

# New Life in Christ Gives Us Eternal Life

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John 3:1-21 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, " Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' " The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

## I. The new birth John 3:1-13

### A. Man is a three-part being.

1 Thes 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### B. Each of these parts has a separate function.

#### 1. Spirit

The spirit is that eternal part of us that will continue on beyond the termination of our body's life (Ecclesiastes 12:7). The spirit stands for the highest elements of man by which we comprehend spiritual truths. Our spirit is the most powerful part of our being. It is the part that deals with right and wrong behavior.

#### 2. Soul

Mind (the capacity to think and reason)  
Emotions (the capacity to express feelings)  
Will (the capacity to choose and decide)

#### 3. Body

The body is physical material, and, in and of itself, is not sinful. The body is not perfect, for we become sick, weak, and tired. The body is subject to death and destined to die (Hebrew 9:27). The body houses our spirit and soul during our earthly life.

### C. Salvation isn't synonymous with eternal life:

1 Thes 5:23 ... may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, (Gk. = sozo), without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Spirit salvation = eternal life  
1 Corinthians 1:21 the gospel saves those who believe.  
Matthew 1:21 Jesus came to save people from their sins
2. Body salvation = healing  
Mat 9:22 Jesus said to the woman with the issue of blood "your faith has saved you."
3. Soul salvation = mind, emotion and will  
1 Peter 1:21 baptism now saves you

#### **D. Natural birth versus spiritual birth:**

born of water = natural, flesh  
born of Spirit = new birth, new creation

John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1 Cor 6:17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Eph 2:1-2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked ...

Eph 2:4-5 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ ( by grace you have been saved),

Col 2:13-14 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

#### **E. "Born again"**

John 1:12-13 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:5-8 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Gal 6:15-16 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

James 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

1 John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.

1 John 5:18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.

#### **F. Being "born again" qualifies us for the Kingdom of God**

John 3:3 Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:5 unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Luke 11:20 "But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Luke 10:8-9 "Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ' The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor 4:20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.

#### **II. Key verses: Eternal life John 3:14-17**

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

Num 21:4-9 God sent fiery serpents among the people because they spoke against God and Moses, so that many people died. God instructs Moses to make a bronze pole with a serpent on it, when anyone who was bitten looked at the pole he was healed and lived.

Num 21:4-9 Then they set out from Mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient because of the journey. The people spoke against God and Moses, " Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food." The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. So the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and you; intercede with the LORD, that He may remove the serpents from us." And Moses interceded for the people. Then the LORD said to Moses, " Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live." And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the

bronze serpent, he lived.

**A. God wants us to know that we have eternal life!**

1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

**B. Eternal life is a free gift from God.**

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

1 John 2:25 This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.

1 John 5:11-12 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

John 6:47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

John 10:27-29 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."

**C. When you accept God's gift of eternal life, Christ Jesus comes and lives in your heart.**

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

1 Cor 6:17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

(Gal 6:15; Col 3:9-011)

2 Cor 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you--unless indeed you fail the test?

**III. The judgment of God John 3:18-21**

**A. Faith in Christ Jesus delivers us from the wrath of God.**

1 Thes 5:9-10 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

1 Thes 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

John 6:40 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

Mark 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

Heb 2:3-4 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit

1 John 5:10-12 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

## **B. God has committed all judgment to the Son**

Jn. 5:22-23 God has given all judgment to the Son

Jn. 5:26-27 God has given the Son all authority to execute judgment

Acts 10:42, 17:31; II Tim. 4:1; Mt. 16:27

## **C. God desires to show mercy over judgment**

Jn. 3:16-17 Jesus came to save the world and not to condemn it

II Pet. 3:9 God desires none to perish but that all should come to repentance

I Tim. 2:3-4 God desires all to be saved

## **D. God will judge by His word of truth**

Jn. 12:47-48 My words will judge him

Ps. 119:160 God's word is truth and brings judgment

## **E. Four principles of judgment by the Word**

1. God's judgment is according to truth

Rm. 2:1-2 God's judgment is according to truth

2. God's judgment is according to deeds

Rm. 2:6 He will render according to each person's deeds

I Pt. 1:17 according to each one's work

Rev. 20:12 the dead were judged according to their works

3. God's judgment is impartial

Rm. 2:11 For there is no partiality with God

Col. 3:25 God will punish all who do wrong for He is impartial

Dt. 10:17; Job 36:5; Acts 10:34

4. God judges according to the light given to a person

Rm. 2:12-16 doers of the law are not judged; violators of the law will be judged

Rm. 1:20 God has made Himself known through creation

Mt. 11:20-24 It will be more tolerable for Sodom in day of judgment than for the cities of Israel

Lk. 12:42-48 to whom much is given, much is required

## **F. We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.** Rev. 20:11-15; Dan. 7:9-10

Rm. 14:10 We will all stand before Christ  
Rm. 14:12 Each of us will give account of himself before God  
II Cor. 5:10 that each might receive according to what he has done

#### **G. Not for condemnation but for reward**

Jn. 3:18 You are not condemned as you believe in the Son  
Jn. 5:24 You have passed from judgment, death into life  
Rm. 8:1 no condemnation in Christ Jesus  
Is. 43:25, 44:22; I Jn. 2:1-2; I Cor. 1:30; II Cor. 5:21

#### **H. The believer's judgment is for rewards**

I Cor. 3:11-15 Our works will be tested by fire  
I Pt. 1:17 Our works will be judged  
Rev. 22:12 I came quickly, and my reward is with me

#### **I. What will believers be judged for?**

1. Our secrets Rm. 2:16; I Cor. 4:5
2. Our works I Cor. 3:12-15; I Pt. 1:17; II Cor. 5:10
3. Our words Mt. 12:36
4. Our attitudes Mt. 7:1-2; Jas. 5:9
5. Our relationship with God Mt. 7:21-23; Mt. 25:1-13 (parable of 10 virgins)
6. The use of our gifts Mt. 25:14-30 (parable of talents)
7. Our relationships with people
  - Mt. 18:21-35 walking in forgiveness (parable of unforgiving slave)
  - Mt. 25:31-46 helping people in need (parable of sheep & goats)