

***This File Contains The Following Articles:***

What Does It Mean To Be Saved?

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

# What Does It Mean To Be Saved?

If you go all the way back to where time began, you would find in the book of Genesis (the first book of the Bible) these words: "In the beginning God created ..."

The Bible says God created the entire universe, and then he made his highest creation—man and woman. God created Adam and Eve to be like him and live forever.

They had it all! A beautiful place to live. Everything they could possibly want or need. Perfect bodies, a perfect marriage, perfect sex, perfect communication, and no pain or sickness or sorrow. Most importantly, they had a perfect relationship with God.

As long as they stayed within God's boundaries, they had it all. There was only one thing God told them not to do—that was to eat the fruit of a certain tree. Satan came into the garden in the form of a serpent and tempted them to disobey God. Adam and Eve made a choice to rebel against what God told them. They chose to do things their way instead of God's way, thinking they knew what was best for them.

The instant they chose to rebel, sin and all its evil entered the world. Adam and

Eve started to grow old, and death entered the world for the first time. Where the environment had been perfect, there was now suffering, pain, sickness, and disease. Worst of all, Adam and Eve became spiritually dead. Their friendship with God was cut off. At that point God could have said, "forget it" and wiped them out with a single word. But because God's love for us was so great, he immediately began to provide a way to reconcile people to him.

The Bible says that God chose blood to be payment for sin (see the next page for Hebrews 9:22). Leviticus 17:11 says that blood represents life. The first thing God did after Adam and Eve sinned was to kill an animal. The skin from the animal covered their nakedness and its blood "paid" for their sin. God promised them that one day he would send the complete payment for their sin.

Justice requires that you pay for what you do wrong. Because God is just, he requires that sin be paid for once and for all. The only one qualified to pay for the sin of the world was someone who had never sinned himself. So 2,000

years ago, Jesus, God's own Son, left the splendor of heaven and came to the earth as a little baby. He was the only baby who ever asked to be born. For 33 years he walked and lived among men. He faced every temptation and experience of life without sin. By his life he taught us how to live.

Jesus became that once-and-for-all sacrifice for sin—to die in your place and in mine—to pay for our sin. If we received what he did for us on the cross, we will be forgiven and made right with God.

Jesus is offering you a new life and a new beginning. He'll not only give you an exciting life here on this earth, but also one day take you to heaven to be with him forever. The only other option is not receiving Christ and his work for you on the cross. You pay for your own sin in a horrible place the Bible calls hell, created for the devil and his demons.

The choice is yours. Salvation is a gift from God (see Romans 6:23), but like any other gift, it does not become yours until you reach out and take it. How do you do that?

**Admit** you are a sinner in need of God's forgiveness (see Romans 3:23).

**Repent** of (turn away from) your sin (see Luke 13:3).

**Give** your heart and life to Jesus (see John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10, 13; Acts 16:31).

Pray a prayer something like this. Remember there is nothing magical about the words. What counts is what you mean in your heart.

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and I know my sin must be paid for. I accept your death on the cross as payment for my sin. Please forgive me of all my sin - past, present, and future. Please come into my heart and save me. I give you my life and ask you to be my Lord and Savior. Take me to heaven to be with you when I die. Help me to live for you until that time. Thank you, Jesus, for saving me. Amen.”

If you prayed that prayer and meant it, then Jesus did exactly what you asked him to do! You may not have seen light flash or heard angels sing, but in a split second, something natural took place. You were saved!

You now have a new life in Christ and it's important that

you start out right. Share what has just happened to you with someone else. Begin to study God's word. (The Gospel of John is a good place to start). Find a Bible teaching, preaching, and believing church, where you can grow in your new faith. Ask God to show you the church where he wants you to become a member. Talk to him every day - he loves you so much and wants to spend time with you.

You have made the most important decision you will ever make. God bless you in your new life as a radical Christian! Give it all you've got!

**HEBREWS 9:22** In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

**ROMANS 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**ROMANS 3:23** For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

**LUKE 13:3** But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

**JOHN 3:16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**ROMANS 10:9-10, 13** That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

**ACTS 16:31** “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”

# YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

Jesus tells us that the gates of heaven are closed to us unless we are born again. Therefore, we ask: Friend, are you born again? Church member, are you born again? If not, then you are lost. For Jesus says, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

You may ask, "What is being born again?" Today there are a lot of misconceptions about the new birth. It is not baptism, for some were baptized and yet not born again (Acts 8:18-25). It is not joining the church, for some slipped in unawares (Galatians 2:4). It is not eating of the Lord's table, for some ate unworthily and it brought condemnation (1 Corinthians 11:29). It is not reform or trying to live better, "for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:24). It is not praying, for Jesus says, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth and honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:8).

Someone may say if I try and do all I can, giving to the poor, visiting the sick, and be as good as I can every day, then surely I am born again (Matthew 25:41-45). No, we cannot be what we are not: "for the carnal mind is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7). We must have a change of heart. For God by the prophets says, "A new heart also will I give you" (Ezekiel 36:26).

"Then, what is the new birth?" The new birth consists of a change of the heart from a life of serving self to one of serving the Lord. This comes when we feel remorse for our sinfulness and in faith look to Jesus for forgiveness. When a child is born, a new life comes forth, a new person in the flesh. So likewise, when we are born again, a new life in Christ Jesus after the Spirit comes forth. Therefore, it is called a birth - a new life in Christ Jesus. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

"When may I expect to be born again?" The Scripture says, "Today if ye will hear his voice" (Hebrews 3:7). That means at any age, time or place, if you hear the call and respond, you can be born again by the Spirit.

"How long will it take? Must I not grow into the new birth?" No, we are born into the kingdom of God and that makes us children and heirs. "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17). This may take place the moment you surrender all and come to Jesus for pardon.

"How and when do we receive it?" God, who looks on the heart, sees your sincerity. He comes to you through the power of the Holy Ghost and creates within you a right spirit (Psalm 51:10). Thus, you are born again - a new creature in Christ Jesus by faith in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Finally: "How may I know that I am born again?" Paul in Romans 8:1-10 teaches; "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." The Bible teaches the lost are dead in sin, condemned, and have an evil conscience. They are carnally minded, without hope, disobedient, and without God in the world. But, a born again Christian is a child of God, alive in Christ, saved, without condemnation, and has a good conscience. He is also spiritually minded, filled with the Holy Ghost and faith, and has a hope of everlasting life. His sins are blotted out by the blood of Jesus. His heart is filled with love and the peace of God which passeth understanding. He loves, desires, and has the power to do the Lord's will. He cherishes a hope beyond the grave, and the promise of a home in heaven. Could anyone go through such a change and not realize it? Hardly, for "the spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16).

If you have not had this experience with the peace and joy it brings to the soul, do not rest, for you are trifling with God and your own soul. You must be born again.

For additional Christian Literature  
write to the address below.

GOSPEL TRACT AND BIBLE SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 700  
Moundridge, Kansas 67107 USA

\*\*\*\*\*

For Free Distribution - Not To Be Sold