

## **The Absolute Necessity of the New Birth**

Jesus taught that a man “must be born again” and “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God . . . Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God . . . Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven . . . Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” ([Jn. 3:1-8](#); [Mt. 18:3](#); [Lk. 13:1-5](#)).

I repeat again, it is all-important that we pay personal attention to our eternal welfare and not trust the best of men. If we permit men to mislead us in eternal matters and we are lost, it will be too late to see after our welfare; so let us do it now. Don't take the attitude that you cannot be deceived and that your church is the only right one and cannot mislead you. This may be true, but it would be wise for you to make sure of it by going to the Bible for yourself and seeing with your own eyes and knowing from your own heart that you are right with God and that you have had a real new birth and that you are living right with God every day. Don't let any religion make you think you are all right just because you have conformed to its teachings. You may still be lost. Make sure about it.

There is no use fooling yourself. That will not get you anywhere except to eternal Hell. You are either born again or you are not. You are either really saved, or you are being deceived into thinking that you are, or you know that you are lost. If you are not getting answers to your prayers, it is either that you are not saved, or you are doubting God. If your obstacle is doubt, then you should quit doubting God. If it is not doubt, then it will pay you to examine yourself, and see if you are really right with God. He is obligated to answer you if you are His child. If you have once been saved, it may be that you have become cold in your experience and need to re-consecrate your life to God. You know your own life and true relationship to God; so get the fact settled that you are a genuinely saved person and in present contact with God, and then you will be in the right position to get what God has promised.

Thus, it is clearly stated that the new birth is a necessity if one wants to be reconciled to God. No person can be saved without it. No person can get to Heaven without it. It is the one “must” of the Christian faith, so it is critically important that we learn everything we can about the new birth—and get it—in order to be eternally saved.

### **What the New Birth is Not**

The new birth is *not* confirmation, church membership, water baptism, signing a card stating that you accept Christ, taking the sacrament, shaking hands with the preacher, standing up to accept Jesus as a savior, observing religious duties, an intellectual reception of Christianity, orthodoxy of faith, confessing Jesus as the Son of God, joining some church that claims to be the true church, going to church, saying prayers, reading the Bible, memorizing creeds, being moral, being cultured or refined, doing good deeds or doing your best, being as good as the next fellow, or any of the other

things that some men are trusting in to save them outside of old-fashioned religion and the experience of the new birth as stated in Scripture.

Neither is the new birth brought about by these things. Nicodemus, whom Jesus addressed concerning the new birth, had most of these qualifications, but Jesus said to him, “Ye must be born again.” The thief on the cross and many others whom Jesus forgave while on Earth were saved without these things. They simply did the one necessary thing—became “converted” and “born again”—by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and by repenting and turning to God with their whole heart as a little child, as proven in [Matthew 9:1-7](#); [Luke 7:48-50](#); [18:9-14](#); [23:43](#); and [John 8:1-10](#).

Every man who is born again will automatically have the external evidences of a good life by virtue of the new birth, but there are millions, it is sad to say, that are trusting these things to save them, and they really believe that these things are the evidences of a right relationship with God. Millions will die and be lost without the new birth because they have been misled concerning the experience of being born again. There is no excuse for men being deceived if they will read their own Bibles instead of listening to some religious teacher. One can have all the forms of religion and still be lost in eternity without God and without hope.

Culture, refinement, and outward correctness of life in the church or out of it will not take the place of the new birth. The trouble is in the heart ([Mk. 7:18-23](#)), and merely to reform the outward life will not save the soul.

An artist could put a coating of wax and the most beautiful colors on the outside of a rotten apple, but it would still be rotten at heart. One bite into it would be a bite into decay. The fact is that out of Christ every man is rotten in the heart, and mere culture, refinement, outward respectability, morality, and outward correctness of life are simply artificial and the practice of hypocrites, who, like white painted sepulchers, “make clean the outside; but within are full of extortion and excess . . . dead men's bones, and all uncleanness” ([Mt. 23:25-28](#); [Rom. 3:9-23](#)).

## What the New Birth Is

The new birth is a new creation from above through a direct operation of the Word of God and the Holy Ghost upon the life, changing a person completely and making him a new creature in Christ. It is the same as the new creature experience of [2 Corinthians 5:17](#); the new creation work of [Ephesians 4:24](#); the salvation experience of [Romans 1:16](#); [10:9-10](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:13](#); the baptism in the body of Christ of [1 Corinthians 12:13](#); [Galatians 3:27-29](#); the experience of being made free from the law of sin and death of [Romans 8:1-4](#); the adoption into the family of God of [Romans 8:14-16](#); the turning from Satan to God of [Acts 26:18](#); the washing from all sin of [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#); [1 John 1:7-9](#); [Revelation 1:5](#); the remission of sins of [Acts 2:38](#); the reconciliation to God of [Colossians 1:20-23](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#); and the begetting of one as a child of God of [1 Peter 1:2-4](#), [18-23](#); and [James 1:18](#).