



~Born Again~

- What is the new birth?
- How do we become born again?
- What happens after we are born again?
- Why are we born again?
- Who decides?

The new birth (or the birth from above-{another}) is something God does *to* us. Jesus likens it to being born physically and for many reasons. Being born from the womb is not our choice but our parents. Being born from the womb causes us to breathe-not the reverse. Being born from above (or again) causes us to believe-not the reverse. Believing in Jesus and being born again are 2 sides of the salvation coin. They are not the same thing for one causes the other to be. *One precedes the other.*

*In every case in the Bible, of being saved, man is **active**. Something he does.*

Acts 16:30-31

And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

And they said, **Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved, and thy house.

*In every case in the Bible, of being born again, man is **passive**. Something is done to him.*

John 3:3

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.

In the entire Bible, there are no verses telling man what to do to be born again. Notice:

John 3:3

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.

The only verse in the Bible that tells us why we are born again is:

John 3:8

The wind blows where it lists, and thou hear the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goes: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. *It is a sovereign act of God.*

There are many verses telling people how to be saved.

Acts 16:30-31

And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved, and thy house.

There are no verses telling people how to be born again.

Being born again precedes believing-not the reverse!

John 1:12-13

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, (passive--already re-born) not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Those who received Jesus were already born again. Their receiving of Jesus was not the cause of their being born again-it was the result!

Being born again opens a person's eyes and ears to the Gospel enabling them to believe. "Unless a man is born again he cannot see..." Because man is spiritually dead to the things of God, he needs an awakening-a spiritual rebirth. He is dead! Someone needs to make him alive before he can see--in the same sense that one needs to revive a corpse in order to communicate with it. Imagine speaking to the folks in a graveyard! Your message may be a good one, but no one can hear you--they are dead! You must first 'wake up' your audience in order for them to respond. THAT is the scenario the Lord gives us as to the condition of the world. Hence, the necessity of the new birth. Only *after* he has been born again, can he see the necessity of a Savior. *Then* he receives Jesus and is saved. Also notice that the new birth is not brought about by the will of man, but by God (John 1:13). It is He who determines who will be born again (or from above). Jesus tells us that the Spirit gives new life as His sovereign will chooses.

Notice the following verses to see that man is passive in being born again.

1 Pet 1:23

Being (passive) born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever.

I Jn 2:29

If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that does righteousness is (passive) born of him.

I Jn 3:9

Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin; for his seed remains in him: and he cannot sin, because he is (passive) born of God.

I Jn 4:7

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loves is (passive) born of God, and knows God.

I Jn 5:1

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loves him that begat loves him also that is (passive) begotten of him.

I Jn 5:4

For whatsoever is (passive) born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.

I Jn 5:18

We know that whosoever is (passive) born of God sins not; but he that is begotten of God keeps himself, and that wicked one touches him not.

1 Pet 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy has

(passive) begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man **be (passive)** born again, he cannot **see (active)** the kingdom of God

REGENERATION

The need for regeneration grows out of humanity's sinfulness. It is brought about through *God's initiative*. God works in the human heart, and the person *responds* to God through faith. Thus, regeneration is an act of God through the Holy Spirit, resulting in resurrection from sin to a new life in Jesus Christ

<2 Cor. 5:17>.

(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

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In conclusion, if God gives people the new birth, when, and if, and to whom, He chooses, based on *His* will, then it behooves us to pray to God for the salvation of sinners rather than try and twist the sinner into making a 'decision'. Without the new birth, it will only be an empty confession!