

Does Jesus
Know Me?

Why Can't I
Pray Like
Others?

Why is Studying
the Bible So Hard?

I Keep Sinning, Is
This Normal?

How Do I
Know If My
Sins Are
Forgiven?



Salvation Series

An in-depth Discussion Series with Sister Laraine

I Don't Always
Feel Saved?

How Can I
Grow Closer
to God?

How Do I
Become Born
Again?

Am I Really
Going to
Heaven?

Why is Reading
the Bible is
Boring!

How Do I Know
If I'm Repenting
Correctly?

Am I Truly a
Christian?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This PowerPoint is the third of the series 'Salvation' which focuses on questions related to our walk with Christ Jesus.

I pray this will be a blessing in assisting you in your journey to Heaven.

Please share this with everyone you know who could benefit from this series.

Until we meet in God's Glorious Kingdom....Stay Blessed and Stay Ready for of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.— Matthew 24:36-37

With much love,

Sister Laraine

Salvation Series: Question #3: How Do I Become Born Again?

THERE'S NO BETTER DECISION than making the decision to give your life to **JESUS**.

Giving your life to Jesus changes everything. Jesus came to reveal who God is and to restore our relationship with God.

No matter what you've done in your past, Jesus **can** give you a new life in Him. All you need to do is put your

faith in Him.

The Bible says this in Romans 10:9, "If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." It is a turning from our old ways and turning to Jesus, to ask Him for forgiveness from our sins and to give us new life in Him. You can tell God you have sinned against Him, need His help to turn from that old life and to begin following Him daily. Your life will be radically different and you will be a member of the Kingdom of God.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him (Jesus) shall not perish, but have eternal life." All this sounds so wonderful...but if you were asked, how would you answer this question?:

What does being born again mean?

Salvation Series: Question #3: How Do I Become Born Again?

“BORN AGAIN” is a Christian phrase that refers to a spiritual rebirth or regeneration of the human spirit. The phrase more literally means “born from above”. Being born again doesn’t mean a physical rebirth; it’s a spiritual one.

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Jesus exact words to the Jewish teacher, Nicodemus (John 3:3). Just like Nicodemus, many are uncertain on what Jesus actually meant by being ‘Born Again.’ This statement made to Nicodemus was not just for him, but for everyone who wants to see the kingdom of God. We know that verily, verily means that this is beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Jesus statement to Nicodemus addressed the very core of his problem and ours today, **the need for spiritual transformation** or regeneration produced by the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, a drastic change takes place within a person. It refers to a change of heart from indifference or hostility toward God. It’s the moment when your spirit and mind go through a conversion from being spiritually dead to spiritually alive through Jesus. When you're born again, **you're a new person from the inside out, not the outside in**. God gives the born-again believer the desire and power to live and obey Jesus.

Our flesh or our spirit rules over us. We cannot serve two masters. Those who live in the flesh lust after the things of the flesh. The flesh is not in tune with God. When we are born of the flesh, we are consumed by the lusts for the things of the world. When we are born of the Spirit, we crucify our flesh. We no longer live to please the flesh, our desire is to continually please God. When we are born of the Spirit, our fruit that we bear will be goodness, righteousness, and truth, as we find in; Ephesians 5:9 “(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)"

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A person asked me, “***Why do I need to be born again?*** I keep the commandments; I’m a good person.” Quite a few people today think like this. They believe in God and because the Word says God loves us, it doesn’t matter so much what we do or don’t do; God will not send anyone to HELL if they do what’s right. **WRONG!**

Yes, God loves us as John 3:16 stated, but God is also HOLY (1 Peter 1:15-16) and hates SIN! God hates sin for the simple reason that sin separates us from Him: “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:2).

We're all sinners (Romans 3:23), and we're all doomed to eternal separation from God because of our sin (Romans 6:23). Being born again through Jesus is the only way to restore our relationship with God. Until we're born again and accept Jesus' sacrifice, we are spiritually dead. When we're born again through Jesus, we "die" to our old life of sin and become spiritually alive in Christ.

Salvation is a gift that is given—not earned by any work of our own, but through God's amazing love and grace for us (Ephesians 2:8-9). When a person is "born again," they are "reborn" as a child of God, a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Every person must be "born" in this way to enter Heaven and be with God for eternity.

