

Born Again

Chapter 7

Now that you know how to have faith and what it is, we need to discuss how you were saved, just to ensure to you that you know that you are saved and that this is all not just a joke. So lets continue.

As we discussed in the previous chapter, that salvation is a gift of God. This gift is only received by faith. That faith is made of deciding to believe, to trust, and to put it into action by being obedient to God. This is the only way to be really saved. The Holy Spirit is the Key to salvation. But how do we get the Holy Spirit that was with Jesus? We get Him through Faith, and through Faith, God makes us a new creation and the Lord calls this process of becoming a new creation—"Being Born Again".

JN 3:1 "Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. [2] 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."

JN 3:3 "In reply Jesus declared, **"I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again."**"

JN 3:4 "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!"

JN 3:5 "Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. [6] **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** [7] You should not be surprised at My saying, 'You must be **born again.**' [8] The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

JN 3:9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked."

JN 3:10 "'You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? [11] I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. [12] I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? [13] No one has ever gone into heaven except the One who came from heaven--the Son of Man. [14] Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, [15] that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life."

JN 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. [18] Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. [19] This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of Light because their deeds were evil. [20] Everyone who does evil hates the Light, and will not come into the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. [21] But whoever lives by the truth comes into the Light, so that it may be seen plainly that what He has done has been done through God."

In order to understand as to why you need to be born again, we need to start at the beginning of man and his relationship with God.

7.1 Jesus was Sinless

However, the bible says that Jesus was born sinless; how was Jesus Our Savior sinless?

MT 1:18 "This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, **she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.** [19] Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly."

MT 1:20 "But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21] She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.""

MT 1:22 "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: [23] "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him Immanuel" --which means, "God with us.""

MT 1:24 "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. [25] But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."

John puts it this way.

JN 1:14 "**The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.** We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

JN 1:15 “John testifies concerning Him. He cries out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.’” [16] From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. [17] For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. [18] No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made Him known.”

Then Paul makes it very plain.

HEB 4:14 “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. [15] **For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.** [16] Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

This is why Jesus had to be born from a virgin. He had to have no sin in Him. And He committed no sin, making Him the perfect sacrifice for us. God demands sacrifice for sins in order for humans to understand the seriousness of sinning—of evil. God asked for animal sacrifice for man to try to give the idea how bad sin was but those animal sacrifices were never enough for God to permanently forgive us and bring us Holy into the Kingdom of God. Only a pure and holy sacrifice can do that. Animal sacrifice was never good enough. But neither would the sacrifice of any man or woman. For we have Adam and Eve’s sin in our blood. Only the Pure and Holy blood was good enough. So God set the plan in motion, the plan of His own sacrifice for us. He sent Jesus, as the Pure, Holy, sinless person to be the sacrifice for all mankind.

LEV 9:5 “They took the things Moses commanded to the front of the Tent of Meeting, and the entire assembly came near and stood before the LORD. [6] Then Moses said, “This is what the LORD has commanded you to do, so that the glory of the LORD may appear to you.””

LEV 9:7 “Moses said to Aaron, “**Come to the altar and sacrifice your sin offering and your burnt offering and make atonement for yourself and the people; sacrifice the offering that is for the people and make atonement for them, as the LORD has commanded.**””

LEV 9:8 “So Aaron came to the altar and slaughtered the calf as a sin offering for himself. [9] His sons brought the blood to him, and he dipped his finger into the blood and put it on the horns of the altar; the rest of the blood he poured out at the base of the altar. [10] On the altar he burned the fat, the kidneys and the covering of the liver from the sin offering, as the LORD commanded Moses; [11] the flesh and the hide he burned up outside the camp.”

LEV 9:12 “Then he slaughtered the burnt offering. His sons handed him the blood, and he sprinkled it against the altar on all sides. [13] They handed him the burnt offering piece by piece, including the head, and he burned them on the altar. [14] He washed the inner parts and the legs and burned them on top of the burnt offering on the altar.”

LEV 9:15 “Aaron then brought the offering that was for the people. He took the goat for the people's sin offering and slaughtered it and offered it for a sin offering as he did with the first one.”

We know that Jesus came to the world to die for our sins. So that in believing in Him we can be saved. That His dying and the spilling of His blood was and still is a living sacrifice to the Father so that having faith in Jesus, we can be saved.

Now by believing that Jesus **died for us in our place**, we can receive the miracle of God—His forgiveness. And with that forgiveness, He can transform us from a sinner to a forgiven child of God. He can now clean us and purify us and make us Holy as He, by using the Blood of Jesus to wash over us. Now He when He washes over our sin, that even though it is still there, He does not see it, He only sees the precious blood of Christ on us.

But most importantly, He can remove the evil spirit in us, because of the curse that lives our blood and replace it with a clean and new spirit from God. The reason why we know that this is so is because God promised us.

JN 3:5 “Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. [6] Flesh gives birth to flesh, **but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** [7] You should not be surprised at My saying, `You must be **born again.**' [8] The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

So as you can see, you must be born again in spirit. So when you believe on the sinless Jesus, God accepts that sacrifice is from you, and then when you repent and ask for forgiveness, then you can ask God to live in you, He removes your old sinful spirit, and sinful nature and then replaces it with a new Spirit and holy nature and makes you a holy and pure living soul. Now that you are saved you can now you can go to heaven. Sin is still in your blood but the evil spirit by which you were born with is now changed.

