

Please proceed to the tracts entitled: 'Repent or Perish!' and 'Baptism,' to find out more about how we become Spirit-begotten children of God! ...

Scriptural References:

Daniel 7:27
Daniel 12:3
Matthew 13:43
Matthew 17:1-2
Matthew 24:35
Matthew 28:18-20
Mark 16:15-16
Luke 11:13
Luke 20:35-36
John 3:1-21
Acts 2:38
Romans 1:4
Romans 5:5
Romans 8:1-17,18-27
Romans 12:2
Romans 13:10
1 Corinthians 15:12-34,35-58
2 Corinthians 5:17
2 Corinthians 6:17-18
2 Corinthians 7:1
Philippians 3:20-21
Colossians 1:18
Colossians 3:5
1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
Titus 3:5
Hebrews 2:9-11
James 1:15-18
1 Peter 1:23
2 Peter 1:4; 3:18
1 John 3:1-3,9
1 John 5:18
Revelation 1:12-16
Revelation 21:7

**For more inspiring, encouraging,
informative and educational gospel
tracts please visit:**

www.godzangelmusic.com
www.valentinabestmusic.net

Are You Born Again?



Many professing Christians believe that being born again means having a religious experience! Do you believe you are born again? What does it mean to be born again? What does the Bible teach?

The Bible speaks about two births: physical and spiritual. The physical is a type of the spiritual. When Jesus taught Nicodemus (a high-ranking Pharisee and a member of the Jewish ruling council) that we must be born again to enter the Kingdom of God, He referred to spirit composition. Christ mentioned that we must be born of both 'water' and 'spirit.' 'Born of water' refers to baptism, where we are baptized in the Name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit (not into a particular denomination), for the forgiveness of our sins, upon repentance, faith in, and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Yes, baptism is a commanded step in one's salvation. In the Great Commission, one of Christ's specific instructions to His Church was to baptize Matthew 28:18-20. Only in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we have salvation.

John 3:3-6 *In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*

'Born of Spirit' means that we must be composed of spirit, because carnal flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. Therefore, our first birth is a natural carnal body. Our second birth is a spirit body, hence the phrase, 'born again.' Man is mortal and perishable, which means liable to decay, fade and pass away. Therefore he cannot inherit the Kingdom, which is eternal. The dead in Christ, will be raised with glorious spirit bodies. Those who are alive in Christ, will also have their perishable bodies transformed into glorious spirit bodies.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53—*I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.*

Spirit-begotten Christians are the children of God, and now only heirs to the Kingdom of God, not yet inheritors. At the resurrection, when we are born of God, we will become inheritors of God's Kingdom—divine members of the God Family. After we are begotten by God's Holy Spirit, we begin to develop the nature of God. Scripture encourages us to persevere in the faith. We mature, strengthen and increase in faith, through daily nourishment of spiritual food (Bible study), prayer and fellowship with God. We grow, exercise and develop holy, righteous and godly character. We live by every word of God. Part of spiritual growth and character development is discernment. Discerning right from wrong, good from evil, truth from error, and righteousness from wickedness.

Obedient Christians will begin to manifest the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives (Galatians 5:22-23). The greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. Loving God means we obey His commandments. Faithful, true and obedient Christians do not deliberately, habitually, defiantly or willfully practice sin. They will do no harm to anyone, nor will they devise wicked schemes, and their feet will not rush into evil. They will avoid the corruption that is in the world and resist temptations, by fleeing from fornication and all other sinful "pleasures," and live a life of discipline and self-sacrifice. Faithful Christians help and encourage others in the faith, and teach the consequences of disobedience to God's commandments, for the purposes of turning people away from sin, and leading them to repentance and salvation. One who is spiritually begotten is not dominated, or controlled by the sinful nature, or the physical things of this world; but is led by the power of God's Holy Spirit. We ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit, so that we are able to resist temptations and "keep ourselves" from sinning. We avoid evil and negative influences.