Unfortunately, there are those who desire heaven, but for all the wrong reasons.

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Here are some common reasons why people want to go to Heaven

"I want to go to Heaven because there will be no more pain and suffering."

"I want to go to Heaven because Hell is a place of torment"

"I want to go to Heaven because it's better than going to Hell"

"I want to go to Heaven because I've heard horror stories about hell"

"I want to go to Heaven because Hell is too hot"

"I want to go to Heaven because Hell is a bad place, for bad people"



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Did you notice there was no mention of wanting to have a relationship with God, no mention of wanting to please God and no mention of loving Jesus for what He provided to us through His death and resurrection.

Escaping Hell is the primary motive for many people today!

People believe in hell more that they believe in Jesus!

I am sure that no rational person wants to go to hell. Hell will be much worse than we could ever imagine. The punishment will be awful. The remorse will be terrible. "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 8:12). "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mk. 9:48). Who would want to go to such a terrible place? Becoming a Christian to keep out of hell may not be a very high motive, but it is a motive and one you should be careful about.

Being born again is not a scheme to enter heaven or to escape to a world where pain and suffering won't exist.

God knows our hearts better than we know ourselves and can't be fooled. Reasons such as these are not valid reasons for wanting to be born again.

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How Can I Be Saved?

What do I Need to Do?

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Christians are often called “born again” when they have made the decision to let Jesus be their Lord. But this idea can seem rather strange, because we think of being born as a physical event. But Jesus was actually referring to the faith life of a believer. When we invite Jesus into our life, we begin a new way of living, and experience a realignment of our values, attitudes and even goals.

Many see being reborn and being saved as very closely related. Being saved means escaping God’s wrath because we have professed our faith in Jesus. At that moment, we are also reborn spiritually. Both phrases refer to our new state as children of God. They hint at the lifelong journey we’ve started of becoming more like Christ as well.

Becoming a born-again believer is a huge, and also intensely personal, decision to make. And because the first work God does is internal, it may take time for any outward changes to appear. But each of us goes through a similar journey to get there that includes:

- Accepting that we cannot make ourselves right and realizing our need for God
- Admitting that we are sinners and asking for God’s forgiveness
- Stating our faith in Jesus and what He did for us, and vowing to follow Him

If we have sincerely sought to become right with God and have received Jesus as our Savior, we can rest in knowing we have been born again. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

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Evidence of Being Born Again

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The Bible encourages us to examine ourselves to see if we are truly “in the faith” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Thankfully, God has given us ample instruction for how we can know for sure that we have eternal life. The first epistle of John was actually written for that purpose, as it states in 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.”

There is a series of tests in 1 John that we can use to examine ourselves and our faith. As we look at them, remember that no one will perfectly fulfill all of them all the time, but they should reveal a consistent trend that characterizes our lives as we grow in grace.

1. Do you enjoy having fellowship with Christ and His redeemed people? (1 John 1:3)
2. Would people say you walk in the light, or walk in the darkness? (1 John 1:6-7)
3. Do you admit and confess your sin? (1 John 1:8)
4. Are you obedient to God’s Word? (1 John 2:3-5)
5. Does your life indicate you love God rather than the world? (1 John 2:15)
6. Is your life characterized by "doing what is right"? (1 John 2:29)
7. Do you seek to maintain a pure life? (1 John 3:3)
8. Do you see a decreasing pattern of sin in your life? (1 John 3:5-6) [Note: this refers to not continuing in sin as a way of life, not a total absence of sin.]
9. Do you demonstrate love for other Christians? (1 John 3:14)
10. Do you "walk the walk," versus just "talking the talk"? (1 John 3:18-19)
11. Do you maintain a clear conscience? (1 John 3:21)
12. Do you experience victory in your Christian walk? (1 John 5:4)

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We can be sure that we are saved, and by learning to observe the right fruit we can determine if others who profess Christ are truly saved or not.

I. EVIDENCE OF SALVATION: THE SCRIPTURAL TESTIMONY:

FACT: The first witness, evidence or proof that a person is truly saved is their Scriptural Testimony. This means that a person gives a personal testimony that they had a time and place sometime in their life where they called upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to come into their life and save them. It will be in accordance to the Scriptures of Romans 10:9-10, 13 and Ephesians 2:8-9.

