



*Born -
Again!*



**IT IS
FINISHED..**
Paid in Full!

John 3:16,17

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

Why do we need to be born again?

Because man is a sinner. He knows to do good and doesn't do it. It's just that simple. It's in our nature. It happened in Adam in the Garden and it still happens today. Also, the most important realization is that we can't fix it either. Only God can. And that's why we need Jesus!

God could have just walked away and left us in a corrupted condition, but that was never His intention. When He created man He knew exactly what was going to happen and also designed a way for man's salvation, a way for man to made new, not exactly like the original in Adam, but better! Jesus is that way. Through him we can become a whole new creation. We become 'the new man in Christ'. It begins with the 'new birth'.

John 1:10-14

“He was in the world and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them he gave 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. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,(and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.”

We are saved by 'grace'.

That's how great God's love is for us. It didn't change when we became rebellious, cruel and evil. He actually exercised a greater love. He sent Jesus, His only son, into this ugly and dark world to become like us so that he could die for us. We are worthy of death, not life, but Jesus took our guilt, our torment and death sentence upon himself, so that we could be set free from the sin that had corrupted us. He did it willingly. His Father didn't force him to do it. And He did it expecting nothing from us in return except our love and devotion.

This love and grace of God is available to anyone who will receive it.

If you have never experienced Jesus nor have asked him into your life, right now is your opportunity! It's simple, just ask him. Yeah, there's some things that need to be dealt with, but he's ready to wash all of that away as well. Tell him about it, give it to him, and stop carrying the guilt and shame, right here, right now. It's just that easy. The feeling you will experience is him coming into your life. It's wonderful, isn't it? In him we can feel this way all the time. If you will do this and really mean it, this is the 'born again' experience. Welcome home, weary one!

For those who have already asked Jesus into their lives, as well as those of you who just did, here are some things to take note of and to think about:

Seven (7) Things That Take Place when We Are Born Again! (when Jesus saves you)

(1) One Very Special Moment Occurs!

Time will stand still when we come together with God and 'touch' each other! It's a very different experience, one that you can feel and know, one that is more than real! At that moment and forward we will never ever be able to deny that there is a God and that he is real. Right away our sins, our wrongdoings come to mind. Why? Because they stand between us and him. It's also natural to feel sorry for our sins. This is repentance in its purest form. When we tell him we are sorry and ask for forgiveness that forgiveness comes immediately. Overall there are a lot of things taking place in that moment, things like feeling so clean, so new in every way; things like a thousand emotions at the same time and tears, lots of tears. It's also the release of crying, allowing yourself to sob because of the shame we have endured, but also the joy and laughter, the raised hands and a pure worship of Him who is worthy. All of heaven rejoices with us each time one of the lost comes home to God through Jesus, our Savior and God's Salvation!

(2) This Is Where Our Real Story, Our Testimony, Begins!

...the story of our life, who we are, what we have been given and what we are to do with it. We are books, written by the hand of God and the pen of the Holy Spirit. Paul describes us as 'living epistles'. God gave each and every one of us a purpose, a reason for being here. From day one it is a learning experience. Don't be afraid to explore. God is watching over us. He has angels all around us all of the time.

First and foremost, however, is the growth of our relationship with him. It will bring maturity in every way. We can't allow anything or anyone to separate us from God or we are in trouble! It's his love, authority and power that 'keeps' us. The enemy of our soul knows this and will attempt in every way to get between and cut us off from God. But if it happens, all we need to do is call his name, and He is right there!

Salvation is only the first step of God's design for our life. Once we know that he is real, once we believe in him, we begin to walk with him, seeking out our path, hearing, and obeying. This is called 'faith'. We walk by faith, not by sight. Others will be watching for sure. This is why it is called a 'testimony' or a 'witness'. Our lives become a testament of God and of his love and grace in every way.

(3) We Are Filled With A New Hope!

We find that there is now a new joy and excitement about life that we didn't have before. Now... anything is possible! That's the way we feel. And life becomes precious, so precious to us! We become more alive than ever. We will also begin to notice the grand beauty of the Creation a lot more, and feel so privileged to be a part of it. It will begin to speak to us in a lot of ways. Everything that God created is so perfectly thought out, including us. It begs us to ask the question; "Where is it all headed, what is the final outcome!?" We are well on our way to discovering all of that. Once again, we become very aware that it all exists in Jesus: us, the creation, the final outcome, everything! Our true hope is in Christ alone.

(4) We Are No Longer The Slave Of This World!

One of the biggest parts of being 'born again' has to do with 'coming out of the world', the world that man and other forces and powers have created. The world we are looking at today is Babylon. For many years the Lord has been calling to His people to "come out of her, my people, that you be not a partaker of her plagues..."(Revelation 18:4). Then there is also the concept of being 'in the world, but not of the world'.

All of this has to do with our 'identity', who we are, waking up to who we are in Christ, in God, in God's House and in His Kingdom. It isn't about just identifying with Jesus. Rather, it's truly about discovering our own identity. Jesus said, 'If we were of the world, the world would love its own'. But we are not of the world, so don't think it strange when things don't work for you there anymore.

Old associations, friends and circles will change. You won't fit in there anymore. Your new life will clash with the old. You will be faced with the decision whether to 'go back' to the old, or to let go of the old and to come into the new. Naturally, everyone around you is going to notice. Don't try to hide it, but instead, be honest and forthcoming about what is going on with you. You never know if there will be some around you that Jesus is dealing with in the same manner.

