

BORN AGAIN!

1 Peter 1:22-25

1 John 3:1-10

James 2:14-26



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Have You Been Born-Again?

Faith & Obedience (1 Peter 1:22)

- “obedience to the truth” is Peter’s way of saying “to be saved”!
- In the OT and the NT FAITH = OBEDIENCE!
 - If one does not OBEY he/she really does not believe!
 - Consider the following verses: 1 Peter 4:17-18; **Heb 5:9**; Matt 7:21-23, 24-27; Acts 5:32; Rom 1:5; 2:8; 6:17; 10:16; 1 John 2:3-4; **2 Thess 1:8**)
 - Sin is LAWLESSNESS. (1 John 3:4) Sin is DISOBEDIENCE against GOD.
 - BEFORE being REDEEMED we were not subject to the Law of God, nor **could** we. We had NO ABILITY to obey. (Rom 8:7-8)
 - When we are REDEEMED we get NEW HEARTS with God’s Law written one them (Ezekiel 36:26; Hebrews 8:10) causing us to LOVE God’s Law (Psalm 119:97, 113, 163, 165).
 - We also receive GOD’S OWN SPIRIT that causes us to “to walk in God’s statutes, and keep His judgments and do them.” (Ezekiel 36:27)
 - (Romans 8:14) “For as many are led by the Spirit of God, these are the children of God.”
 - (1 John 3:10) The children of God manifest themselves by their OBEDIENCE! (See 1 John 3:6, 7-8; 2:29; **2:3-4**)
- “purified” is in the PERFECT TENSE. This tense gives the idea of something accomplished in the PAST with CONTINUING consequences/effects.
 - ★ In the context of REDEMPTION and REGENERATION we do not purify ourselves, but are purified by the BLOOD of Christ.
 - ☆ See 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – “washed” is in the PASSIVE VOICE. That purification has lasting effects throughout the believer’s life.
 - ☆ Titus 3:5-6 – “through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”

Since . . . , then FERVENTLY LOVE (1 Peter 1:22)

- When we are given a NEW HEART and GOD’S SPIRIT we are ENABLED to LOVE FERVENTLY!
- FERVENT love for fellow believers is an EVIDENCE of REDEMPTION and REGENERATION. (Romans 5:5; 1 Thess 4:9; 1 John 3:23; John 15:12; 13:34-35; Philippians 1:9; 1 John 3:18; **5:1-2**)

- “fervent” is ἐκτενωτός (ektenos) and means “to stretch, to strain” and has the idea of stretching to the maximum limit. “Giving it your all!” This is a **STRONG LOVE**.
- Anyone who does not **FERVENTLY LOVE** the brethren is **NOT SAVED!**
 - ✘ 1 John 3:14; 4:7-8; 2:9, 11; 4:20
- This love is to be **SINCERE** – without **HYPOCRISY!** (Romans 12:9)
 - This love is to be **GENUINE!**
 - This love is from a **PURE HEART!**
 - This love is **SEEN!** (1 John 3:18)

“FOR” - Doctrine of Regeneration (1 Peter 1:23)

- The word “for” can be translate “since”. “Since you were born again love fervently!”
- “to be born again” or literally, “to be born from above” (John 3:3, 5)
- “to be born of God” – James 1:18; John 1:13; 1 John 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18. It is **HIS SEED** (holy, incorruptible, imperishable) that gives us life and sustains our life. **See 1 John 3:9!**
 - ★ **The children of God CANNOT LIVE in continuous sin because God’s SEED remains in them!**
 - ★ Because **GOD’s SEED** is in us we receive **ETERNAL** (imperishable) **LIFE**.
- “to be a **NEW** (the Greek word indicates “completely new”) creation” - 2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15; Eph 2:10; Rom 6:3-4.
- “to be given life (eternal)” - Ephesians 2:1, 5; John 3:36; 5:24; 5:32-33; 10:27-28; 17:2; Rom 2:7; 6:23; Col 2:13; 1 John 2:25; 5:11-12.
- Important **FACTS** about being “born-again”:
 - ① It is **solely** an act of **GOD!** Man in no way participates in his/her rebirth, just as he/she did **NOTHING** for their physical birth. (Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9)
 - ② It is **solely** an act **GOD’s** will not man’s! (James 1:18; John 1:13; Romans 8:29-31; 9:15-18; Ephesians 2:4-5; 2 Thess 2:13-14; 1 Peter 1:23; Titus 3:5; 2 Timothy 1:9)
 - ③ It is an **instantaneous** change. It is a change from **DEATH** to **LIFE**. It is not a process. It does not happen over a period of time. Consider the raising of Lazarus in John 11 and the young man of Nain in Luke 7:14-15.
 - ④ It is a **radical** change. The whole person is radically changed:
 - ★ The **mind**: Before it was **DARKENED** (Eph 4:18) and now is given understanding and light. (1 John 5:10)
 - ★ The **emotions**: Before there were no feelings for God and now the Christian “pants after” God. (Psalm 42:1)
 - ★ The **will**: Before it was in **bondage** to sin (Romans 6:20; Eph 2:3); the world (Eph 2:2) and to Satan (Eph 2:3), but now it is set **free** to choose to please God. (John 8:33-36)
 - ★ Regeneration changes our thinking, our feelings, our beliefs, our willing, our desires, etc. – we become **NEW DIFFERENT** persons.