PROBLEM: Prayers don't save people, the Lord Jesus Christ does. It is not just the confessing or calling out that saves people. There must be an act of faith exercised in the heart. I have witnessed too many overseers rushing, intimidating, pressuring, or manipulating people into praying a prayer and then stand them before the church and introduce them as a new brother or sister in the Lord. Then the next day they are back out in the world doing the same things without any change of heart or mind and they never enter the church building again. If anyone prayed a prayer without exercising a heart of faith then he is still lost. Salvation is a work of the Holy Spirit. It must be the Spirit calling and people responding to that call in a confession and exercised faith.

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2. EVIDENCE OF SALVATION: THE EXTERNAL WITNESS OR EVIDENCE:

FACT: In your life what external witness or evidence of the Holy Spirit's indwelling can be seen by others? There are actually two: a changed life and fruit of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us live the Christian life in reality and substance. When He comes within us He establishes in our spirit-man the character of God known as the fruit of the Spirit. As we grow that fruit is manifested in our soul and physical man so that others might see. The fruit always reveals the root. Lost people can never bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit or the character and nature of God.

Galatians 5:22-23 ESV But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

When people give their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ and are born again they are not the same. There is the manifestation of the fruit of the Holy Spirit also known as the "character of God." The fruit of the Holy Spirit is not just what God does, it is who He is.

When someone is truly saved he or she must manifest the fruit of the Spirit. This is the external witness or evidence which others can see. Our Lord Jesus Christ said that we will know them by their fruit, and not by their gifts or anything they might say or they might have.

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3. EVIDENCE OF SALVATION: THE FRATERNAL WITNESS OR EVIDENCE:

FACT: Spiritual adoption is a great thing. It means that we once belonged to a very bad and dysfunctional family and we were removed and placed into a great family. Through the work of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross in redeeming mankind and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to salvation we can experience the adoption of God. According to the Word of God when we were lost our spiritual father was Satan. Once saved every true believer in the world became adopted brothers and sisters in Christ.

John 13:35 ESV By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

1 John 1:6 ESV If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

The Bible states that before we accepted the Lord Jesus Christ we were sons of the devil. Imagine that, all lost people have the evil one as their father. When we received the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, God removed us out of that dysfunctional family and placed us within His family.

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Are You Ready to Be
Born Again Today?

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God has already done ALL of the work and is offering you HIS GIFT of SALVATION through JESUS CHRIST...

- Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – (Acts 16:31)
- Confess you are a sinner – 1 John 1:9
- Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins – Acts 2:38
- Receive, in faith, the salvation God offers (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- Fully trust in Jesus alone as the payment for your sins (Galatians 1:3-4)
- Believe in Him, and you will not perish (John 3:16).
- All you have to do is accept it. Jesus is the way of salvation (John 14:6).

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We all need a new life. We need to be cleansed from sin and its penalty (which is death) and restored to fellowship with God who made us all. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13 (NIV).

If you would like to know Christ, all you have to do is receive God's free gift of salvation in faith through Jesus Christ. May I suggest the following prayer. Remember, it's not the words, but your heart sincerely praying this prayer and believing through faith that God hears you and will accept you today.

"God, I know that I have sinned. I am reaching out to You because I need forgiveness. I believe that JESUS death and resurrection provided for my forgiveness. I trust in JESUS and JESUS alone to be my personal Lord and Savior. Wash me clean and fill me with Your Spirit. Thank You for saving me and forgiving me! I receive Your gift of salvation today through Christ Jesus, Amen."

Congratulations!!!! You are starting with a clean slate, and you have entered into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Keep God first place in your life. Read the Bible daily. Learn to pray; prayer is simply talking to God like you would talk to a friend. Fast often to crucify the flesh. If you're not a member of a church, ask God to lead you to a church for fellowship and to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Mark today's date, write it down in your Bible – this is the day of a new beginning in your life! **Enjoy the journey...**

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Next in this series:

***I Keep Sinning.
Is This Normal?***

Footnotes:

<https://srijay-thecreation.medium.com/i-am-scared-are-you-1097544ea529>