

Being Born Again - What – and Why?

- *Because God loves you
- *Because Jesus gave His life for you
- *Because it's right!
- *Because there's no other way

- *complete change from rebel to disciple (sinner to follower)
- *a spiritually NEW you!
- *a definitive turning point

Why?

What?

John 3: 6-8
-Mind-
emotions-will

John 3:5

(also, John 3:3)

From dead - to
alive!
See Enter

How?

When?

- *ABC
 - *recognise you need new life
 - *recognise there will be costs
 - *accept what Jesus has done for you
 - *"receive" Jesus as Lord, as Saviour, as Friend
- (exercise your right!!! John 1: 12-13)

- *this is the day
- *don't put-off
- *there is urgency (are you double-minded?)

G4A PODCASTS

1. Being Born Again - summary
2. What?
3. Why?
4. How?
5. When?

KEY QUESTIONS

1. Being Born Again – summary

- *Where does the idea come from?
- *what is the Kingdom of God?
- *Why did Jesus say this to Nicodemus (and is He saying it to me too?)
- *did Nicodemus get it right?

2. What?

- * What does it actually mean?
- *Will I really be new?
- *How will I know I'm "new"?

3. Why?

- *How can I know this is the right way?
- *why did Jesus give Himself for me? (what was involved?)
- *what about other "ways"?

4. How?

- *what do I do?
- *What does God do?
- *does a sinner's prayer" help?

5. When?

- *is there a right/wrong time?
- *will I be perfect when I am born again?
- *tell me your story of being born again

BORN AGAIN – KEY TEXTS

1. John Chapter 3 v 1 – 21 – Jesus’ conversation with Pharisee Nicodemus
2. The phrase translated “born again” can also be translated as “born from above.” Nicodemus had a real need. He needed a change of his heart—a spiritual transformation that could only come from above. New birth, being born again, is an act of God whereby eternal life is imparted to the person who believes ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [Titus 3:5](#); [1 Peter 1:3](#); [1 John 2:29](#); [3:9](#); [4:7](#); [5:1–4](#), [18](#)). [John 1:12–13](#) indicates that being “born again” also carries the idea of becoming “children of God” through trust in the name of Jesus Christ.

The question logically comes, “Why does a person need to be born again?” The apostle Paul in [Ephesians 2:1](#) says, “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins” (NKJV). To the Romans he wrote, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” ([Romans 3:23](#)). Sinners are spiritually “dead”; when they receive spiritual life through faith in Christ, the Bible likens it to a rebirth. Only those who are born again have their sins forgiven and have a relationship with God.

Twice in His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus stressed the truth that one must be born again to enter the kingdom of God ([John 3:3](#), [5](#)). Being born *once* makes us children of Adam, and we share Adam’s corruption. We need a *second* birth—a spiritual birth—to make us children of God. We must be born again.

How does the new birth come to be? [Ephesians 2:8–9](#) states, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” When one is saved, he has been born again, spiritually renewed, and is now a child of God by right of that new birth. Faith in Jesus Christ, the One who paid the penalty of sin when He died on the cross, is the means by which one is born again. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come!” ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).

BORN AGAIN – KEY TEXTS

FAIR OR UNFAIR?

Jesus criticised Nicodemus for his evasiveness in responding to his very specific statement of the absolute need for spiritual rebirth (John 3: 9-13). Was Jesus unfair in this criticism? Nicodemus - and the Pharisees - should have understood both the need for new birth, and the fact that the Hebrew scriptures make strong allusion to this.

The concept of spiritual rebirth is present in the Old Testament, particularly in the writings of Isaiah and Ezekiel. The idea of renewed spiritual life, of transformation of heart and spirit, is clearly conveyed. Jesus challenged Nicodemus as a Torah expert, that he failed to understand these things.

What passages speak in anticipation of the born again experience to come? Samuel 10:6. Saul became a "*new man*" after the spirit of God came upon him. Shouldn't Nicodemus have been familiar with this?

Isaiah chapter 56 encourages "**the son of the stranger that has joined himself to the Lord,**" and the eunuch, to rejoice in the intimate relationship God enables them to have with himself via the House of the Lord e.g. Isaiah 56: 5 and 8.

Even more pointed, however, is Psalm 87, declaring the glory of Zion due to the Lord's love, and habitation of His chosen city. The Psalmist writes of God: **I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to them that know me: behold Philistia, and Tyre, with Ethiopia; this [man] was born there. And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, [that] this [man] was born there.**

No Philistine or Babylonian was born in Zion, literally. Yet as they come in faith to the God of Israel, they will be counted as Zion-born. This, in addition to where they were literally (and geographically) born. So, a *second* birth. If Nicodemus had recalled these sacred texts, he should have understood that Jesus was not speaking of literal, physical birth (as his perplexed question in John 3:4 indicates.)