers to the trinity of man in First Thessalonians, *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved*

blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" [1Thessalonians 5:23]. There should be no question. Man is a triune being.

A more in-depth study on this subject is available. I recommend you order my book, "Spirit, Soul and Body".

"The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly" [Proverbs 20:27]. The human spirit is the candle or lamp of the LORD! Your spirit is the real you. When it is made alive in Christ, it exposes the sin in your soul. It shines light on your innermost being. The contrast between your soul and your spirit becomes more obvious to you. As you give yourself over to the change that has occurred in you, you find it easier and easier to live according to the Word of God. As your soul submits to the mind of the spirit you experience self-control and a sound mind. This may have never occurred to you, but this is what is happening in a truly born again person.

Your soul (your mental, emotional part) must become one with your born again spirit. When your soul becomes one with your spirit, your body is brought under subjection as it cannot function without your soul and spirit. As long as your soul is out of sync with your spirit, you will always have trouble with your flesh.

When you are born again your spirit is restored and changed into the image of God. Your soul is also impacted when this occurs, but it is not born again.

This born again experience joins your spirit with the Lord's Spirit and you become one with God. The Holy Ghost takes up residence in your spirit! *"But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit"* [1Corinthians 6:17]. This is an act of God, not man!

Think about it! You are not becoming one with God through some religious process or righteous exertion on your part.

You are already one spirit with God! Not only are you one with God, you have been sealed. Sealed until the day of redemption!

I want to emphasize this as strongly as I know how. As hard as it is for your carnal, mind to believe; when you were born again, you were sealed the very second of that experience. Being sealed is not something you attain unto, it is something that God has already done for you.

Does this sound too good to be true to you? Please understand, this is not my word, but Gods! *"Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts"* [2Corinthians 1:21-22].

The word sealed means to *stamp* (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation; to seal up. Some of you are familiar with how food is canned. When the jar is sealed, it is sealed with paraffin. This makes it air tight and preserves the food in it. Nothing can get in, nothing can get out.

In this same way, God has sealed you. He has placed His *stamp* of approval on you. You are already sealed; preserved until the day of redemption. *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption"* [Ephesians 4:30].

When did this sealing take place? Second Corinthians 1:22 says, *"Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts"*. Ephesians 4:30 says, *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption"*. Both indicate this *sealing* is past tenses, not future. So, when does God seal you?

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise"

[Ephesians 1:13]. This scripture tells us when we were sealed, and Who sealed us! We were sealed by God after we believed.

I do not believe it is possible for God to live in an unholy, sinful environment! Therefore, I believe this is another reason God immediately seals you after you believe the gospel. The Holy Ghost seals Himself within your spirit, thus sealing in righteousness, and sealing out sin.

This may be hard for many of you to accept. But there is no other explanation. This is the only answer as to how a Holy God can live in you, and you commit sin at the same time!

Apostle Paul is very clear what happens when you defile your temple: *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are"* [1Corinthians 3:16-17].

What defiles a man? Jesus said, *"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man"* [Matthew 15:18-20]. Obviously a destructive lifestyle will lead to death!

I am sure someone has probably told you that you must join the church. However, you cannot join the church, you must be born into the church! This is the difference between Christianity and all other religions!

The sum of what I have written in this article should be clear. YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. (See Ephesians chapter one, verse seventeen).