It will be a little awkward at first, but things will adjust and settle down as you move forward. Your life is being re-shaped around new things. Yes, there will be those who talk about you, and do things, but opposition, rejection and things like that will work in a good way to cause you to seek out the truth like never before. Jesus went through it all just like you. Ask him, He will tell you and show you what to do. When I hit a tough situation that's what I do, I ask him: "Jesus, how did you, or do you, handle this kind of situation?"

(5) Our 'Eyes' Will Be Opened!

You will begin to see everything in a 'new light', a new understanding. God will begin to show you how he sees things. It will cause us to want to know more! This is the beginning of 'thirsting and hungering after God', all that he was, is and ever will be. We also begin to desire to 'get it right', to become 'righteous'. That opens up quite a pathway, one that is going to surprise you and change you. When we fall in love with Jesus it is only natural to want to please him. And yes, when we miss it, we feel very sad, unworthy and guilty. Remember, when we are weak, He is strong! There's a hint, a message there.

Get into the Bible!

Go after the gift of the Holy Spirit! Very important! We enter what I call, 'the school of the Spirit'. The Bible is our textbook and there are many other companion sources of reading. It is absolutely necessary that we set aside a regular place and time to get alone with God for prayer, study, and friendship. This is our lifeblood. This is where our relationship with God comes to bear and where we grow. Take it one truth and one step at a time, no hurry, there will be a test! In all of this, the adventure of a lifetime has begun!

It has been said that, in reading and seeking out God's word, we must also submit ourselves to be changed by it. This is where we talk about the 'potters wheel'. Like a marred vessel, we have become marred by sin. Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, begins to break down how we have been molded and begins to mold us anew, thus the 'new man in Christ'.

(6) Spiritual Warfare Begins Here And Now!

Don't think that satan is going to leave us alone!

We are now a 'target', a threat, to him and all that he is about, both in the spiritual realm and the physical here in earth. If we will look at Genesis 3:15, we will see that a 'conflict', a 'war' has been going on with satan and his seed from the very beginning. As a 'babe' in Christ we need to stay very close to Jesus and to be around other veterans of 'like precious faith'. It's important to become 'connected', acquainted with mature believers, sons and daughters of God, to 'come to our place' in the family of God. He will give us fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters who will love us as we love them.

Our warfare begins inside of us.

Way back there in Adam satan came inside of our hearts, minds and bodies. Look at Romans 6:12-23. We become the servants of that to which we yield ourselves. Adam yielded to disobedience and obeyed his wife, who obeyed the serpent, who was used of satan. This is where we came up with the dual nature. You know, like the cartoons we used to see with the angel on one shoulder saying, "Don't do it!", and likewise the devil on the other shoulder saying, "Go ahead, do it!" We are faced with this all along the course of our lives until we invite Jesus into everything.

Start with little things, everyday things, like being honest and forthright with others, curbing our tongue, taking charge of our thoughts, things like that; turning off the immorality, turning away from the dirty jokes. We find, amazingly enough, that in some ways we are like runaways or wild horses in how we just 'go there' with some things, taking no thought to what we are really doing. The Lord told us that we will give an account for every idle thought and word. Wow, huh! Listen with your heart, that is where conviction comes from. Conviction is that part in us that tries to tell us the difference between right and wrong. It is heart-based. Likewise, our conscience(mind-based) does the same thing. The heart sends us a warning signal, the mind gives us the warning. In this manner we start to 'clean the house', so to speak. We are God's Temple. It's up to us to make it a place that He can inhabit. The great part is that He helps us to do it!

(7) We Have Begun A New Way Of Living

Experiencing Jesus for the first time is called a 'new birth'. Look at John 3:3-8. Life in the world out there has become really tough, cold and unloving. Therefore, we surround ourselves with walls and guards – in order to keep from getting hurt. All the while we are starving for love, attention and genuine relationships.

It's time to let go of all of that.

Jesus will bring down those walls and guards if we let him, and he will also lead us into new circles, new relationships with others. He will be right there in the middle of them. It is definitely a time of 'new things'. Particularly, it's time to begin to seek out God's purpose in our lives. You know, the one that He always had in mind for us. He has designed it with us in mind, our likes, dislikes, what we really love and enjoy as well as some surprises along the way. God always meant for our lives to be a grand adventure!

Settle down and set a steady pace.

It isn't going to happen all at once. In and of ourselves we can't make things happen any faster than their natural course. Enjoy the journey, there's something around every curve. This new life is about learning to depend upon God – every moment, every day. It's also about forming relationships with others and all of us learning to depend upon each other again. That takes effort, honesty and sincerity. We've gotta be real, real with ourselves, first of all, and then with others.

Learn and experience everything as for the first time.

This is a new beginning, a new life for each of us. God greatly desires for us to know him and all about the creation. After all, He created it for us! Don't be surprised at the people and things He will bring to you or across your path. Everything is for a reason. Search it out. Discover something new every day. As Jesus said, he brought life, and that life, much more abundantly!

Think About All Of This – What It Really Means

Being 'Born Again', experiencing Jesus, is the greatest thing ever! But it is only the beginning! Read, re-read and think about all that is written upon these pages. Allow it to 'digest' or to sink deep into your mind and heart. These are 'first things', 'foundational things' pertaining to our faith and walk in Jesus Christ. They are only a brief description of what has taken place. There is so much more! Allow them to become foundations and build upon them. Jesus is the example, the pattern in every way. Look to Him first, always, and also look to those who have given their lives to Him, how they did it, how they lived their lives in Him. Never, ever, set a limit. There is no limit. Set yourself to go all the way, all the way through the things of earth and of heaven beyond. You will never be sorry, nor will you be ashamed.

God Bless And Keep You Always... Benjamin

{ The reference material for this writing comes from Luke 4:18, 19 }