

## WHAT IT IS

It's not so much about me and what I do, as it is about Jesus and what he does.

We are given Christ's new nature in addition to the one we already have. There is no new birth, no assurance of salvation without the involvement of the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:4).

When we are born of the Spirit, we have assurance of salvation, "...that you may know you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).

Can you say: "I know I have been born again. I know I'm saved" (You may not remember the exact date you were born again, but you do know you are saved.) (2 Cor. 5:17 LB).

"...if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him" (Rom. 8:9).

"...no one can come to me [Jesus] unless the Father...draw him to me" (John 6:44).

"...even though we were spiritually dead and doomed by our sins, he [God] gave us back our lives again when he raised Christ from the dead—only by his undeserved favor have we ever been saved..." (Eph. 2:5 LB).

Only the Holy Spirit can implant Christ's nature in us. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the new birth.

God created Adam and Eve because he wanted to have fellowship, interaction with them. His desire has not changed. "...our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3).

Do you sense the Holy Spirit urging you to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior? He is inviting you to join the family of God.

You need to respond to him! Don't just go through the motions. Be sincere, God sees your heart. If you don't know what to say, use this prayer:

*Lord,*

*I am a sinner in your eyes and am not worthy to approach you. But I come to you in the name and worthiness of your Son and my Savior, the Lord Jesus. Thank you for accepting me, just as I am.*

*I believe Christ died on the cross to pay for my sins and rose from the dead to make me secure. I accept your gracious gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. I invite Jesus Christ into my heart right now. I want his Spirit to help me live a life that is pleasing to you.*

*From this moment and throughout eternity, I am your devoted child and you are my compassionate heavenly Father.*

*Amen!*

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## THE NEW BIRTH



## OUR ETERNAL DESTINY DEPENDS ON IT

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This brochure is not to be sold.  
Jesus said, "...freely you have received; freely give."  
Matthew 10:8

## THE NEW BIRTH

*“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 will 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, ‘Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to the spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”* John 3:1-7 (NIV)

There is no shortage of misconceptions and confusion about the new birth. This is unfortunate, because our eternal destiny depends on whether we have been born again. That is why this concise, yet comprehensive and Bible-based brochure has been prepared. When you have prayerfully finished reading it, you will understand the difference between what the new birth is *not* and what it *is*.

## WHAT IT IS NOT

The spotlight is on me—on what I have done, on what I am doing.

We are not saved by good works, but we are saved to do them (Titus 2:14). Salvation cannot be earned or deserved. Jesus has paid the required price for our salvation. So, salvation is

God’s gift to you and to me (Eph. 2:10).

- We can be church members, Bible students, know The Creed or sing in the choir and not be saved.
- Calling ourselves Christians does not make us Christians.
- We can be religious and zealous for God (see Gal. 1: 14) and not be born again.
- If I have only the old nature—the one I was born with—I am not saved. I must have two natures: the first and the second one.

## CHRIST’S NEW NATURE

*“You are controlled by your new nature if you have the Spirit of God living in you. If anyone doesn’t have the Spirit of Christ living in him, he is not a Christian at all.”* Romans 8:9 (LB)

Without Christ’s Spirit we remain as false Christians, unregenerate people who are spiritually dead to understanding Biblical truth.

In the city of Ephesus Apostle Paul found several baptized disciples.

“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed” he asked them. (Paul must have sensed something was missing.)

“No,” they replied, “we don’t know what you mean. What is the Holy Spirit?”

“Then what beliefs did you acknowledge at your baptism?” he asked.

And they replied, “What John the Baptist taught.”

Paul explained to them that John’s baptism was simply to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. John was the forerunner of Jesus.

In Samaria quite a few people believed God’s message. They were:

1. attentive to God’s message
2. impressed by the miracles
3. believers of what was preached
4. baptized

But they did not have the Holy Spirit; therefore, they did not have the *new* birth, the *new* nature (Acts 8:14-17).

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

Christ’s converts have taken various positions on baptism; however, Matthew 28:19 will explain:

“Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

It is possible to have respect, admiration and even affection for Jesus and still not *have* him, not *know* him.

There is only one way to know Jesus Christ and that is through a Holy Spirit birth. It is not enough to know *about* Jesus; you must *know* Jesus! (Phil. 3:10)

Jesus makes it clear: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

*“Many will say to Me on that [judgment] day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.’”* Matt 7:21-27 (NASB)