

Bethany Baptist Church  
112-17 148<sup>th</sup> Street, Jamaica, NY 11435  
718-529-5842

# *The Pastor's Corner Vol. 44*

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## **Born Again**



*.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith  
that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV*

Reviewed by: Dr. Lambert Duncan

## “Born Again”

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

Titus 3:5 (NIV) *“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.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**”*

Once upon a time there was a man that found himself addicted to alcohol. At first, he was what most would consider a **“social drinker,”** drinking only when his family or friends came around or on special occasions. As time passed, he began to drink more often and heavier. Meanwhile, he was dating the love of his life and thought it was time for them to “tie the knot.” So they got married and shortly after that, they had three children. However, as the stress from marriage, work and having children began to increase, he began to drink even more. Eventually, he got to the point where a day would not pass without him getting sloppy drunk to the point of passing out. Before passing out, he would physically and verbally abuse his wife and children. Then one day when he came home from work, his wife and children were not there. On his night stand he found a letter from his wife saying she could no longer tolerate his drinking and abuse so she decided to take the children and leave.

While hurt and in shock, the next day he went to work as usual, but it was apparent to his co-workers that something was wrong with him. This went on for two (2) weeks until a Christian co-worker named Jim decided to ask him if he was ok and if there was anything he could do to help him. Having no one else to confide in, he told Jim everything that happened to him. The whole time he talked with Jim, he never stopped weeping because of the hurt and shame he felt. When he finished telling Jim his situation, Jim politely said, “I know exactly how you feel, I went through the exact same thing 15 years ago.” The man said, “How can that be, I met your wife and children at our annual picnic just this past summer, and truth be told, I don’t recall seeing a family so happy.” Now curious, the man asked Jim, “What is your secret, how did you turn things around? How did you get your family back?” Jim said, “I’m glad you asked, I gave my life to Jesus Christ 15 years ago, I’m a ‘born again’ Christian now, so is my wife and children.” Now even more curious, the man asked Jim, “What do you mean **‘born again’**? Can I be ‘born again’ too?” Jim said, “Yes you can, whenever you get ready.” The man said, “I’m ready right now.” So that day at lunch time, Jim and the man went out to the parking lot and got into Jim’s car. Jim read **Romans 10:9, John 3:16** and a few other passages of scripture to the

man and explained to him what Jesus' death on the cross meant. Finally, he prayed the sinner's prayer with the man and immediately afterwards the man began to speak in tongues. Jim was a bit surprised because he didn't speak in tongues when he prayed the sinner's prayer and was "born again!"

After his workday was over, the man went home, made something to eat, prayed and fell asleep. The next few days were the same; he came home, ate, prayed and went to sleep. Each day at lunch, him and Jim would go out to Jim's car to pray and read the Bible. About six days later, while cleaning his house, the man found a bottle of his favorite whisky and the bottle was almost full. Without hesitation, he opened the bottle and poured the whisky out. Then it dawned on him, he no longer had the desire or taste for alcohol, he was "**born again**" for sure.

While everyone's initial "**new birth**" experience is not the same (some speak in tongues at conversion, some do not), one thing that all do have in common is a changed life. That is to say, the "**new birth**" or being "**born again**" will, not "**might**" or "**maybe**," bring a change to the life of every born again Christian, it's a package deal. The changes will be seen in how we view sin and how we begin to live our lives. That is to say, once we have been truly "**born again**," we will become aware of sin (lying, stealing, cheating, fornication and adultery) and do our best to avoid it because we know it displeases God. How we begin to live our lives will be much different from the way we lived before being "**born again**." In short, it is not possible to have been truly "**born again**" and be the exact same person we were prior to the new birth. Along with the "**new birth**" comes a changed life, make no mistake. Again, Paul (then named Saul) persecuted those that were part of the church. In **Acts 8:3** (NIV) we read, "*But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.*" When Stephen, the first Christian martyr was stoned to death, Paul (then named Saul) was there giving his nod of approval (Acts 8:1). In fact, the witnesses there at Stephen's stoning laid their clothes at Saul's feet (Acts 7:57).

Later, While Paul was on his way to Damascus to take Christian men and women as prisoners to Jerusalem (Acts 9:1-2), he had an encounter with Jesus Christ (Acts 9:3-5). After Paul's encounter with Jesus, he changed. Here's how:

- He began to preach that Jesus, the very one he persecuted, was the Son of God (Acts 9:20), exactly the opposite of who he once was.
- He wrote at least 13 of the 27 New Testament Books, preaching and teaching the same thing the men and women were preaching when he dragged them off to prison.
- For the sake of Paul's message he endured many hardships (2 Corinthians 11:22-28), just like those he persecuted.

Finally, Paul was imprisoned for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that he preached and then beheaded. The “new birth” or being “born again” changed Paul into a completely different person. While some will call Paul a “fanatic,” the truth is, when one is born again, the people who knew you before being born again should say similar, if not the same thing about you. At first it bothers new Christians to be called a “fanatic” or “Jesus freak” but later they realize that it is because they have truly been born again and their changed life has become obvious. To them, that’s why they’re calling them names. However, when nobody can tell that

For me, the best example of how much the “**new birth**” or being “**born again**” changes in the life of the believer can be seen in the life of the apostle Paul.

God Bless,  
Pastor D. M. Duncan

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