- ⑥ It is a **passive** change. Jesus used the PASSIVE form of “to be born again” to show that it is something that HAPPENS TO us – not by us! (John 3:3, 5)
- ⑥ It is **IRRESISTIBLE** work. (Isaiah 43:13; 14:27; Rom 9:16, 18, 19)
- ⑦ It is receiving ETERNAL LIFE as a **GIFT** from God! (Romans 6:23)

BECAUSE! - the Word of God (1 Peter 1:24-25)

- Peter quotes Isaiah 40:6-8, “ALL flesh is as GRASS, and ALL the glory of man as a flower of the grass. The GRASS withers, and its flower falls away.”
 - ★ Just as the GRASS and its flower fade away, so does ALL flesh with its glory! ALL men, with all their glory, fade away!
 - ☆ Consider what Christ said, “**MOST ASSUREDLY, I say to you,** unless one is born again, he **cannot** see the kingdom of God (only God’s children are allowed into His heaven)... **that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which born of the Spirit is spirit . . . You must born again.**” (John 3:3, 6, 7)
- “**BUT** the word of the LORD endures forever!”

The AUTHOR - “ALL Scripture is breathed out by God . . .” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- Holy Scriptures came not “by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were **moved** by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:21)
 - “moved” is φέρω phero {fer'-o} and means “to carry along; to move; to be moved upon the sea in a ship”. The HOLY SPIRIT (GOD) guided these men to write the very Words of God.
- Because GOD is **ETERNAL** so is His Word. (Psalm 119:89)
 - ★ What GOD said (using words with meanings) in the 1st Century, when the NT was recorded, hold true **TODAY!** Man has NO AUTHORITY to change the meanings, delete or add to GOD’s Word. (Proverbs 30:6; Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Revelation 22:18-19; 2 Corinthians 2:17; 4:2)

Rejecting the Word Is Rejecting the Author

- Because ALL Scripture is the Word of God to reject any passage is to reject God! (1 Thessalonians 4:8; Luke 10:16)
- Our LORD and Saviour Jesus Christ taught, “Man does not live on bread alone, but **by every** Word of God.” (Luke 4:4; Matt 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3)

TRUSTING the Word Is TRUSTING the Author

- We can be confident in ALL that God has had recorded for our learning to be TRUE because He is TRUE!
 - ★ Deuteronomy 32:4 - He is a God of TRUTH! (Isaiah 65:16)
 - ★ His truth endures forever! (Psalm 100:5)
- God’s Word is TRUTH. (John 17:17)
- ★ ALL flesh, along with their glory, will perish, BUT the Word of God endures FOREVER!

Believe and You Shall Be Saved (Acts 16:31)

- What does it mean “to believe”?
 - Satan and demons believe but are not saved. (James 2:10; Mark 3:11)
 - Believing equals DOING. (James 2:14-26; Matt 7:21; 1 John 2:17) No obedience = No faith.
 - Believing is THIRSTING for Christ. (John 7:37-38) No thirst = No faith.
 - Believing is RECEIVING Christ as Saviour, Lord, Priest, and King. (John 1:12)
 - Believing is SUBMITTING totally to Him as Lord. (Luke 9:23; 14:26-33)
 - Believing is ABIDING in His Word. (John 8:31)
 - Believing is SERVING Him. (Matt 20:26-28) No service = no faith.
 - Believing is TREASURING Him above EVERYTHING/EVERYONE. (Psalm 73:25-26; 37:4; **Philippians 3:8**; 1 John 3:2; Acts 20:24; Rom 8:18; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Hebrews 11:10, 13-16)
- On who must one believe:
 - ★ LORD: one must believe (live) as a servant of his/her Lord, Ruler, and Master. Notice the emphasis is on LORDSHIP.
 - ★ JESUS:
 - One must believe that this Man, Jesus, is the ONLY way to the Father (heaven) (John 14:6) because Jesus is the ONLY Mediator between a holy, holy, holy God and any sinner. (1 Timothy 2:5)
 - ★ CHRIST: one must believe that Jesus is THE CHRIST - God’s anointed One. There is NO OTHER Messiah/Savior. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)

Living on Every Word . . .

- ① Are we walking (living) in the fear of God? Do we know the God of the Bible? Do we take God seriously?
- ② Do we believe? Do we obey God? Do we live on “every Word that comes from the mouth of God?” (Matt 4:4; Luke 4:4; Deut 8:3)
 - Solomon’s conclusion of life: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.
- ③ Is our love FERVENT? (1 Peter 1:22; Philippians 1:9; 1 Thess 3:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:3)
- ④ Have you truly been born from above? (John 3:3, 5, 7) Are you a NEW CREATURE? (2 Corinthians 5:17) Do you love God’s Law? (Heb 8:10; Psalm 119:24, 47, 97, 113, 163, 165, 174; Psalm 1:2)
- ⑤ We must believe that God’s Word is **eternal** and does not change as traditions and cultures change. What God said to one culture in the 1st Century He says the exact same thing to us in the 21st Century! (Psalm 119:89; Malachi 3:6; Num 23:19; Psa 102:26; Hebrews 13:8)
- ⑥ We must TRUST God’s Word, NOT man’s interpretation of His Word. ALL men will fade away with their interpretations but God’s Word endures forever! (Isaiah 40:6-8; 1 Peter 1:24-25)