

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE BORN AGAIN?

(John 3:1-16)

I. THE NECESSITY OF THE NEW BIRTH

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”
John 3:1-2 (NIV)

In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” John 3:3 (NIV)

“You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”
John 3:7 (NIV)

II. THE MEANING OF THE NEW BIRTH

The word “again” can mean three different things:

1. **It can mean “for a _____ time.”**
“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!” John 3:4 (NIV)

2. **It can mean “_____.”**
What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

3. **It can mean “from _____.”**
Jesus said, “Unless a person is born from above, it is not possible to see what I’m pointing to—God’s kingdom.”
John 3:3 (MES)

“The truth is, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven.” John 3:5-6 (NLT)

III. THE METHOD OF THE NEW BIRTH

A. **The key word is “_____.”**
This word is used four times in John 3:1-16.

B. **What does it mean to believe?**

1. **It involves your _____.**
You must acknowledge and accept as true some basic facts about _____ and about _____.

2. **It involves your _____.**
Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.
John 3:14 (NIV)

3. **It involves your _____.**
I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not “mine,” but it is lived by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not going to go back on that.
Galatians 2:20 (MES)

IV. THE RESULT OF THE NEW BIRTH

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”
John 3:16 (NIV)

V. YOUR RESPONSE TO THE NEW BIRTH

Anyone who trusts in [Jesus] is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. Any why? Because of that person’s failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him. John 3:17-18 (MES)

It is the word of faith that welcomes God to go to work and set things right for us. You’re not “doing” anything; you’re simply calling out to God, trusting him to do it for you. That’s salvation. With your whole being you embrace God setting things right and then you say it, right out loud: “God has set everything right between him and me!”
Scripture assures us, “No one who ever trusts God like this—heart and soul—will ever regret it.” Romans 10:9-11 (MES)