Now we are born again and as such the Lord can fill us with His Holy Spirit. It is by His Spirit that the Lord hears us and we Him.

7.2 How are we Born Again?

We are Born Again by using our faith.

EPH 2:1 "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, [2] in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. [3] All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. [4] But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, [5] made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. [6] And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, [7] in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. [8] For it is by grace you have been saved, through **faith**--and this not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God**-- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

We use our faith to receive the Gift of God. Salvation cannot be bought, it cannot be worked for; it can only be received. We receive it by believing in Jesus the Christ and that God raised Him from the dead. We receive it by admitting we are sinners. We receive it by accepting the Blood of Jesus as our Holy and perfect sacrifice for our sins. We receive it by asking God our Father to forgive us. We receive it by repenting (to be willing to change). We receive it by asking God to make us new and a new person, then we can ask Him to live in us. Finally we receive it by committing our life to Him, making a life long covenant, accepting Him as our Father and living with Him as our Father and as our best friend.

RO 10:5 "Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." [6] But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, `Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) [7] "or `Who will descend into the deep?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). [8] But what does it say? **"The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: [9] That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. [11] As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame." [12] For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him, [13] for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."**

This is how we know that we are having faith in the right God. There are many gods and religions out there, but only one is the true God that created this world that we need to put our faith in Him that brings salvation. Anyone, religion or god that requires more than this for salvation, is not the true creator and you will not and cannot be Born Again.

But in receiving this gift from God—the Father of Jesus Christ, then you will be transformed and you will know it. After you put your faith in God and receive His Gift, you will know that He is the living God. He will create a new spirit in you and He will live in you.

REV 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. [15] I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! [16] So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth. [17] You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. [18] I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see."

REV 3:19" Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. [20] Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, **I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me.**"

REV 3:21 "To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. [22] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

1JN 1:5 "This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all. [6] If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. [7] But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin."

The book of Hebrews puts it in a good way to summarize it all.

HEB 9:15 "For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant."

HEB 9:16 "In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, [17] because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. [18] This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. [19] When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. [20] He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." [21] In the same way, he sprinkled with

the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. [22] In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”

HEB 9:23 “It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. [24] For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; He entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. [25] Nor did He enter heaven to offer Himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not His own. [26] Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself. [27] Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, [28] so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.”

HEB 10:1 “The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. [2] If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. [3] But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, [4] because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”

HEB 10:5 “Therefore, when Christ came into the world, He said:

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire,
but a body You prepared for me;

HEB 10:6 with burnt offerings and sin offerings
You were not pleased.”

HEB 10:7 “Then I said, ‘Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll--
I have come to do your will, O God.’ “

HEB 10:8 “First He said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). [9] Then He said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. [10] And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

HEB 10:11 “Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. [12] But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He

sat down at the right hand of God. [13] Since that time He waits for His enemies to be made His footstool, [14] because by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”

HEB 10:15 “The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First He says:

**HEB 10:16 "This is the covenant I will make with them
after that time, says the Lord.
I will put My laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds.""**

HEB 10:17 “Then He adds:

**"Their sins and lawless acts
I will remember no more.""**

**HEB 10:18 “And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer
any sacrifice for sin.”**

One last point that is very important for all. God does not have grandchildren. God only has children. Just because you are now saved, does not automatically mean that the children you have after you are Born Again, will be sinless. Sin is still in your blood, it still works against you, (more on that later), and the sinful blood is still passed to your children. That is why everyone must be Born Again. The sin that is in your blood is forgiven not removed. Even if your children are dedicated to God at birth, they are not saved because they are not Born Again.

To be Born Again, each person must make his or her own decision to have faith in God. Your faith will not work for them. They must make it. So just because your children (or you) have always gone to church and have a praying family, does not mean that you or they are saved. Every person must do this on their own accord and on their own faith; not anyone else’s.

7.3 Summary

At this point it seems good to summarize what it takes to receive this precious gift of God. This gift that Jesus suffered so horribly and died with such a painful death to give to you.

1. Each person needs to decide to have faith that Jesus is the Son of God.
2. Each person needs to decide to believe that Jesus’ sacrifice is for the forgiveness of you sins.

3. Each person needs to decide to believe that you are a sinner and need this forgiveness.
4. Each person needs to decide to accept Jesus' sacrifice for you.
5. Each person needs to decide that because of Jesus sacrifice you now can ask God to forgive you.
6. Each person needs to decide to accept God's ways and repent from your own way and the way of this world.
7. And finally each person needs to decide to ask God to come into your life and live with and in you.

Now that you are Born Again, you need to know how to live with God and live in the Kingdom of God.

Being Born Again is the only way to be a Christian. There is not other way. Only God can make you a Christian and that only comes from being "Born Again." At this point you are now a **Christian**, one who wants to be and live like Christ, Jesus. So lets see how we live like a Christian.

