

WHAT THE HOLY BIBLE SAYS ABOUT BEING BORN AGAIN

Although the [Holy Bible](#) (1) tells us in [John 3:1-8](#) that [Jesus Christ](#) (2) said being born again was a requirement to see the [Kingdom of God](#) (3), doctrinal disagreements exist amongst present day Christian denominations about the meaning of "born again." In an effort to help bridge long existing "religious" divides, our prayer at The Downriver Disciples Project is that we all lean on the [Word of the Lord](#) (4) when discerning upon this (and any) issue...

Accordingly, this webpage offers relevant resources from the Holy Bible. Modifications are welcome at goodnews@downriverdisciples.com.

FROM THE SPIRIT OF GOD

[1 Corinthians 2:14](#)

The person without the [Spirit](#) (5) does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

BEING BORN AGAIN AND THE SECOND DEATH (HELL)

If I am born once, I will die twice. If I am born twice, I will die once...say what?

The first time we are born, it is a physical birth from our mother's womb, where God knitted us ([Psalms 139:13](#)). Our second birth is a Spiritual birth (being born again) where we unconditionally surrender our lives to Jesus Christ and therefore, avoid a second death.

Is this "hocus pocus" stuff? Is this "new age" talk? Not at all....The one and only Holy Bible teaches we must be born again and that there are, indeed, two possible deaths- one physical and one spiritual.

[Revelation 20:14](#) tells us, "*Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.*" The second death is mentioned again in [Revelation 21:8](#), which says, "*But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.*" The "second death" mentioned in these two Scriptures is a reference to [Hell](#) (6). For proper discernment, please explore both [Revelation 20](#) and [Revelation 21](#) in their respective entirety.

In the book, *Systematic Theology* (1909), E. G. Robinson (1815-1894) wrote, "*The second death is the continuance of spiritual death in another and timeless existence.*" Pastor Thomas Watson (1620-1686) wrote, "*Eternity to the godly is a day that has no sunset. Eternity to the wicked is a night that has no sunrise.*"

<http://www.downriverdisciples.com/born-again>

The Bible discloses to us that Jesus spoke of Hell in a very specific way and He spoke of it more than He did Heaven. He warned of the fire of Hell ([Matthew 5:22](#)) and He warned about our bodies being thrown into Hell ([Matthew 5:29](#)). He also spoke of the soul and the body being destroyed in Hell ([Matthew 10:28](#)).

Here's the Good News.

[Revelation 2:8-11](#) shares what Jesus told [John](#) (7) to write:

"To the angel of the church in [Smyrna](#) (8) write: These are the words of Him who is the First and the Last, who [died](#) (9) and [came to life again](#) (10). I know your afflictions and your poverty – yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer [persecution](#) (11) for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the **second death**."

[Revelation 20:1-8](#) tells us what will happen after the Heavenly Warrior kills the Beast:

And I saw an Angel coming down out of Heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in His hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been [beheaded](#) (12) because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the Word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The **second death** has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

BORN AGAIN BIBLE RESOURCES

[John 3:1-8](#) Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with Him." Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again**."

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at My saying, 'You must be **born again**.' 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."

<http://www.downriverdisciples.com/born-again>

[2 Corinthians 5:11-21](#) (The Ministry of Reconciliation)

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **the new creation has come**: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are, therefore, Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that, in Him, we might become the righteousness of God.

[Ephesians 2:1-10](#) (Made Alive in Christ)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 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. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were- by nature- deserving of wrath. But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **made us alive** with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 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. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

[Colossians 2:6-15](#) (Spiritual Fullness in Christ)

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. In Him, you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through your faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God **made you alive** with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; He has taken it away, nailing it to the Cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the Cross.

<http://www.downriverdisciples.com/born-again>

Titus 3:1-11 (Saved In Order to Do Good)

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of **rebirth and renewal** by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

1 Peter 1:13-25 (Be Holy)

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious Blood of Christ, a Lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been **born again**, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring Word of God. For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the Word that was preached to you.

**WE ASK GOD TO CONTINUOUSLY ANOINT US
WITH AN UNCEASING RENEWING OF OUR MINDS AND HEARTS**

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and **renew** a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 103:1-5

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits – who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is **renewed** like the eagle's.

<http://www.downriverdisciples.com/born-again>

Psalm 104:30

When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you **renew** the face of the ground.

Isaiah 40:30-31

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will **renew** their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 57:10

You wearied yourself by such going about, but you would not say, 'It is hopeless.' You found **renewal** of your strength, and so you did not faint.

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing** of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Colossians 3:9-10

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being **renewed** in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) <http://www.downriverdisciples.com/the-good-news>
- (2) <http://www.downriverdisciples.com/jesus-christ>
- (3) <http://www.downriverdisciples.com/heaven-and-earth>
- (4) <http://www.downriverdisciples.com/the-word-of-the-lord>
- (5) <http://www.downriverdisciples.com/the-holy-spirit>
- (6) <http://www.downriverdisciples.com/hell>
- (7) <http://www.downriverdisciples.com/apostle-john>
- (8) <http://www.downriverdisciples.com/seven-churches>
- (9) <http://www.downriverdisciples.com/obituary-of-jesus>
- (10) <http://www.downriverdisciples.com/resurrection-of-jesus>
- (11) <http://www.downriverdisciples.com/trials-tribulations>
- (12) <http://www.downriverdisciples.com/the-first-martyrs>

<http://www.downriverdisciples.com/born-again>