At Christ's return, those who have grown in spiritual character will be born again as Spirit-born sons of God, and children of the resurrection, just as Christ was declared with power to be the Son of God at His resurrection.

Luke 20:35-36 - *But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection.*

Romans 1:4 - *and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*

There is a difference between being a Spirit-begotten child of God; and being born again, or born of the Spirit of God. The first birth is physical. A Spirit-begotten child of God has the Holy Spirit dwelling within him, but he is still composed of flesh. John 3:6 (KJV) - *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

The second birth is spiritual, a resurrection to immortality—which will occur at Christ's return, when the Kingdom of God will be established on the earth. When we are born of God, we will share in God's complete, eternal, divine, spiritual nature and become perfect like Him. The saints of God who will be in the first resurrection, will be composed of Spirit. Revelation 20:6. John 3:6 (KJV) - *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

Many are puzzled about the term 'born again,' resulting from the misinterpretation of the original Greek New Testament. James 1:15-18 is an exception where the Greek word used in reference to spiritual begetting or birth is *gennao* and broadly means both "to procreate," "to father" and figuratively "to regenerate." It is also used to mean both "to conceive," "to beget," "to bear," "bring forth," "be delivered of," and "be born," "to engender," "to make," "to spring." The Greeks used the term for both conception and birth—for the entire gestation process. Given that both English words "begettal" and "birth" are translated from the Greek word *gennao*, we must allow the Bible to interpret itself, so that we understand the correct meaning of specific scriptures.

In the Authorized KJV Bible, here are a few scriptural examples where the Greek word should've been correctly translated "begotten," not "born:" John 1:12-13; 1 John 2:29; 1 John 4:7; 1 John 5:1 (3 times); 1 John 5:4. "Begotten" is correctly used in the following scriptures: 1 Corinthians 4:15; Hebrews 1:5; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 5:1.

Presently, there are only two divine members in the God Family—God the Father, and His Son Jesus Christ. But the God Family will increase. Scripture tells us that it is God's purpose to increase His divine Family by bringing many sons into it.

2 Corinthians 6:18—"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Hebrews 2:9-11 —*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.*

Revelation 21:7—*He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.*

Christ's body shines gloriously as the sun in its full strength. Our bodies will be just as glorious as Christ's, when we are finally born into the Family of God, and inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God. True Christians will be conformed to the image of Christ, meaning that we will become like Him in every way—as glorified sons of God, in the first resurrection.

Romans 8:29—*For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

Jesus Christ is the firstborn from among the dead, and the firstborn of many sons of God. This means, only Jesus is born of God at this stage, through His resurrection.

As God's Word clearly mentions, we who are now the Spirit-begotten children of God, will be born again at the resurrection—instantaneously changed from mortal flesh and blood human beings, to glorious immortal Spirit beings. We will be free of sickness, pain, sorrow, grief, suffering and death. When Spirit-begotten Christians are born into the God Family, they will be given such power and glory that it will make their faces shine like the sun! We shall be like God (1 Jn 3:2). This will occur at the seventh trumpet, when Jesus Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords!

There are distinct characteristics of one who is born again:

- 1) Composed of spirit. (No longer made from the dust of the earth).
- 2) Invisible to human eyes, just like the wind.
- 3) Immortal (no longer flesh and blood, and therefore not subject to death and decay).
- 4) No longer breathes air to exist.
- 5) Does not bleed.
- 6) Can pass through walls.
- 7) Travels through space at incredible speed.
- 8) Suddenly appears and disappears.
- 9) Can manifest in human form, as Jesus sometimes did after His resurrection.
- 10) Shares in the eternal, divine nature of God.
- 11) Possesses awesome power.
- 12) Will see God.
- 13) Will inherit the earth; and eternal life in the Kingdom of God.
- 14) Will have positions of rulership, assisting Christ in ruling over the nations.