

# What does it mean to be a born again Christian?

## THE RESPONSE OF REBIRTH—[John 3:3](#)

### [John 3:3 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>3</sup>“Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

The ancient world at that time knew about the “rebirth.” They longed for it and searched for it. A famous ceremony at that time was the Taurobolium. In this ceremony, a person would go down into a pit which was covered with lattice. A bull was slain on the lattice cover. Its throat was slit and the blood would pour down into the pit. The person in the pit would be covered in blood and when they came out of the pit, they would be considered reborn for eternity. When Christianity came into the world with a message of rebirth, it came with a message that the world was interested in. Those who trust Christ are covered by the blood of Christ in God’s eyes. The blood atones for our sins.

Being “born again” is very important. It is seen in the words of Jesus when He says, “**verily, verily**” which mean “**of a truth.**” It denotes a statement of solemn and weighty significance. Notice the words “**cannot see the kingdom of God.**” He cannot totally comprehend the things of God that are enjoyed by believers.

**It is imperative that a person be “born again.”** Men are not necessarily ignorant, needing instruction. Men are not feeble, needing invigorating. Men are not sickly, needing doctoring. Men are dead in trespasses and sins. They are spiritual corpses under the curse of sin. A lost man cannot totally understand spiritual matters because the Spirit of God is the one that gives him discernment. I do believe, however, that any man or woman has enough discernment to understand the simplicity of the Gospel. The problem is men understand it, but won’t yield to its message by coming to Christ.

### [1 Corinthians 2:10 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>10</sup>“For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.”

### [1 Corinthians 2:14 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>14</sup>“But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”

## Pastor Leadership Sunday School

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

Being born again is **not reformation** of the outward man; it is **not education** of the natural man; it is **not purification** of the old man, but the **creation** and imparting of a new man, a new nature which is God's nature within us. It is the birth of the Spirit whereby we are given a divine nature. We become new creatures in Christ. Have you been born again?

**John 3:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup>“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

**2 Peter 1:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup>“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup>“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

**God has a purpose for our lives and that purpose is fulfilled in Christ.** When a person is “born again,” he begins a journey on a path that will bring honor and glory to God if he will dedicate himself to do the will of God in his life. To reject Christ or to reject God's will is a tragedy and leads to a wasted life.

One night Canon Hay Aitken preached to a large audience in Bristol, England, on the text, “**You must be born again.**” There in the congregation was a brilliant young man named Horatio Bottomly. He listened intently. He heard the preacher at the end of the sermon call all who were there to trust in the grace of Christ and to commit their lives to Jesus Christ, and he knew the call was addressed to him, too. He was deeply moved, but he said, “Not now, I'll run my own life,” and he did.

He made a fortune and a name for himself as the champion of the people's rights. He was a lawyer; he exposed swindlers and prosecuted criminals with great vigor. When Bottomly was 63 years of age, this one who had exposed the crimes of others was himself convicted of a crime and sentenced to seven years in prison.

While he was there, another man visited him and asked to pray with him. Bottomly said that would be fine, and in the course of the conversation, the other man told his story. He said, “Yes, many years ago, I was in Bristol, and I heard a preacher, Canon Hay Aitken, preach on the text: You must be born again. I was so deeply moved that I committed my life to Christ, and ever since then, Christ has been my all in all.”

Bottomly was silent for some time, and then he said, “I, too, heard that searching message. I, too, was deeply moved. I knew my need of Christ, but I rejected him.” And then he said remorsefully, “A life without God is a wasted life.”