

## ***“Born Again Into God’s Family”***

We all have a first birth that put us into our human family. Some of us may have great families, others may have very unhappy families. But there is a family that it a beautiful family to be in – it is the world-wide family of God! To get into that family, we must be *born again*.

To be “born again” means:

- 1) To have a **second birth**, because our first birth is not enough to take us to heaven
- 2) To have a **new birth**, because our first life needs a change
- 3) To have a **birth from above**, because only life from God can fit us for heaven

Think of 5 things about the new birth:

1) It is **misunderstood** – people think that it comes through being good or religious or through a ceremony like baptism or communion. But these things will never give us NEW LIFE, since it does not come through anything that we do.

Ephesians 2:8-9, *“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

The best example is Nicodemus, who was a very famous teacher and religious leader in Israel. Jesus was bold enough to tell Nicodemus that *he* needed to be born again. If Nicodemus could not get into God’s kingdom without *new birth*, then neither can anyone else.

2) It has **meaning** – just like we received natural, physical life when we were born, the new birth means that we can receive spiritual, eternal life. We need it to go to heaven to be with God.

1John 5:12 *“He that has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God has not life”*

We need it because our natural life is not sufficient for heaven, and our first birth has a problem with it – our first birth is sinful. This might be disturbing to some people, and it should be that way, because Jesus says WE MUST BE BORN AGAIN.

We know that this statement is truth because the Lord Jesus (the Son of God) is the speaker, and He says repeatedly that it is necessary. He knows us perfectly, so He can tell us what we need.

3) It is a **miracle** – it is the work of God to give life (that is why life is sacred/special). Only God can save people and give them spiritual life (John 1:12-13).

4) It takes place in a **moment** – birth is not a process, but an event. People that are going to heaven have an experience in their life when they started to go. That is the moment when they were born again. Have you had a time in your life like this? Some people think this question is too direct, but the Lord Jesus said it as a direct statement to Nicodemus: “You must be born again” (verse 7).

5) It will be **manifested** – just like a new-born baby will start to show signs of life (for example, crying for food and love), a newborn Christian will show the life of God by becoming more like the Lord Jesus.

### ***How can I get this life?***

The Lord Jesus referred to a story that Nicodemus knew from the Old Testament history of the Jews (Numbers 21). The people had sinned against God, and He sent poisonous snakes to judge them. Many people were dying – therefore, they asked Moses to pray that God would take away the snakes.

But God had a better plan. He told Moses to erect (put up) a brass snake in the center of the tents and to tell everyone dying to look to it, and God promised that if they did, they would live! It was a picture/example of when Jesus would be lifted up on the cross so that if anyone looked to Him (trusted on Him), they would receive everlasting life!

Think of 3 simple observations:

- 1) The solution was **simple** – they only had to look. In the same way, being born again is not a complicated, long process. It just involves trusting in the Lord Jesus as Saviour and Lord of my life.
- 2) The solution was **available** - everyone could see the snake. The Lord Jesus is available to everyone who hears today.

3) The solution was **beneficial** – it extended their lives. If you accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour, He will not necessarily give you a longer life on earth, but an eternal (everlasting) life in heaven.